



Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith

June 17, 1950 - April 11, 2025

William Michael Smith, better known as Bro. Mike, was born June 17, 1950, in Butler, Alabama to L C and Dot Smith. He passed from this life into the presence of Jesus on April 11, 2025.

He married Susan Claire Springer on January 5, 1974. She was his love and support for over 51 years. Without her, the rest to be read could not be.

They were blessed with two children, Martha Elaine Smith Gardner and Lance Curtis Smith. Mike loved spending time with his grandkids: William, Emma, and Jacob Gardner and Logan and Landon Smith. He planned many "Pawpaw trips" filled with adventure with the grandsons. He loved to take Emma shopping and to get manicures and pedicures. A wonderful son-in-law, James Gardner, and wonderful daughter-in-law, Asheley Smith, were loved and treated just like his children.

Mike realized he was a sinner and in need of a Savior. He was saved in 1961 at First Baptist Bellville with Pastor Alvis Bell. The night before Mike was to sign to play football at Texas A&M, Mike knew God was calling him to the ministry. He knelt beside his bed and surrendered his life to serving God. Mike enrolled at Baylor University to study religion. He has always said, "I don't know if God was really calling me to preach or just saving me from becoming a Texas Aggie."

Mike never stopped learning. He earned many degrees: BA at Baylor University, MDiv and MRE at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, DMin at Luther Rice Seminary, DEd and PhD at Southern Seminary. He

continued to take courses and trainings to help him grow and learn so he could better help churches.

He pastored churches across Texas: King Baptist in Gatesville, Frost Baptist in Frost, First Baptist Valley View, First Baptist Edom, and Grace Temple in Terrell where he helped to start Terrell Christian Academy.

After pastoring, he was Director of Missions for Double Mountain Baptist Area and Dogwood Trails Baptist Area. He also served as Director of

Minister/Church Relations for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

In 2011, Mike became President of Jacksonville College. During this time, he taught Bible courses at the college, was an adjunct professor at Southwestern Seminary and the Baptist Missionary Association of America Seminary. He wanted people to know and understand God's message and many students came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. If college students didn't have a place to go for holidays, they were always invited to his home to share a meal. His office was always open for students to come and talk.

Mike was the epitome of a servant leader. He was active in church and civic organizations. He was a member of Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs around the state. In 2020 he was named Citizen of the Year by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Volunteer Fireman and Police Chaplain.

Wherever he was serving, he desired to know people and share with them how they could know his Savior.

Mike also had a love for missions. When Mike and Susan were first married, they were Church Planters with the Home Mission Board in Illinois. Later Mike served as a Trustee of the International Mission Board and as Chairman of Central and Eastern Europe. He preached in 50 different countries on mission trips even at times with guns pointed at him.

He also wrote numerous articles for Baptist publications, several devotional books, and a book on conflict. In everything he wrote he longed for people to know and understand God more and how to live out what God's Word taught. Mike loved to teach and mentor others. He taught numerous Bible studies, conflict management seminars, Deacon Training, Pastor Search Committees,

and Transitional Interim Pastor training. Wherever he was serving, he always had groups with people of all ages that he met with regularly to pray together and learn together. He loved when people called and he could help them with a biblical question, a conflict issue, or something with the church. He was available and ready to help anytime.

Mike loved people. He loved to spend time with people and play games, especially 42 with dominos. Anytime he could get a group of friends or family together, he loved to play. He understood the importance of having fun and laughing together.

When Mike retired, he lived out his dream of buying a 5th wheel camper and traveling around the country to help churches. He worked with churches in Maine, Colorado, Arizona, and Texas. Mike and Susan moved the camper to West Virginia on April 8. As soon as everything was set up that day, he headed to work with a pastor there.

Mike lived every single day serving His Lord. He died doing what he loved to do. He faithfully lived out his life verse of Philippians 1:21.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

Memorials may be made to the International Mission Board at <https://www.imb.org/generosity/give-now/?designation=most+needed#imb-give-form> or Southern Baptists of Texas Convention at <https://sbtexas.com/giving/>

Funeral service will be at 11:00am, Thursday, April 17, 2025 at First Baptist Church in Terrell with his family receiving friends beginning at 10:00am to service time. Immediately following Bro. Mike's funeral service, his family would like to invite you to a reception held at the ROC (Recreational Outreach Center across the street from the church) .

A private interment will be held at Oakland Memorial Park.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Terrell
403 N. Catherine
Terrell, TX 75160
<http://www.fbcterrell.org>

Funeral Service

APR 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Terrell
403 N. Catherine
Terrell, TX 75160
<http://www.fbcterrell.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - April 21, 2025 at 11:18 AM

AW

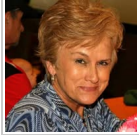
“ *Dr. Mike was a consummate Pastor-Preacher who balanced solid biblical preaching with practical conflict management in a caring way. His love for people and God was evident in all he did. We grieve his loss, but he is living his new life in Heaven.*

Anita Wiggin - April 19, 2025 at 12:33 PM

AW

Love not lice!

