

Prayer Breakfast Speaker

ASTRONAUT EXPERIENCE



James T. Irwin

Col. Irwin was selected as an astronaut by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1966. Following months of astronaut training, he was assigned to be a member of the astronaut support crew for Apollo 10 and then backup lunar module pilot for Apollo 12. On the Apollo 15 mis-

sion (July 26 to August 7, 1971) he served as lunar module pilot. Training for the mission meant preparing his mind, body, and spirit for the flight.

This fourth manned lunar landing mission was distinguished by the first use of a Lunar Rover vehicle. While Co. Al Worden orbited the moon in the command module, Col. Irwin and Apollo 15 commander Col. Dave Scott explored Hadley Rille and the Apennine Mountains of the moon, collecting 180 pounds of lunar surface material, including the Genesis Rock. On the flight of Apollo 15 Col. Irwin logged 295 hours, 11 minutes in space, of which 19 hours, 46 minutes were spent outside the spacecraft.

During the mission, thousands of people on earth were praying for the Apollo 15 astronauts. "I was aware of that on the moon," Jim remembers. "The hours that I spent on the moon were the most thrilling of my life. Not because I was there but because I could feel the presence of God. There were times when I was faced with new challenges, and help from God was

immediate."

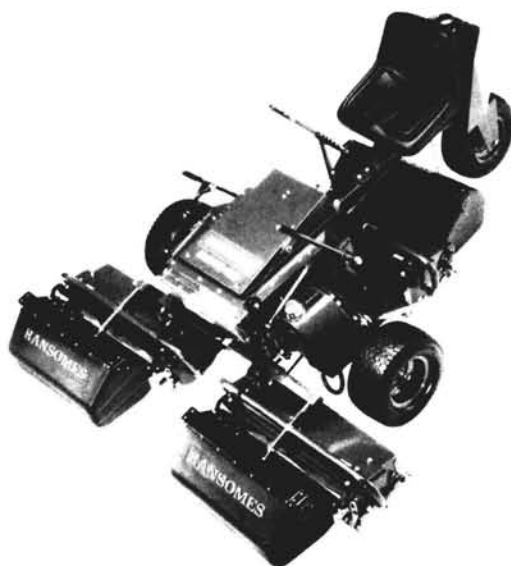
When the mission was complete Jim had hundreds, perhaps thousands of people to thank — those who had helped operate the many systems during the mission. But more important, he thanked God for the mission's success, for allowing him and the other crew members of Apollo 15 to journey into space, explore a portion of His heaven, and return safely to earth."

Jim and his fellow Apollo 15 crew members journeyed into space as technicians — "nuts and bolts types," in Jim's words — and returned as humanitarians. As Jim explains it, "I returned determined to share with others that profound experience with God on the moon, and to lift man to his highest flight through life."

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