



Tributes to
Larry D. Smith

In the June/July/August 2015 issue of *God's Revivalist*, we published tributes to longtime editor Larry Smith upon his retirement. As limited space in the printed magazine did not permit the publishing of all submitted tributes, we are posting this special online resource. Tributes are alphabetized by last name within the following general categories: GBS Board Members, Colleagues, Friends, and Students. We will consider updating this resource as additional notes of appreciation are sent in to the Revivalist Office.

tributes from **GBS BOARD MEMBERS**

Larry Smith is a man of God appointed to serve His Church for such an hour as this! He has been an anointed messenger who has passionately reconnected us to proclaiming the optimism of grace. He has preached with power and persuasion and written his way into our hearts, homes, and houses of worship. Larry's friendships are authentic and

his life sparkles with holy piety. He has blessed multiple generations by enriching our purpose, investing in our future while reconnecting us to our glorious history. Thank you, Larry!

CHRIS D. CRAVENS
Current GBS ADEP Student, Pastor
Arlington, OH

Larry Smith has been a steady, spiritual presence since his arrival on campus. He brought a new level of excellence to the *Revivalist* and challenged us all to think more deeply. Many thanks are owed to Larry for the gifts of his time and talent poured out so generously for the GBS family.

BETHANY DENTLER
Medina, Ohio

Larry Smith has truly been the "Bishop of Mt. Auburn." His devotion to God, his humility and grace, and his ability to write with splendor and power has been a great blessing to the *Revivalist* and to GBS. One of my favorite memories is touring Israel with him in 1999. The first day on the tour bus he said, "Jack, would you call me Larry?" That was a symbol of a special friendship. The day Larry led communion at the Garden Tomb will always be special to me. No one could do that quite like Bishop Smith. Thank you, Larry, for your great contribution to the Church of Jesus Christ and to GBS.

JACK HOOKER
BRE '74
Pastor
Franklin, OH

Larry Smith's ministry at GBS is marked not only by piety and reverence, but also by booming laughter and exuberant exhortation. His editorial writing may have sent some to dictionary.com and Clarke's *Concordance*, but the vivid pictures he painted riveted readers and resurrected excellence at the *Revivalist*.

REBECCA KELLEY
Cincinnati, OH

Larry Smith has had a profound influence upon my life and ministry, especially as a young minister. He embodied and infused into many of us an appreciation for Methodist history and a sense of hope for the Church today. His emphasis on the great themes of Scripture and the significance of Church traditions have served to ground us in our ever-changing culture. Most of all, Larry Smith's Christ-like spirit has made me hungry to know

the Christ he loves and serves so well. With deepest respect and gratitude...

JOHN MANLEY
Pastor
Dayton, OH

I have appreciated Larry's stately prose, and his knowledge of and appreciation for our history and heritage. I love the spiritual impact he has had on the *Revivalist* and, thus, throughout God's Bible School and the family of loyal subscribers. His personal friendship is a treasure to me.

LEONARD SANKEY
ThB '60
Bedford, IN

Larry Smith is a gifted preacher, a skilled writer, a beloved teacher, a lover of anything old, and a warm, kind-hearted man. He is also the master of doodling. If you have seen any of his sketches you will know what I mean.

MONTE STETLER
Erlanger, KY

All who know Larry Smith must be impressed by his signal spirituality, his substantial ability, and his special quality. May God bountifully bless his retirement.

A. WINGROVE TAYLOR
BAMus, BA, ThB '52
Board Member Emeritus
Carmel, IN

tributes from **COLLEAGUES**

When I think of Larry Smith, I think of a big sweetheart! He truly cares about the lives of those he comes in contact with, and it shows. My favorite memories are dinners together, either at our house or his, and all the great stories he shared with us. Our three girls love him so much and enjoy time spent with him and Carol. I love when he prays with our family.

KRISTIN BIRD
Adjunct Professor,
Education and Professional Studies

Larry Smith is a well-read theologian and historian. He keeps up with current events in the world and in Christendom, while being steeped in Church history, especially the history of Methodism. He's had a significant influence on my own teaching of Systematic Theology. He is humble. In conversation, he seems more impressed with what you have to say than what he says himself, though what he says is more profound. He's also loyal. As my friend, he will treat me the same on every occasion. He has many friends who would feel the same way.

