



Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.

January 26, 1922 - July 5, 2017

THIS IS MY STORY..... I was one of six boys born in our home in Lexington, MS, on January 25, 1922, on a farm owned by my parents James Edward Smith and Mary Meckie Smith. I worked on our cotton, corn and pea farm, and attended Ambrose Vocational High School from kindergarten through 12th grade. In 1936, at the age of 14, I accepted Christ and was baptized while attending New Port Missionary Baptist Church of Lexington, Mississippi. While in school at Ambrose, I met my high school sweetheart, Fannie Pitchford. We courted for a time through high school. While Fannie was teaching at a Black-only school, kindergarten to 8th grade in Mississippi, I asked her to marry me and she said, "Yes", which made me the happiest man in the world. On April 26, 1944, we were married. Shortly thereafter, I was drafted into the U.S. Army. I went to Camp Lee in Virginia for basic training and served as a Staff Sergeant in the Philippines, North Korea and South Korea. I was honorably discharged and returned home to my bride. Upon my return from the Army, we were blessed to have our first child (Bobbie) on December 30, 1946. Because the job opportunities around Lexington were very limited, we were encouraged by our parents to leave Mississippi and move north. On March 23, 1947, we arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during an intense snowstorm. While we were settling in, Fannie and I found our first church home, Tabernacle Community Baptist Church, where I sang in the Senior Choir and eventually became a deacon. Fannie and I were blessed to have seven children, during our marriage of 73 years. I was employed at the Milwaukee Solvay Coke plant,

where I was able to support my family as a Stationary Fireman, until I retired. My Christian work, however, in and around the church grew stronger each day and people began to tell me that the Lord was calling me to preach. I told them, "I know the Lord is not afraid of me, so why didn't He tell me Himself?" One day, however, while traveling with my family south to Mississippi, we were in an automobile accident in Marion, Arkansas. I heard from the Lord himself. The Lord said, " Look at you. I could have killed you, but I wanted you to live. Now, go do what I want you to do." I said, "Okay, Lord. Whatever you want me to do, I'll do it right now!" After I recovered from my injuries and returned to Milwaukee, I remember being overcome by the Holy Spirit at Tabernacle. Before I knew it, I got up out of my seat and went into the Pastor's office to talk. I told Pastor Jewel Williams, "the Lord has called me to preach." Pastor Williams said, "I knew it before you came in here. I'm gonna let you preach a trail sermon." My first sermon title was, "A Letter of Authority from the Wrong Authority". After a period of time as an associate minister at Tabernacle, I was asked by Rev. Leroy Mixon to join him at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, where I would serve as the Assistant Pastor. As I continued to do what the Lord wanted me to do, I was approached by the Wanderer's Home M.B. Church to become pastor. I served there for 10 years before getting help to organize and pastor the Newport M.B. Church, where I served until the Lord called me home. During my lifetime, I enjoyed cooking breakfast, especially pancakes on Saturday mornings. In my spare time, which wasn't often, you would find me fishing, working on the car or working around the house trimming my bushes to look like chairs. I left this world on Wednesday, July 5th, 2017 and joined my parents, three brothers: Charley, Samuel and Nathaniel, and my daughter, Pamela. I'm leaving a beautiful and loving family: my darling, Fannie; my two living brothers: George (Senora), Pastor Otha (Idell - deceased); my children: Bobbie (Willie- deceased), Samuel (Therasia), Annie (James), Walter Jr. (Donna), Patrick and Anthony (Wendy); thirteen grandchildren; and a host of great grandchildren, other relatives and friends..... "Perfect submission, all is at rest. I'm in my Savior. Am happy

and blessed. Watching and waiting. Looking Above. Filled with His goodness.
Lost in His love." - Blessed Assurance....."I love you all and I'll see you again
in Paradise."

Cemetery Details

Wisconsin Memorial Park

13235 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
3456 N. 38th street
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Service

JUL 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
3456 N. 38th street
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *Annie (Grammy) Davis lit a candle in memory of Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.*



Annie (Grammy) Davis - July 19, 2017 at 12:29 PM

AD

*Love and miss you so much!
I will see you again!*

Annie (Grammy) Davis - July 19, 2017 at 12:31 PM

BH

“ *I will miss you* ❤️ !!



Bobbie J. Hoover - July 13, 2017 at 09:38 PM

BH

“ *Bobbie J. Hoover sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.*



Bobbie J. Hoover - July 13, 2017 at 06:35 AM

WJ

“ RIH REV SMITH WE ALL WILL MISS YOU.



William and Nadia Johnson. - July 12, 2017 at 05:56 PM

PM

“ *Pastor Aaron & Mrs. Merdis Morgan lit a candle in memory of Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.*



Pastor Aaron & Mrs. Merdis Morgan - July 12, 2017 at 12:17 PM

PA

*Dear Smith Family, we share in your sympathy and our prayers are for your strength during this difficult time.
Pastor Aaron & Mrs. Merdis Morgan*

Pastor Aaron - July 12, 2017 at 12:21 PM

BW

“ *For the family you have my deepest condolences may our Lord soothe your hurting heart and and comfort you and give you the strength. I know Pastor Smith and mom are in heaven just taking away.*

Barbara a Walls - July 12, 2017 at 09:10 AM

JD

“ *Jewell Davis-Brown lit a candle in memory of Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.*



Jewell Davis-Brown - July 11, 2017 at 06:41 PM

KH

“ *Kindrea Hoover-Handley lit a candle in memory of Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.*



Kindrea Hoover-Handley - July 11, 2017 at 12:34 PM

EP

“ *Edith Pitchford lit a candle in memory of Pastor Walter Lee Smith Sr.*



Edith Pitchford - July 10, 2017 at 09:18 PM

EP

Absent from the body but present with the Lord a mighty man of God & my beloved cousin.

Edith Pitchford - July 10, 2017 at 09:21 PM

SW

A True man of the Lord....He will be sadly missed....Sending Prayers God Bless.....From the Wheeler Family...Saran, Sean, and Trish....

Saran Wheler - July 12, 2017 at 04:51 PM

 Carrie
Hughes

“ Miss you so much uncle Walter Lee to my family we love you all from Carrie, Rowena, Demontric and Cory



Carrie Hughes - July 09, 2017 at 06:22 PM

DL

“ The General Baptist State Convention of WI, Inc extends our deepest sympathy and prayers to Sis. Fannie Smith and family and the Newport Missionary Baptist Church on the passing of Pastor Walter Smith, Sr. You are in our hearts.
Reverend Dr. Garry Levy, President

Dr. Dessie Levy - July 08, 2017 at 01:09 PM

RW

*I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the whole family of Pastor Walter Smith Sr. on his passing. Our prayers to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is to give you all strength during this difficult time. Pastor Smith's work is done on earth and now in heaven with the Lord. He was a good and faithful servant of the Lord. May God be with your family always. Love you all.
Mrs. Rosetta Weare & Family
Menomonee Falls , WI.*

Rosette Weare - July 09, 2017 at 09:25 PM