Anita Wiggin - April 19, 2025 at 12:33 PM



“ Bro. Mike was our pastor when our babies (who are now in their 40's) were dedicated, and also when Marty's mother and brothers came to know the Lord. So many events in our young family's lives took place when Bro. Mike and Susan were at Grace Temple. I will never forget during our third baby dedication in three years, Bro. Mike asking me if I knew what was causing all these babies! We were blessed to be with him and Susan in the exciting times of our church. Bro. Mike was kind, humble, not a respecter of persons, and a model of a pastor that brought many people to Christ. We pray for comfort for Susan and the kids.

Debra Schumaker - April 16, 2025 at 08:54 PM

SH

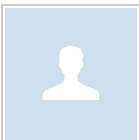
Debra, you said it so perfectly! Bro. Mike married Jimmy and me and played such an important role in our young family too.

Sandra Harrelson - April 17, 2025 at 09:59 AM

LP

My three daughters were baptized by him at grace temple. Good years worshipping with a close congregation.

Linda Phillips - April 18, 2025 at 03:26 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.



April 16, 2025 at 02:29 PM

BG

“ Beverly & Randy Goff lit a candle in memory of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith



Beverly & Randy Goff - April 16, 2025 at 12:41 AM

DC

“ We will be praying for the family during this grieving time. Bro. Mike was such a good teacher and person. Always kind and willing to help others learn about God. May God give you all peace and love during this sad time.

Love from Debbie and John Chambers

Debbie And John Chambers - April 16, 2025 at 12:22 AM

MC

“ Dear Elaine,
I was heartbroken to hear about your dad's passing. Please accept my deepest condolences. He was truly a remarkable person, and I will always be grateful for the kindness he showed to my family. His generosity and warmth left a lasting impact.

During this difficult time, I hope you feel surrounded by love and support. I'm keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.

*With Sympathy,
Miguelson*

Miguelson Charles - April 15, 2025 at 11:49 PM

ME

“ *Miguelson Charles, Esq. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.*



Miguelson Charles, Esq. - April 15, 2025 at 11:41 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.*



April 15, 2025 at 06:35 PM

BM

“ *Bro. Mike was a great pastor, friend, and someone I really enjoyed doing ministry with. Our time together at Grace Temple was very meaningful. Mike cared about people. He had a pastor's heart and it showed in many ways. I am very thankful for the times our family's got to spend together. Susan, Rachel and I are so very sorry for your loss. We are praying for you. We are very happy for Heaven's gain...*

Barry McClure - April 15, 2025 at 06:22 PM



“ 86 files added to the album Memories Album



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - April 15, 2025 at 11:58 AM

JH

“ *Dr. Smith, (I never could bring myself to call him Mike) was one of the most Godly men I've ever known. Working with him for almost 10 years at the college, I witnessed his generosity, leadership, love for mentoring in life and ministry, and most of all his love for our Lord. I count it such a privilege to have known him and called him friend. Prayers for Susan, a true companion and helper to her husband. May God comfort her and their family. Thank you Dr. Smith for the difference you made in so many lives and for leading by example....what a servants heart. Until we meet again....*

Jennifer Hughes - April 14, 2025 at 06:28 PM

JW

“ Bro Mike was Joey Wages and my first Pastor as newlyweds. What a difference his teaching, leadership, love and investing in us made in our lives and in our family. We will forever be grateful to him and Susan for how beautifully they poured into our lives.

If you knew him you loved him.

If you spent time with him you were changed.

If you sat under his leadership and teaching you knew God's truths and grew to love Him more deeply.

Bro. Mike Smith certainly exemplifies a life well lived!

julie wages - April 14, 2025 at 05:00 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.



April 14, 2025 at 03:35 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.



April 14, 2025 at 02:26 PM

BW

“ Susan and family i am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. 🙏

Beth Wilder - April 14, 2025 at 01:10 PM

BW

“ *Beth Wilder lit a candle in memory of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith*



Beth Wilder - April 14, 2025 at 01:08 PM

KS

“ *Kay Squires lit a candle in memory of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith*



Kay Squires - April 14, 2025 at 10:23 AM

TH

“ *The Hemphill's purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.*



The Hemphill's - April 14, 2025 at 10:07 AM

CJ

“ *Dr. Mike served as Jacksonville College president for ten years. We were privileged to serve on his trustee board. He and Susan have been in our home and we have much respect for the Smiths. He truly worked until Jesus came for him. Our prayers and the prayers of our church family are with Susan and her family.* 🙏

Charles & Charlotte Johnson - April 13, 2025 at 11:43 PM

DP

Pastor Mike was our interim pastor in Northern Colorado when we were in need. He truly exemplified the love and generosity of God our Father, and was relentless in his goal to speak, share, and live the gospel. We are honored to have known such a man.

Deborah W.- Living Stone Church, Pierce, - April 14, 2025 at 12:33 AM

DP

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Deborah W.- Living Stone Church, Pierce, - April 14, 2025 at 12:35 AM

FD

“ FBC Eustace Deacons purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.



FBC Eustace Deacons - April 13, 2025 at 10:06 PM

FD

“ FBC Eustace Deacons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Mike Smith.

FBC Eustace Deacons - April 13, 2025 at 10:06 PM

LC

“ Living Stone Church purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. William (Bro. Mike) Michael Smith.



Living Stone Church - April 13, 2025 at 05:47 PM