MARK BIRD

Professor, Ministerial Education

The first time I heard Larry Smith speak was at a ministerial retreat in Alabama. After the service I was so surrounded by the presence of God that I remember going to my room and spending time in prayer. Larry Smith has separated the Holy from that which is common through the vehicle of humility and history.

SCOTT BLACKMON

ACA Instructor and College Adjunct

I am indebted to Larry Smith for raising my knowledge and appreciation of our theological roots in the broader Christian arena and the importance and value of frequent participation in the Lord's Supper. I appreciated having Larry in our division. He was always loyal to the Word of God before being loyal to and appreciative of the viewpoint of Methodism. He was a kind, loving brother with a good sense of humor.... a blessing to be around.

ALLAN BROWN

Chair, Ministerial Education

Larry Smith is a man who bursts into passionate discourse when he thinks of God and His mighty acts in history. His booming, public presence is balanced by his private, self-effacing humility. Larry's tenure at the *Revivalist* helped revive its significance as a voice of sanity and prophetic clarity amidst the demise of much print periodical literature.

PHILIP BROWN

Professor, Ministerial Education

Before I came to work in the ADEP office, I was intimidated by Larry Smith's reputation for scholarliness and his rich writings. Now? I have discovered his humanness. I love it when he walks by the office and stops to chat awhile.

JANET BURTON

Aldersgate Distance Education Program Coordinator

Larry is a true saint! A humble, godly man. A man whose everyday life shows us what Jesus looks like! I especially enjoyed hearing him tell of his Christmas story, and the mishaps that befell him as a young thespian.

NATHAN DAHLER

AA '07

Director of Enrollment Services

Larry is known for his consistent gentlemanliness and politeness. Even in intra-campus email communication between just him and me, he is consistently polite. His leadership of the *Revivalist* infused it with gravitas and depth and made it a respected publication in our movement. His balance of excellence in his field and yet personable approachability and authenticity made Larry an impacting mentor.

DON DAVISON

BRE '83

Director of Public Relations

When Larry Smith came to GBS, he brought to this school an awesome reverence for God that impacted our chapel services. Formal worship and prayers by Larry Smith were music to my ears. I loved hearing him pray in that booming voice and enjoyed the communion services he led. I will never forget President Avery referring to him as our "bishop."

CAROL GARDNER

HS '86, BA '92

Instructor, Aldersgate Christian Academy

Larry Smith's life is a constant reminder that living a holy life is possible when the means of grace are appropriated. His presence has elevated the spiritual and intellectual atmosphere of God's Bible

School for many years. I am blessed to count him a friend.

DAN GLICK

Chair, Intercultural Studies and World Missions

I remember the camp meeting Larry Smith participated in as an evangelist here at GBS some years ago. I was really impressed by him. Later, when he came to work here, he was a blessing to me and my family—and, of course, a great blessing to GBS.

FLOYD HYATT

ThB '75

Safety and Access Coordinator

I have always appreciated the gracious and humble spirit Larry Smith exhibited any time our paths crossed at work in the GBS administration building. His kind ways are a blessing to all who encounter him. I also count it as a privilege to have been able to attend some of the communion services and baptisms that he conducted on campus. He truly has a gift in bringing rich meaning to the celebration of these sacred events.

STEPHANIE HAUFPAUR

BA '15

Coordinator for Cataloging, Serials and ILL

Larry Smith will always be special to Nancy and me as he is the minister who married us. We still remember saying “plight thee my troth” in the wedding vows and Larry Smith warning us that we would have to “answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed” if we did not disclose anything that might impose us from being lawfully joined together in matrimony. We appreciate his love of the old hymns, the sacraments, and Church history, but most of all his love for Jesus and lost souls.

CHRIS LAMBETH

BA '00

Registrar

Having worked with Larry on a near-daily basis for more than 20 years, I suppose that I know him as well as anybody other than his

wife. His virtues are many and his faults are few. Listing the former would unnecessarily repeat what these pages have already truthfully reported; and if one indeed were able to identify a legitimate fault, Larry would be the first to offer a self-deprecating acknowledgment! Suffice it to say that he has been among the most important influences in my life. I would certainly be a better person if I were more like Larry Smith.

