



Family Newsletter

Volume 21, Issue 4 ~ April 2019

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Remembering Dr. Don Smith



**Dr. Gene Burge
President, BMFP**

How do I start to tell you about my best friend of 55 years? Brother Don Smith and I met our first day in Bible College in 1964. He was a 29 year old former rock and roll disc jockey who had recently been saved and I was a 17 year old, fresh out of high school. He was a married student living across the street from our dorm and I was a dorm student. For some reason we struck up a lasting friendship. Over the years we felt it was a friendship like that in the Bible

between David and Jonathan.

The first time Don and his wife Joanne ever stepped into the church, that he would later pastor for 35 years, was on the wedding day of Alice and me, June 19, 1965. That October, at the age of 19, I accepted the pastorate of an extremely small church at a salary of \$2 a week. Brother Don would often come and preach for me. He liked to tell the story that we gave him \$10 for a week end of meetings.

I accepted a fulltime pastorate in 1966. Several things happened that year that drew our friendship closer. During our second year of college we began carpooling together to drive two hours each way to attend Bible college. Both of our wives had our first born children that year. Our son Marc was born one day before our first anniversary. Don and Joanne's daughter Jodi was born one month later.

In 1967 my wife's dad, Pastor David Ring, led a revolt and we pulled 26 churches out of the denomination we were in and became independent. Shortly after that Alice's dad, who was extremely sick, asked me if I knew someone that could come and assist him in the church. I recommended Brother Don. A few days later her dad passed away and after a few months the church called Don Smith as their pastor.

While pastoring our churches, Don and I had an opportunity to make our first mission trip. While touring Mexico, the Lord broke our hearts for missions and led me to go there as a missionary. Years later I became extremely ill and had to return home. Brother Don was one of the few pastors that stood beside us when Alice and I had to return to the states. A couple years later I agreed to minister beside him for one year. It was one of the greatest years of my life.

Brother Don recommended me to a church in Virginia. The church grew and became the most productive pastorate I ever had. We were able to travel with our wives to Jerusalem



Dr. Don Smith

Dr. Don Smith, BMFP National Field Administrator, age 84, of Martinsburg went home to be with his Lord and Saviour on Saturday, February 23, 2019. He was known as Pastor Don to thousands. Born October 6, 1934 in Fort Meade, MD, he was the son of the late Donald Smith and Miriam Wiles Smith.

He served as the Pastor of Shenandoah Bible Baptist Church for 35 years, his only pastorate. Since retiring in 2002, he has been the Pastor Emeritus of SBBC and National Field Administrator for Baptist Missions to Forgotten Peoples.

He also had served his country with the US Army and then the Air Force Reserves.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne Koontz Smith; one daughter, Jodi Irvin; and two grandchildren, Casey and Kyle Irvin. He was preceded in death by one sister, Jean Corle.

The memorial service was held at the Shenandoah Bible Baptist Church, Martinsburg, WV on Friday, March 1, 2019.

Please pray for his dear wife Joanne. The Lord greatly used them as they ministered together to be a blessing to thousands and especially to our Baptist Missions To Forgotten Peoples missionaries. Truly, all of our BMFP Family will greatly miss Brother Don.



(twice), Rome, Jordan, England, Switzerland, and even Russia before the wall came down. We took vacations together and Don and I played golf together. Amazingly, we were around one or two strokes apart every time we played.

Since his retirement from the pastorate, he served with us as the BMFP National Field Administrator. He and Joanne traveled across the USA and to several other countries visiting and encouraging our missionaries. Every missionary they visited thanked me for their visit.

Our BMFP missionaries loved him and his dear wife Joanne. Don was my dearest friend, but beyond that, he was one of the greatest Christians I ever knew. We will all miss him.



