



Presiding Elder James Earl Smith

September 10, 1959 - April 10, 2020

Presiding Elder James Earl “Book” Smith was born on September 10, 1959 in Greenville, Alabama; the fourth son of Robert “Jack” and Clara Belle Smith. Presiding Elder Smith, affectionately known as “Rev. Book,” grew up with his three older brothers, Earnest (Jack), William (Roy), and Van Roosevelt (deceased) in Brewton, Alabama. He and his family joined Second Saint Siloam Missionary Baptist Church in Brewton under the spiritual guidance of the late Dr. H.L. Lancaster. “Book” graduated from Southern Normal High School, a private school for African American youth. He initially went to Kentucky State to play football but had to stop due to a serious shoulder injury. After sitting out for a year, he returned to school by transferring to Alabama State University (ASU) on a football scholarship. At ASU, “Book” served as the captain of his football team during his junior and senior years. Upon graduating from college, he returned to his High School Alma Mater to teach and coach for ten years.

Presiding Elder Smith moved to Kentucky in 1987 and worked for the Whitley Young Job Corp and the Kentucky Department for Juvenile Justice. He joined Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church in Frankfort, Kentucky, where he was an active member.

He received his call into ministry at an early age but did not accept his call until a Thursday evening in 1997. Rev. Smith was ordained an Itinerant

Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in September 1999 and upon completion of the Board of Examiners, he was ordained an Itinerant Elder in August 2001.

Presiding Elder James “Book” Smith was married to Renee Scott-Smith on April 13, 2001 and enjoyed a life of love, friendship, service and ministry for 19 years. During his itinerant ministry in the Kentucky Conference of the A.M.E. Church, he served faithfully as Pastor of Wilson Chapel (Parksville), Jacobs Chapel (Turnersville), Mount Zion (Frazier), Davis Chapel (Somerset), Wayman Chapel (Barbourville) and Saint Paul (Versailles).

Some of the Highlights of Presiding Elder Smith’s Ministry consisted of:

2008- Pastor of the Year Award from the Kentucky Conference and 13th Episcopal District Lay Organization.

2011- Clergy Legacy Award from the Southern Normal High School Founders Day celebration.

2012 and 2016- Elected to serve as a delegate to the A.M.E. Church General Conference.

2016 and 2017- Appointed by Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath to serve as Presiding Elder (P.E.) for the Kentucky Conference-Lexington District.

2018- 2020- Served as a Special Assistant to Bishop Leath.

P.E. Smith believed we should all live One Day at a Time and his motto was “No Cross, No Crown.”

Presiding Elder Smith is survived by his wife Renee; Two brothers: Earnest “Jack” (Doris) Smith; William “Roy” (Gwen) Smith, of Frankfort, Kentucky; Beloved Sister-In- Law, Wilma Quarker Smith (Van); Two nieces: Dr. Teresa Quarker Smith and Callie Quarker Smith; Two great nephews: Carter Van Smith and William Lucas “Luke” Smith; Two Aunts: Eula Lyons and Carrie McCorvey of Pensacola, Florida; A very special cousin, Ruby Lyons of

Pensacola, Florida; His Family in Love: Minister Emma Lancaster; Rev. Eddy and Roberta Moise; Eddy III, Elizabeth and Emmanuel Moise of Tamarac, Florida; Dr. Karen Lee; Abigail and Jeremy Blair of Greenville, South Carolina; Kecia Hunt; Terry and Gary Metcalf; Ivy and Shawn Robinson; Octavia Taylor and devoted friends, nieces, nephews and cousins. Rest well Husband, Brother, Uncle, Cousin, Presiding Elder, Pastor, and Friend. We Love You!

The service will be available to be viewed at the link below at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Tu6xc7pPEA72hRG8Mmlow>

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

Tribute Wall



“ *Presiding Elder James Earl Smith*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Pastor Pryor and the entire Saint Paul AME Richmond family would like to send our deep and sincere condolences to Sister Renee Smith and family. Rev. Smith was a phenomenal person who had a deep love for the Lord. As a Presiding Elder, Rev. Smith was always supportive, encouraging, and loving. He was an example of Christianity and always made himself available for ministry. A big guy with a big heart would be one of the many ways to describe who he was as an individual. The last time he preached at Saint Paul he sang with enthusiasm "I've had some good days, I've had some hills to climb, I've had some weary days, and some sleepless nights, but when I look around, and I think things over, all of my good days, outweigh my bad days, I won't complain. God's been good to me, so I'll say thank you Lord, thank you Lord, I won't complain."*

This was his war cry, and I never heard him complain. Thanks be to God that "those that die in the Lord will never die."

His passing leaves a deep void in the life of the church and the Kentucky Conference. He will be sorely missed, but never forgotten. Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

*Love, Pastor LaVeeshia Pryor
Saint Paul AME, Richmond, KY*

LaVeeshia Pryor - April 15, 2020 at 05:12 PM

SG

I'm so sorry for The Families loss 🥺 and prayers 🙏 for The Families

Sheena Godbey - April 15, 2020 at 10:50 PM

EW

It's with sadness that I mourn the loss of a dear friend. To sister Smith and to the family you are in my deepest prayers for the loss of this great man.

I do Rejoice that he is in the presence of a holy and just God.

Elder Jerry Wilkinson

Elder Jerry Wilkinson - April 16, 2020 at 10:08 AM

SM

Sister Renee and Jack praying for you all. He was so amazing. God bless ❤️

sandra maxberry - April 16, 2020 at 03:25 PM

PS

Pastor Dr.Dale W.Smith. Tucker Hill Baptist Church, Lebanon,KY. We morn with the family of Pastor Smith. A true gospel preacher,a great encourager and who lived his faith. He will be truly missed but not forgotten. To his wife and family,you are in our prayers.

Pastor Dr. Dale W. Smith - April 16, 2020 at 05:45 PM

SM

Rev. Sherry Miller. St. Mark AME, Louisville, KY.

We pray that God's Amazing Grace will comfort you and yours during this most difficult time.

Sherry Miller - April 16, 2020 at 08:00 PM

RO

*Renee,
You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
Remember, God has you wrapped in his loving arms.
Take care my friend,
Robin*

Robin - April 17, 2020 at 10:21 AM

IR

*Renee,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family during this difficult time. Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning.
Love you,
Ivy Robinson and Octavia Taylor*

ivy robinson - April 17, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DC

PRAYERS to the family.Well Done! You fought a good fight.

Dottie Gassett First baptist church - April 18, 2020 at 08:28 PM

MF

*My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time
.Missionary Maxcine Fantroy*

Maxcine Fantroy - April 21, 2020 at 09:46 AM