KEVIN MOSER

HS '82, BA '90

Art Director and Assistant Editor

Larry Smith embodies Christian piety, humility, and winsomeness. His beautiful spirit attracts to his Lord. His personal kindness has meant a good deal to me as well; in my early days in Cincinnati, he and I would commiserate about having left behind our open spaces of Nebraska and Kansas for the hilly river valley of the Queen City. I'll forever fondly remember being part of the same ministry with the godly, careful, gentle “Bishop of Mt. Auburn”!

AARON PROFITT

Vice President for Academic Affairs

I was privileged to study in the Ministerial Division under Larry Smith as a student, and then work alongside him as a colleague when I joined the faculty. I appreciate the love that he passed on to me for the Lord's Table. With him, the Eucharist is truly a delightful celebration and time of worship. I'm grateful for his influence and godly example! Someday we will join together at the table of that Great Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and I hope that I'm sitting close enough to Brother Smith to hear his deep, rich voice ringing out “Hallelujah” as he enjoys the blessed consummation of that which all those communion services he led on earth were only a foretaste....

STEPHEN SMITH

BA '02

Associate Professor, Ministerial Education

Larry Smith exudes kindness and humility. His daily trips to the coffee machine have

been a bright spot in my time here at GBS. My office was a passageway to the machine and he was always kind enough to stop and chat a bit. Many life lessons have been learned from those chats—from children to pocket watches. I treasure getting to know Larry Smith!

CHERYL WATTERS
Executive Assistant to the President

In the few years of our acquaintance, I've learned to appreciate and admire Larry Smith. His humble spirit coupled with a soaring intellect and eloquent speech make him a rare treasure!

LYLE A. WITT
Chair, Education and Professional Studies

tributes from **FRIENDS**

Larry Smith is a Christian gentleman with a heart for others. He lives the Spirit-filled life with joy and peace. It has been my privilege to work with him across the years and for that....I am a richer person!

JAMES H. DIEHL
General Superintendent Emeritus,
Church of the Nazarene
Lakewood, CO

Larry Smith is always a Christian gentleman and constantly caring about the state of holiness in the holiness movement and a model of holy love to us all.

KEITH DRURY
Author and Professor Emeritus,
Indiana Wesleyan University
Marion, IN

A son of the Nebraska prairies, Larry Smith has always seemed to me a transplant from the age of Wesley or perhaps B.T. Roberts. He is an embodiment of the finest qualities of his Free Methodist heritage. He embodies its respect for learning, its vital living piety, and deep humility. These qualities have come to life in the editorials he wrote

for the *Revivalist*. I have often reflected on a trip I took with Larry to visit Harold Schmul shortly after Larry became editor of *God's Revivalist*. It was a special time of sharing our mutual love for our common Free Methodist heritage and our dreams of living that inheritance today. Larry—Thank you and please keep writing. We need your voice today more than ever.

WILLIAM KOSTLEVY
Director Brethren Historical Library and Archives
Elgin, IL

May I add my thanks for your service and congratulations on your retirement. Also thanks to your gracious staff that helped create a lasting memory for Mother [Lenos Bereman Perry] and our large family group that attended the service on May 10, 1999, when she was given her high school diploma for the work she did there in the 1920s. Mother has gone to her reward.

PHYLLIS ORMAN
God's Revivalist Subscriber
Indianapolis, IN

I have known Larry Smith since the days we served the Lord in Nebraska—Larry as an Evangelical Wesleyan and I as a Reformed Presbyterian. I have known over the years that if I contacted him with a prayer request or need that he would immediately join with me about it before God's throne of grace and mercy. I know he will be sorely missed at the school and as an editor-writer for the *Revivalist*. I cherish him as a friend as well as the fond memories from our past association.

JAMES PERRY
Retired Pastor
Centreville, AL

Larry Smith's gift for writing and editorializing was instrumental in making *God's Revivalist* the premier periodical of the community of believers in which God's Bible School and College interacts. His incredible knowledge of Methodism and incisive insight into the walk of Christian piety could be read in all that he wrote.

G. CLAIR SAMS

BA '05

President, Heartland Conference,
Bible Methodist Connection of Churches
Germantown, OH

We first met Larry Smith in England in 1978 at the reopening of Wesley's Chapel. Dad Schmul had led a USA group on that special trip. We later met in Dad and Mom's small apartment at Hobe Sound, FL. Great food and great fellowship! We loved his knowledge and wit. There was an instant bonding! Through our lives we have met in meetings, personally, and visited on the telephone. We both share our love of Methodist history and hymnody. Dad considered Larry one of his "soldier boys" in the army of the Lord. I consider Larry my friend and like a brother. Others will speak of all his accomplishments, and I would agree with them; however, we simply want Larry to know and feel the love, affection, and respect from all of us.

