

Brother Isaac D. Smith

Personal Data *birth: 1933; baptism: 7/1/56*

Ordinations *elder: 10/22/61; evangelist: 4/16/67; apostle: 10/12/97*

Leadership *Southwest District President: 1987-92; Quorum of Seventy President*

Mission Work *White River Apache Tribe; England; Germany; Italy; Mexico; Colombia; Guatemala; Dominica*

Isaac D. Smith was born in 1933 at Elizabeth, Pennsylvania to Brother Isaac and Sister Gertrude Dreer Smith. The family attended The Church of Jesus Christ at the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch where he was blessed as a child. Young Ike was spiritually nurtured at the Glassport Branch where he attended all services. His father, along with other pillars of the Church such as Charles Ashton and James Curry, were great influences on him.

A Rich Heritage in the Church

Coming from a spiritually rich heritage, Brother Ike's family's association with the Church began in the early 1860s prior to the official incorporation. His mother, an ordained deaconess, had a grandfather, William Bacon, who was an apostle, as well as the first Secretary of the General Church. His father, Isaac Smith, Sr., was ordained an apostle in 1911, and his uncle, Fred Smith, was also an apostle during that era of the Church. The Smith home was continually filled with family, saints, friends, and neighbors, as they generously demonstrated the gift of hospitality to many.

A Call to Serve God While Serving His Country

At the age of 23, Ike was drafted into the United States Army. While stationed at Fort Ord, California, he had a strong desire to attend church and found Apostle Joseph Lovalvo holding house meetings in nearby Monterey. The Lord touched young Ike's heart that day, July 1, 1956, and he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

After his discharge from the service, Brother Ike returned to Pennsylvania. He attended Church at his home branch of Glassport. He was involved with many Church activities. While attending a General Church Conference, he met Sister Bonnie Calabrese, daughter of Brother Joseph and Sister Vicki Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio. They were married in Lorain, Ohio on October 17, 1959 by her uncle, Brother Dominic Thomas and were blessed with five children: Isaac J., Brian, Thomas, Tamara and Brent.

They resided in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania and were members of the Glassport Branch. Brother Ike was ordained an elder October 22, 1961. They eventually moved and began to worship in Monongahela, Pennsylvania where he later served as presiding elder.

A Heart for the Youth of the Church

Involvement in the MBA became a focus for him. While he was President of the GMBA, the campout concept was implemented for the first time. The camp gatherings were so well received that since 1967 they have been held annually as week-long gatherings. A love for the young people has always inspired Brother Ike, and his leadership has been instrumental in leading many over the years to dedicate their

Brother Isaac D. Smith

life to Christ. The Church's campouts have provided a wonderful environment where this can and has taken place. This has been the realization of a dream for Brother Ike.

A Heart for the Seed of Joseph

Brother Alma Cadman ordained Brother Ike an evangelist on April 16, 1967. As he was ordained, he arose and spoke in the Gift of Tongues and has carried that gift until this day. He also became a member of the Board of Missions. A renewed zeal for missionary work was spreading throughout the Church at that time, and he and his wife were among those who had captured that spirit. A trip to Arizona to visit Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto in San Carlos only served to reinforce the conviction that was already there to personally become involved with the work among God's covenant people, the Seed of Joseph (the Native American). In early 1969 the desire to do this work evolved into a commitment as Brother Ike volunteered to go to the White Mountain Apache Reservation. He resigned his job, which he had held for 18 years, and in May of that year, the Smiths moved to Pinetop, Arizona, which borders the reservation. Since that time, others with similar direction have moved to the area to help with this work, and a branch of the Church has been established in that area.

Active in Leadership

Brother Ike served as President of the Southwest District and then, four years later, the Southwest Region. He has held other responsibilities such as Vice-President and President of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. As President, he helped to promote evangelism throughout the Church, and played an important role in restructuring the Mission Board to help facilitate that process. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, England, Germany, Italy, Dominica, and Colombia to evangelize the Gospel. He was ordained an apostle at the October Conference of 1997.

He retired in October of 1996 after working for United Parcel Service for 20 years and since then has devoted even more of his time to the Church. He is a staunch supporter and defender of the faith, who is continuing to actively promote the Gospel message wherever he can.