Jim Moore

**Who? Me? A Missionary?
By Jim Moore**

Exodus 4:10-17

I don't know how many times I have had someone say to me, "I don't think God could use me in full time service, I don't have the ability." One old, wise preacher once said, "God doesn't want your ability, He just wants your availability." I have learned,

through personal experience, if you make yourself available, God will give you the ability to accomplish His call on your life.

The details of this passage are familiar to all of us, God has met Moses at the burning bush and given him the call to go and free His people. Moses was God's man for the hour. We know that Moses made every excuse as to why he could not do as God wanted, yet in the end, he surrendered to God's will and through him God did a wonderful work. Maybe you have felt the call of God on your life to surrender to some area of service (whether that would be full time or as a lay person), but you have said to yourself, "Can God really use me?" Let me just say, If God could use Moses, He can use you!

I. IN SPEAKING, MOSES WAS WEAK VS. 10
"O my Lord, I am not eloquent." "I am slow of speech."

If we had the opportunity to speak with Moses, we most likely would have come to the conclusion he would not have been effective in sharing God's message with Pharaoh. He had to convince Pharaoh and God's people that God called him to deliver them. He had to confront Pharaoh with God's ultimatum and convince him that it was in his best interest to let the people go.

Throughout history, God has chosen and empowered those who were not the best communicators to deliver His message. Jonathan Edwards would read his messages from a manuscript in a monotone voice, yet God used him to bring about some great revivals. Uncle Buddy Robinson spoke with a lisp, yet he was used greatly by God. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (I Cor 1:27).

II. IN MANNER, MOSES WAS MEEK VS. 13
"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Num 12:3).

Some call meekness weakness, but not God. God can use one who possesses a humble and gentle disposition to face the powers of this world. Even our Lord said, "I am meek and lowly in heart." In my youth group I had a young lady who was so shy that she couldn't look you in the face when talking with you. She had a great desire to become a soul winner, and I must confess I didn't think she could do it. I can remember watching her as she would talk to people, shifting her eyes quickly from them to the Bible and having them read the Scripture. She literally became

one of the best teenage soul winners; why, she had a desire and she allowed God to use her.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil 4:13). God is not looking for those who think they are the best, He is looking for those who know He is the best and that He can work through them to accomplish His call on their life.

III. THE WORLD WOULDN'T SEEK MOSES VS. 16-17
Even though he was raised in Pharaoh's palace and was familiar with the customs of the Egyptians, he seems to be less likely to be the person God would choose for this important mission. He wasn't a "take charge" kind of guy. He was not the kind of leader that would cause people to want to follow him. Yet God used him in a great way.

D. L. Moody never went to Bible College, yet God used him to win over one million souls to Christ, and bring some of the greatest revivals; all because he yielded himself to God and His will for his life. God used Billy Sunday, a gambling baseball player to see great results for Him, after he yielded his life to God.

If God is calling you to serve Him, why not just yield to that call and trust God to work in you and through you for his glory and honor. The world is dying without Christ. The need today for someone to carry His Word to the lost has never been so great. Will you answer that call?

News From the Fields

Gib & Kathy Wood
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2019 began with some wonderful ministry opportunities, both at our church, and in some other ministries here in Germany. The weekend of 11-13 January focused on the establishment of a new crisis pregnancy ministry in the Stuttgart area, and encouragement of the membership of Victory Baptist Church in Stuttgart; pastored by missionary Friedemann Moser. VBC is a warm body of believers. It was a joy to spend the day with them.

Each year it is our joy to host the Euro-Wide Ladies' Retreat, and this year is no different. We're excited to have BMFP missionary Patti Appleby as our guest speaker for the ladies, with everything built around the theme: "It Will Change Your Life!" We're looking forward to hosting ladies from Germany, the U.S., Belgium, Romania, and more. It's a packed three days with main sessions, prayer groups, special breakout workshops, lots of music, lots of fun, and lots of food.

BMFP Mission Possible Camp
July 15 - 19, 2019
Twin Lakes Christian Camp
Asheboro, North Carolina