HAROLD E. & CAROLINE SCHMUL II

HS '61, BA '67 (Caroline)

Retired Pastor
Ft. Myers, FL

Larry Smith is a writer's writer. In an age of digital cacophony and superficial obsequiousness, his editorials have fused elegant style and poignant prose with broad historical perspective and prophetic prescience. Through the clarion call to principled holiness in his writing, through the practical demonstration of humble greatness in his living, and through many hours of patient, personal mentoring, he has been an inspiration to me.

WALLACE THORNTON, JR.

BA '92, ThB '94

Author and Educator
Beech Grove, IN

I first met Larry Smith about 25 years ago, and he quickly became one of my closest friends. He is one of the most "saintly men" I have ever known. He is an excellent preacher (one of my favorites)—a true scholar—an engaging teacher—a great editor—a good

writer—a real Methodist scholar. It is a joy to write this brief tribute to my friend.

EDSEL TROUTEN

HS '58, ThB '61

Retired Pastor and College Educator
Kuna, ID

tributes from **STUDENTS**

Brother Smith's Church History class was one of my favorite and most helpful classes in college. From him, I learned that "what is essentially new is essentially false," and that the Church is more than brick and stone—the Church is made of believers all around the world.

ESTHER BYER

BA '15

Cincinnati, OH

He called us "laddies." From anyone else it would have been an insult. From Larry Smith it was happily accepted. We sat spellbound as he thundered the important dates and happenings in Church history. Information gushed from him like water from a fire hydrant, and we gasped trying to drink it all in, knowing that we were missing far more than we were getting. (His tests proved this!) I have often wished that I could sit in his classroom again to feel his passion and to gain another morsel of his vast knowledge. He could even call me "laddie" again. What a man! What a mind! What a humble servant of The King!

RODNEY LOPER

BA '01

Pastor, Hobe Sound, FL

Rev. Smith has assumed many roles for me in my life: A pastor in his office, a mentor during seminary, a teacher in the classroom, an officiant in my wedding, a colleague in ministry and a friend as we trekked the streets of London in the footsteps of John Wesley. It is an honor to know Rev. Smith. Deanna and I wish him God's best in his retirement.

MARK R. MANDER

BA '05

Pastor, Coleraine, Northern Ireland

Brother Smith, as I call him, is a friend. His steady plodding and faithfulness inspires me even as he gets up in years. I'll never forget singing those old Wesley hymns during classes in the Schmul Library and hearing him belt out each verse and stanza with such fervor and Christian zeal. For many of us who know him, he stands right alongside the Wesleys, Clark, Cole, and Luther. He's a faithful hero in simple shoe leather.

JEFFREY PAULUS JR.

Current Student

Spring Grove, PA

I had the privilege of working with Brother Smith as his assistant in the Revivalist Office and thoroughly enjoyed it. No matter how small the office tasks were, he would always tell me how he appreciated me and what I was doing there. With his cheery "hello" and his pleasant spirit, I found myself able to approach him about various topics of life. We would talk about the future, spiritual things, relationships...you name it! I look back now and value those times I was able to get to know him better. Even though my job in the Revivalist Office was temporary, my interaction with Brother Smith made a much longer, lasting impression that I will carry with me.

SHARREE POUZAR

BA '15

Cincinnati, OH

Passion! Larry Smith was always passionate about what he taught. I especially remember how he emphasized the importance of Church history. It was important to him.

MARK RICHMOND

AA, BA '14

Blanchester, OH

Professor Larry Smith's passion for Church history and especially Methodism impacted

me greatly as I sat in his classroom. That has been more than ten years ago, but I still remember the gifted way he transmitted a love for the Church and the holiness movement to us through his lectures. His classes were so enjoyable—he "lived" history and made it come to life! His compassionate, godly spirit was a beautiful encouragement to me during my days at GBS.

STEPHANIE SMITH

BA '06

Nurse and Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

Shelbyville, IN

My family and I periodically speak of Bro. Smith's eloquence in writing. I still recall his writing from even several years ago; for example: "...the nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Such majestic and elegant words! It was part of his writing about the Church calendar. We still talk about that article!

SHARMEN WRIGHT

BA '92

Overland Park, KS