



## Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr.

December 26, 1940 - December 22, 2020

Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr.,

Brother Don was born in Wayne County, Kentucky to Nora and Elbert Smith.

He leaves behind his wife, Elsie M. Smith of 59 years of marriage; one surviving sister, Helen Catron; four children, Michael A. Smith (Sylvia), David L. Smith (Rhonda), Donald R. Smith, Jr. (Vicky) and Lori M. Stadick (Jim).

Eight grandchildren, Christopher, Gregory, Donald Tyler, Courtney, Jeremy, Brandon, Katelyn and Nathaniel; and 13 great-grandchildren with one more on the way.

Don started Lighthouse Community Church in March of 1987 with 13 charter members. He worked at Stokley Van Camp for over 25 years and retired in 1990 to totally dedicate his time to his church. Don saw the church grow over 33 years to what it is today, with hundreds of members in Indianapolis.

He was fully dedicated to God and his church, his wife and entire family. He devoted his life to ministering to everyone he would see, whether in the church or outside. You would never see Don without a bible tract in his front pocket. There are countless waiters, homeless, and strangers all over the world that have received a tract. He performed hundreds of funerals and weddings and was always going to the hospital to visit the sick. Don was always preaching the gospel at every opportunity, and has impacted so many people on his journey.

If Don was not ministering, you could find him in his workshop building something, with grandchildren or possibly working in his garden. He was a

phenomenal banjo player and loved listening to bluegrass music. He will be missed by all that knew him. His legacy will continue on through his church, his family and friends. This is a brief summary of Donald Ray Smith's life, but could not possibly describe the man that he was, nor the people he affected. Visitation will be Saturday, December 26, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 East Washington Street, followed by a private funeral service for the family with a live stream for all to view at <https://client.tribucast.com/tcid/4630768>.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held in the future at Lighthouse Community Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Lighthouse Community Church, 8401 East Rawles Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

# Cemetery Details

## Orchard Hill Cemetery

8946 Southeastern Ave  
Wanamaker, IN 46239

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **26**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel  
9606 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
(317) 897-9606  
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pastor Roosevelt And Marsha Owens lit a candle in memory of Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr.*



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**Pastor Roosevelt and Marsha Owens** - April 25, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr..*



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December 28, 2020 at 09:44 AM

CH

“ Beautiful service. Our hearts are heavy at Bro. Don's passing, but we are comforted to know this is a short time and eternity will make this time now seem like a faded memory. Bro. Don was there to ordain me into the ministry. He was there to join Amber and me in marriage and the dedication of my two oldest children. Bro. Don taught me so much about ministry, the scriptures, and Jesus. I know if I called on him at 3 am, he would be there. He was a man of God that lived out his faith everyday of the week. I would not be where I am as a minister and a man without the influence and investment of Bro. Don in my life. He was a spiritual giant and one of my heroes in the faith. I'm really going to miss him. We love you Smith family and Lighthouse Community Church family. We will continue to pray for you all.

*In Christ Alone,  
Coy and Amber Hutcherson  
Gal. 2:20*

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**Coy and Amber Hutcherson** - December 26, 2020 at 01:50 PM

GP

“ G Piel lit a candle in memory of Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr.



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**G Piel** - December 26, 2020 at 12:57 PM

GF

“ Gaskins Family lit a candle in memory of Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr.



Gaskins Family - December 25, 2020 at 11:37 PM

DK

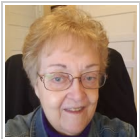
“ Don and Elsie have always been a blessing and a mentor to me. We purchased the church at 225 South Parker Avenue from them. Don was very transparent. The church was in great shape and anything that may need attention he brought out, he hid nothing. Don has always acted on the gifts of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering(patience), Gentleness, Goodness, and Faith.

Tammy and I and our church will always appreciate and cherish Don's memory every time we walk into our church. Friends, Family you are in our thoughts and prayers. My last text with Don was December 9th. I hear you may be needing prayers regarding your health. Don's reply: Covid please pray.

God bless you all.

Pastor Davy and Tammy Keen

davy keen - December 25, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ Lori I never had the pleasure of meeting your dad or mom other than through your posts on FB. However I could tell they both are very special people and were loved very much by their daughter. My heart goes out to you and all your family. Sending prayers and hugs and want you to know we are thinking of you.

Catherine Thompson - December 25, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Pastor Donald Ray Smith, Sr..*



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December 24, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ *Pastor Don enriched the lives of many, including my own. He loved God with all his heart and soul. He will be missed but never forgotten.*

*James Clouse*

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**Jim Clouse** - December 24, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ *Uncle Donald was one of most honorable men I've had the privilege of knowing. As a child the highlight of the year occurred when he traveled to southern Ky for a visit, there have been many of those visits throughout my 55 years on earth. He's my uncle but more importantly one of my best friends. He is going to be missed by many. I'm look foward to reunion day.*

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**Mitchell Catron** - December 23, 2020 at 06:20 PM



“ *Brother Don knew no bounds when it came to his walk with CHRIST. We who knew and Loved Him will miss Him!*

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**Harold Weston** - December 23, 2020 at 03:00 PM

LP

*I'll have to offer my thoughts after I have had the time to consider how I express my love and admiration for such a man of God who led me across the River Jordan in a life changing decision. He was my Pastor in every meaning of the word. I did put my spiritual being under his leadership and authority. He was my friend and mentor. How do I express my feelings for the man who I walked and talked with in the footsteps of Jesus? Brother  
Larry*

**Larry Pinnick** - December 23, 2020 at 03:33 PM

LC

*Sorry for your loss. I remember all of you from my teen age years at the little church on the hill at the end of Meadowlark Drive. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Lisa (Sledge) Cansler** - December 23, 2020 at 06:09 PM

CK

*we met don in 1960 he was a fine man he an my hubby came from wayne co.ky, best of friends. lost my husband 10 yrs ago dec.21 2010 i wish the best for the smiths family remember only good times.pat would love to talk to u,352 300 3055,love ya carolyn keith*

**carolyn keith** - December 23, 2020 at 06:18 PM

GB

*you will be greatly missed by everyone that met and knew you.*

**glenda browning** - December 24, 2020 at 05:52 AM

DM

*My dear friend & fellow pastor: My heart rejoices to know that you are resting in the arms of Jesus. I look forward to meeting you at Jesus' feet.very soon.  
Don Matthews*

**Don Matthews** - December 24, 2020 at 01:44 PM