



Marie C. Smith

April 16, 1922 - July 20, 2019

Daisy "Marie" Olga Christensen Smith was born on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1922 in Charles City, Iowa to Jacob Theodore Christensen and Kristina Marie (Neilsen) Christensen, both of Denmark. She entered the gates of Heaven on July 20, 2019 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at 97 years of age.

Marie's life journey was a walk of unwavering faith. She fully surrendered her life to the Lord Jesus in August, 1936, devoting herself to prayer and worship. Upon graduation from West High School in Waterloo, IA, she moved to Des Moines to attend Open Bible Institute. God used her rich, alto voice for His glory for weddings, funerals, and radio ministry. After graduation in 1944, she joined her sister in Washington D.C. and worked for the Civil Aeronautics Administration during WWII. On August 15, 1945, VJ Day, after a whirlwind courtship, 23 year-old Marie married her former teacher and pastor, Frank W. Smith. She moved into the parsonage and instantly became pastor's wife, homemaker, and mother to two grieving boys. With on-the-job training, Marie applied her God-given wisdom and common sense to fulfill each role. She created a home filled with joy, laughter, and, especially, music. Together, she and Frank pastored First Church of the Open Bible in Des Moines for over 37 years. A licensed minister, she was actively involved in ministry alongside her husband as song leader, soloist, and inspiration. As Marie would say, her heart's desire was to serve on the mission field; instead, God called her to home missions.

After losing Frank in 1997, Marie moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to live near family. She made friends everywhere she went and was selected as the first Ms. Senior Oklahoma in 2006. While she had long been regarded as "the queen", this title forever sealed her regal status. Her physical beauty, classy taste, quick wit, and genuine warmth resulted in quite a fan club. But it was her intimate relationship with Christ that made her irresistible. As one person said, after hearing her read Psalm 139, "Marie knew the Man who wrote the Book."

Grandma Ree dished out hugs, kindness, and encouragement wherever she went; she had a gift for making others feel valued. Lifetime passions included being with her children

and grandchildren, music, and singing. Even in her hospital bed, she could still carry her share on three-part harmony. In her later days, she took up gardening, making baby blankets, writing poetry and songs; and even learning to play a mean game of dominoes.

Marie would encourage us all to live by her life scripture, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, make your requests known unto Him. And the God of peace that passeth all understanding will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ."

Marie was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Frank W Smith; stepsons Ronald R. and David E. Smith; grandsons Russell A. and Thomas E. Smith; and her siblings: Raynor Christensen, Marjorie McKee, Theodore Christensen, Henry Christensen, Lillian Parks, and Helen Pryor.

In addition to a host of loving relatives and friends, Marie is survived by:

Children:

Joyce Grimes (Edward)

Jan Odom (Phil)

Jonathan Smith (Lynne)

Grandchildren:

Kristina Grimes Pugatch (Jeffrey)

Jacob Odom (Allison)

Joseph Odom (Cristin)

Jonathan Odom (Emily)

Jamie Odom Walt (Julius)

Ryan Smith (Danielle)

Brandon Smith

Nathan Smith (Leslee)

Ronald Smith

Roseanne Martin

Yolanda Sevier (Rick)

Randy Smith

Great Grandchildren:

Fiona Pugatch

Ella and Jack Odom

Harrison and Gianna Odom
Libby, Sam, and Gideon Odom
Isaiah, Judah, Kenzie, and Hezekiah Smith
Josh and Jeana Martin
Jessica Smith
Rebecca Fuller (Chris)
Joel Smith (Lyndsey)
Isaac and Magdalene Sevier
Angela Cordon (Creed)
Tegan Cortes (Erick)
Ian Sevier (Stephanie)
Cameron, Charissa, and Cayleigh Smith

Great, great grandchildren: Declan and Elena

Survivors also include daughter-in-law and friend, Jeanie Smith; and Marie's "bonus" family Dan and Sharon Grimes and Danny; Candace Johnson (Kendall), Conley and Kross; Marc Grimes (Crista), Cassidy and Noah. They loved and cared for her as their own, and she loved them. She will be sorely missed by special friend Richard Hicks, who enriched her later life with laughter, friendship, and song, her native language.

