

Meet the Member!
Bob and Amy Hay

Bob and Amy Hay have attended Eternal church since 2013, but their story of faith goes back to their roots in their homes as children, Amy in Cincinnati, OH and Bob in Cedar Grove, NJ. Bob came to faith at age five and while in high school felt God leading Him to serve in full-time ministry. Amy made a profession of faith when she was nine and as a teen sensed God's calling to overseas ministry. They met at Bryan College in Dayton, TN. Bob, a year ahead and charged with helping incoming freshman acclimate to campus, noticed Amy on her first day. She didn't remember his welcome to campus, but they became friends and enjoyed talking about life, mission work, theology, creative writing, books, history, art, struggles, and aspirations. As upperclassmen, their friendship deepened, and God united their hearts for life and ministry together. Bob earned a BA in History at Bryan and had extensive training in biblical studies. In 1986 he began seminary at Columbia International University in SC; he and Amy were apart for their 14-month engagement! They married on June 13, 1987, a month after Amy graduated.



For his internship and to prepare for long-term ministry, he and Amy went to Japan the summer of 1988. Bob completed a Master of Divinity in Cross-cultural Ministry in 1990. He was ordained in 1991 and they returned to Japan in 1992 to plant a church in Higashi Tokorozawa, just northwest of Tokyo, where they served as missionaries for the next 10 years. In 2003 God redirected them to participate in global ministry from the U.S. Bob took a leadership position to screen and counsel people considering mission work and SIM as their sending agency. In addition to teaching, encouraging, and guiding new missionaries, today Bob's role includes shepherding and caring for SIM USA colleagues ministering abroad. There are over 700 American missionaries serving with SIM around the world, so you can understand the breadth and depth of this position.

Bob is a 3rd generation SIM missionary. His grandfather grew up in Scotland and was called to serve in Nigeria. Bob's parents also served in Nigeria but came back to the States when Bob was a baby to work at the corporate office in Cedar Grove. They helped set up an international structure for the fast-growing SIM ministry, and Bob's father eventually became the executive director.

Amy's degree at Bryan College was in English with an emphasis on writing and editing, and a minor in Bible. Since 2004 she has served as the executive assistant for the president of SIM USA and became a member of the executive leadership team in March 2020. Amy also joins Bob at times to listen to, counsel, and pray with people in all walks and stages of life who are discerning next steps, struggling with hard questions, or navigating tough times.

The Hays have two adult sons, Alan and Andrew, who were 3 ½ and newly 2 when the family arrived in Japan. They now have five grandchildren, two in TX with Andrew and three in SC with Alan and his wife.

Bob and Amy both love to read. Bob enjoys books on theology, history, sociology, and counseling, as well as a variety of novels. Amy likes to read mysteries, novels, and books Bob recommends to her from his vast reading.

Amy is an accomplished poet. At times she has used poetry to process difficult circumstances and internal struggles. Her poetry combines her feelings with God's promises given to us in Scripture, often

as laments that lead to spiritual growth and wholeness in Jesus Christ. Several of her poems have been published as supporting pieces in books by others. She enjoys gardening and bird watching and other simple pleasures. If you peak into their home some evenings, you may find Bob and Amy putting together a jigsaw puzzle or playing a game.

Bob confided in me that he is a Trekkie and is looking forward to seeing the first two seasons of the new Star Trek series on Amazon Prime. I think I can help there and loan him the DVDs. In the words of Dr.

Spock, "Live long and prosper." 🖐️

When you come away from a conversation with Bob and Amy, you realize that they have an abiding faith that filters into every aspect of their lives. It has been at the center of their marriage and their mission work. Eternal Church is fortunate to have Bob as an elder. His education, experiences, and calm demeanor are important resources for our church. Amy has come alongside several women in the church and has shared her testimony and a poem at Eternal's women's retreat.

One of Amy's favorite verses is Isaiah 41:10.

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will also help you; I will also uphold you with My righteousness right hand."



Written by Paul Veerman