

A Legacy™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs . . .

Sara Elizabeth Smith, Pastor's Wife to the late Reverend Jewell E. Smith and Co-Founder of Temple Baptist Church/Orlando Baptist Church, went home to be with her beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, on August 9th, 2011. Sara was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 12th, 1931 and lived there until the age of 18, when she left to attend Baptist Bible College in Springfield Missouri.



Her early years were filled with great love in the bosom of her family. Sara was a magnificent storyteller. And she re-counted countless times to her children and grandchildren tales of her youth. She told of her mother Eliza who was a young widow and a great prayer warrior that taught her to rely on God in every circumstance great and small. She told of her father David who died when she was only eleven, leaving a huge void in her life that only now has been filled upon their surely glorious reunion in Heaven. She told of her older brother Ron, who was her co-conspirator in childhood. And she told of her younger sister Mara Jane, who she was allowed to name after her favorite candy Mary Jane's. Just recently she said "Mara is a grand sister".

Sara went to Baptist Bible College in the fall of 1951 and met Jewell Smith. When she first saw him, his hands reminded her of her beloved dad's. Three months later on December 22, 1951, they were married and thus started a 59 year marriage, ministry, partnership and friendship that did not even end when Jewell went home to be with the Lord on June 6, 2004.

Jewell and Sara became the parents of two boys - David in 1952 and Stephen in 1955. Sara always said she so loved each of her babies and called her children her greatest joy aside from serving the Lord.

After Jewell graduated from college in 1954, he was called as Pastor of Burton Baptist Church in Flint, Michigan and together he and Sara served there from 1954 to 1957. In 1957, Jewell and Sara felt the Lord calling them to another place and purpose and they moved to Orlando, Florida, with their two young sons, where they established Temple Baptist Church. Jewell and Sara saw the Lord greatly bless their ministry and many came to know the saving grace of Christ because of their dedication and commitment to His cause.

During their time in Orlando, Jewell and Sara became the parents of two girls, Cyndee in 1961 and Lisa in 1969.

After Jewell retired as a pastor in 1984, he spent 20 years traveling as an evangelist and lecturing on the History of the English Bible with a magnificent collection of ancient bibles and manuscripts. During this time, Sara opened a gallery in Orlando called the Biblical Heritage Collection Archives featuring part of the bible collection. She found great joy in running her gallery for almost 8 years.

Sara was preceded in death by her **husband** Jewell Smith, her **father** David Aldridge and her **mother** Eliza Aldridge.

She leaves behind her four **children**: David Smith, Stephen Smith, Cyndee Sams and Lisa Ard; her **brother** - Ronald Aldridge; her **sister** - Mara Miller; one **sister-in-law** and one **brother-in-law**; two **daughters-in-law** and one **son-in-law**; 10 **grandchildren** and 11 **great-grandchildren**; numerous **nieces** and **nephews**, and countless friends.



Each of her children refers to Sara as "My Mom." And that's just what she is, because each child was her "favorite" child. We love her dearly and will miss her daily prayers for each one of us, but we are comforted in the knowledge that we will be reunited in Glory. *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* [1st Corinthians 15:55]

Should You Go First

"Should you go first and I remain to walk the road alone,
I'll live in memory's garden, dear, with happy days we've known.
In spring, I'll wait for roses red, when fades the lilac blue;
In early fall when brown leaves call, I'll catch a glimpse of you.

"Should you go first and I remain for battles to be fought,
Each thing you've touched along the way will be a hallowed spot!
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile, though blindly I may grope
The memory of your helping hand will buoy me on with HOPE.

"Should you go first and I remain to finish with the scroll,
No length'ning shadows shall creep in to make this life seem droll.
We've known so much of happiness, we've had our cup of joy,
And memory is one gift of God that death cannot destroy.

Should you go first and I remain, one thing I'd have you do;
Enjoy God's eternal presence, for soon I'll follow you.
I'll want to know each step you take that I may walk the same,
For some day God will call me home and you'll hear Him call my name!"

(Found among Jewell's personal papers)

- Author Unknown

Honorary Pallbearers

Dallas McLaurin Jack Haynes Ray Adams
Paul Sebert Dr. Wendell Correll Dr. Harold Ramsey
Rev. Terry Hicks Rev. Gene Wiggins Rev. Chester Thrift
Dr. Mickey Carter Sione "Bobby" Feiloakitau

Active Pallbearers

Brandon Cervenka / Jeff Ard, Sr. / Jeff Ard, Jr.
Bill Lancaster / Phil Hearn
Kirk Kempnich / Paul David Sebert



Interment [Private Ceremony for the Family]

Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Appreciation

The family of Sara Smith expresses their sincerest appreciation and gratitude for your sympathy, generosity and all acts of kindness. May God Bless each of you!