The family is planning two Celebrations of Life:

Tulsa, Oklahoma: Friday, August 16, 2019, 2:00 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church Chapel, 6767 S. Mingo Rd.

Des Moines, Iowa: Monday, September 9, 10:30 a.m., First Church of the Open Bible, 2200 Beaver Ave. Interment will be in Des Moines.

Family suggests contributions in Marie's memory to:

Open Bible Missions (Des Moines, Iowa)

Cornerstone Church (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

Love A Child, Inc. (P.O. Box 60063, Ft. Myers, FL. 33906)

To God be the glory!

Comments



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marie C. Smith.



August 15 at 03:03 PM



“ Mark and Ruth Randleman, Tom and Becki Thompson purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Marie C. Smith.



Mark and Ruth Randleman, Tom and Becki Thompson - July 26 at 04:53 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marie C. Smith.



July 25 at 02:26 PM



“ We dearly loved “Mama “Marie” as we affectionately called her. During and after our Alaska cruise together, she captured a special place in our hearts. Her constant joy and love of life permeated everything she did, as she made everyone feel special and loved. Our world was better because she was our friend.

With deep sympathy to her precious family,
Paula and Fred Beasley

Paula Beasley - July 25 at 10:33 AM



“ Joycie Marie - Jannie - Jonathan....My heart aches over the loss of your delightful Mama. May the peace and comfort of our Savior enfold you as He holds you close in the days to come. I pray the Lord fills your hearts with joy as well as the hearts of your families at the thought of the celebrating going on in Heaven.

This amazing lady left inspirational footprints on all who crossed her path. I adored her as a little girl, and that admiration grew as I grew. She was a beautiful spirit that radiated the light of Jesus through her life...her song...her wit...her service...her friendship...her love, and her devotion to our Lord Jesus. I'll see you soon, my lovely Auntie Ree.

“And death itself, to her, was but the wider opening of the door
that had been opening, more and more,
through all her life, and ne'er was shut, and never shall be shut.
She left the door ajar for you and me;
and looking after her, we see
The glory shining through the cleft.”

Until we meet in Glory.....
Betty June

Betty June Barton - July 25 at 01:19 AM



“ As I have said so many times..... Marie Smith was the best friend and mentor to me that anyone could ask for. Loved seeing her at the wedding of our shared grandson and new granddaughter...she was so full of life and humor and love just a month ago. Marie will always be a part of our lives with so many memories and happy times we had together. She lives on in our grandchildren we share....and her son Jonathan loves our daughter Lynne like he loved his mother.
Dan and Mardell LeLaCheur

Mardell and Dan LeLaCheur - July 25 at 12:22 AM



“ Words cannot express our love for all the years we've known this wonderful lady. We've served the Lord together with her husband, and our lives have been enriched by their lives. We know the Lord will give His comfort to Joyce, Jan and Jon through these days of separation.
The tide recedes, but leaves bright seashells on the sand.
The sun goes down, but gentle warmth still lingers on the land.
The music stops, but echoes on its sweet refrains.
For every joy that passes, something beautiful remains.
With our love,
Darrel & Arlene Anderson



Darrel Anderson - July 24 at 08:40 PM



“ What a great servant for the Lord that touched so many lives.

margaret slagle - July 27 at 11:39 PM



“ We dearly loved her and Pastor Smith as our pastors while we were attending Open Bible College in 1957-1959. A very sweet and special lady!! Neal & Faith Dreadin

Neal & Faith Dreadin - July 31 at 01:33 PM



“ We dearly loved and respected your mother and father as our ideal of a couple in ministry together. Your mother was so beautiful in all she said and did. I loved to hear her sing in her beautiful rich voice. The friendship they gave my parents is something I will cherish forever. Love to the whole family from Jim & Sally Shelton

Sally Jo - August 15 at 02:56 PM