- The Family

Services Entrusted To

Newcomer Family Funeral Home

895 S. Goldenrod Rd., Orlando, FL 32822 (407) 277-4227

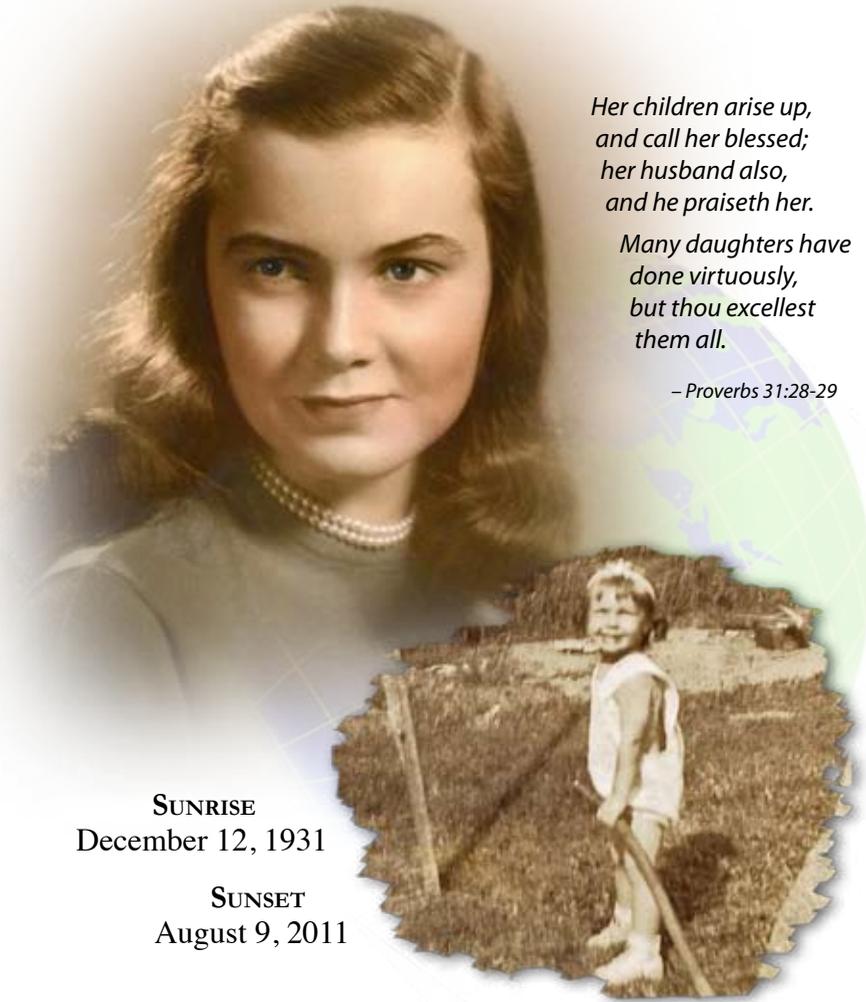
more than a program by [jab designs](http://www.jabdesigns.com) orlando 407/381-9339

©2011

www.jabdesigns.com

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION OF

Sara Elizabeth Smith



Her children arise up,
and call her blessed;
her husband also,
and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have
done virtuously,
but thou excellest
them all.

- Proverbs 31:28-29

SUNRISE

December 12, 1931

SUNSET

August 9, 2011

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

10:00 A.M.

Orlando Baptist Church

500 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, Florida 32807
(407) 277-8671 • www.worldchangingchurch.com

Officiating - SONS

Stephen Smith and David Smith

Reflections written by Sara Smith . . .



Sara Elizabeth Smith
December 12, 1931 – August 9, 2011



Jewell Eugene Smith
April 1, 1928 – June 6, 2004

Every picture should have a title. After looking at these pictures, I thought the most fitting title would be “Possibilities.”

Both of these photographs were taken before Jewell and I met. I was seventeen and had graduated from high school. I had my first job which was with Michigan Bell Telephone Company. Jewell was eighteen and in his first year of military service in the Army.

We had our whole lives in front of us, and so many choices. Would we ever make the right ones? Would we take the right path?

*P*ossibilities

Decisions

I beheld then, that they all went on till they came to the foot of the hill Difficulty, at the bottom of which there was a spring. There were also in the same place two other ways besides that which came straight from the gate: one turned to the left hand, and the other to the right, at the bottom of the hill; but the narrow way lay right up the hill, and the name of the going up the side of the hill is called Difficulty.

Christian now went to the spring, Isa. 49:10, and drank thereof to refresh himself, and then began to go up the hill, saying,

*“The hill, though high, I covet to ascend;
The difficulty will not me offend;*

*For I perceive the way to life lies here:
Come, pluck up heart, let's neither faint nor fear.*

*Better, though difficult, the right way to go,
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.”*

– Excerpt from “Pilgrim's Progress” by John Bunyan

Jewell called *Pilgrim's Progress* “the greatest book ever written outside of the Bible.”

“They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.”

– Isaiah 49:10

No Regrets



Would we do any thing different? I don't think so. We have both worked very hard doing the things that we felt God wanted us to do.

Jewell actually had two complete careers in the ministry. Thirty years spent pastoring three churches and twenty years traveling the world presenting the gospel through the ministry of the Bible collection.

Jewell said to me one day, “Do you know how much pleasure I had from presenting the Bibles and being able to teach people about things of which they had no knowledge.” He said, “I loved every minute of my ministry.”

Then 9½ years ago when he and I were having dinner alone together around the holidays, he told me he had “**NO REGRETS.**”

*A life of **POSSIBILITIES** combined
with the right **CHOICES** has
resulted in a life of **NO REGRETS.***