Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

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Smith, Joshua (January 31, 1954-) was born in Mocho, Montego Bay, Jamaica, West Indies, and raised in Kingston, Jamaica and Jacksonville, Florida. He is the son of Sir Uriah Smith and Matie-Bel Smith. Smith attended high school in Jamaica, and received the A.A. degree from St. Andrew Tech, the B.A. from Jamaica Bible College, and has done graduate studies at Jacksonville University and Luther Rice Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.). Smith was converted in 1968 at Calvary Baptist Mission at Over River, Orange, Montego Bay, Jamaica. He was the organizer of the North Pearl Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville, and has served as its pastor from 1987-1996. He served as Regional Director for African-American Ministries in the Florida Baptist Convention (1995-1997), and as National and Regional Missionary for the North American Mission (1998-2003). He and his wife, Lorraine C. Smith, married June 24, 1987 and they have three children.

Personal Data

FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION
1230 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
904-396-2351

Office of Public Relations

Joshua Smith
Director, Northeast Florida region, African-American Ministries Division
Serving the convention since 1996

Primary Responsibility: To plan, conduct and evaluate ministries to African-Americans and serve as a liaison to other Baptist African-American denominations in the Northeast Florida region; focusing on church starting, church development, developing printed materials and implementing programs to enhance racial harmony and interracial ministries.

Birth: Mocho, Saint James, Jamaica, January 31, 1943

Marital Status: June 18, 1988 **Spouse:** Lorraine Constance Smith

Family:
Joshua Benjamin
Jonathan Samuel
Aniya Lorren

Education:
Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, D. Min., 1979
Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, M. Div., 1978
Jamaica Bible College, Mandeville, Jamaica, B.A., 1973

Previous Experience:
Faculty/Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, 1990-
Pastor, North Pearl Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, 1987-
Minister of Education, Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, 1983-1986
Minister of Education, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, 1977-1979
Director of Ministries, Faith Gospel Mission, Jacksonville, Florida, 1974-1976

Denominational Activities:
Foreign Mission Volunteer, Trinidad, 1989, 1991 and 1993

Church Membership:
North Pearl Street Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida

Surrency, Alma
From: JOSHUA SMITH [josmithu@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2003 10:49 AM
To: Surrency, Alma
Cc: josmithu@msn.com
Subject: Profile

joshua.jpg

Name: Joshua (Josh) Smith

Birthdate: 1/31/54

Birthplace, where raised: Born in Mocho,Montego Bay, Jamaica, W.I. Raised in Kingston, Jamaica, and Jacksonville, FL.

Parents: Sir Uriah Smith and Matie-Bel Smith

Wife: Lorraine C. Smith; Married June 24, 1987

Church: Celebration Community Church

Education: High Schools: Trench Town Comprehensive, and St. Andrew Tech
College: College of Arts Science and Technology AA; Jamaica Bible College BA, 3.0; Jacksonville University - Graduate Studies 3.5; LutherRice Seminary M.Div, D. Min.Ed, Capella University Ph.D Learner
When and where converted, baptized, church joined at conversion: I was converted 1968 at Calvary Baptist Msission Church at Over River, Orange, Montego Bay, Jamaica, W.I. Baptized and joined at Bethel Assembly, Kingston, Jamaica.

Pastoral Service: Served as Minister of Youth and education, Started and pastor North Pearl Street Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL, 1987-96.

Denominational Service: Served as Regional Director for African-American Ministries Division, Florida Baptist Convention, 1995-1997; Service as National& Regional Missionary for North American Mission Board, 1998-2003.

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Church perseveres to share True Life in Melbourne

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Written By: Barbara Hoffmann
October 30, 2019
Tags: Joshua Smith, True Life Church

MELBOURNE–It's been a journey that has taken them through four moves, two renovations and many Sundays as a portable church tearing down and setting up chairs and equipment while creating space for inspirational Bible teaching.

But as their wandering has come to an end, True Life Church is now in a place to reach out to the hurting community around them.

Now in a new location with additional leaders, Pastor Joshua Smith believes God has placed them in the midst of a "hurting, highly unchurched community with many single parent homes," and they meet a "unique bunch of people, seekers every Sunday," he said.
True Life Church, Joshua Smith
Pastor Joshua Smith, True Life Church

The church that had relaunched with 29 people five years ago now has 150 in weekly attendance.

"We're a real church for the unchurched, for people finding God for the first time," he said.

"Our members are baptizing others, not just the pastor [doing the baptisms], and our year-to-date expenses have been covered by income for the first time. The challenges are different now, but it's nice to look back at what God has done to bring us here."

In 2014, after having served as worship leader at two previous churches, Smith and his wife returned to Florida believing that "God was calling us back home to Melbourne," where they both were raised.

He had been called to serve as worship and small group pastor at East Coast Church, which was meeting at that time in a local elementary school. The church originally had been established in 1966 as Sherwood Park Baptist Church but had changed leadership as well as their name numerous times.

Six months after Smith arrived, the lead pastor resigned and on Easter Sunday 2015, the worship leader was called as pastor of the struggling congregation with financial issues.

A month later, the church leased and renovated a small storefront, and relaunched as True Life Church.

In just three years, the church outgrew that location and moved to a larger facility on Sarno Road—a major east-west thoroughfare–where they are now located. The store front had previously been used as college classrooms and finances were needed to create worship and educational space.

Mike Hoffmann, associational mission strategist, Brevard Baptist Association (BBA), connected Smith with Craig Culbreth, Florida Baptist Convention catalyst for the east region, and the convention provided church revitalization funds which "came in extremely handy," with the renovation process, said Smith.

Knowing that the association and state convention are both "involved and invested to help the local church thrive is awesome," the young pastor said.

True Life is truly committed to engaging the community.

Each month the congregation gives away 10 percent of their monthly income directly into the community through the Generosity Team. And the Hope Team aids those who come for assistance with housing, monthly bills and other urgent needs, and partners with those in need through multiple meetings to provide encouragement and coaching.
True Life Church, Egg Hunt, Easter
Egg Hunt fun! 2019

Ongoing outreach events include prayer walking a local park twice a year as well. They have hosted an Easter egg hunt at the same park for the past three years. This year 1,700 people attended the Easter event, and a woman accepted Jesus as her Savior after the Easter story was shared.

In November members will be going door to door asking, "How can we pray for you?" And in 2020 they plan to offer Hope Team workshops to help folks learn practical life skills such as budgeting, changing car oil and writing a resume.

True Life is about "helping people know that our church cares and that God loves them. It's not about 'come see our building' but going out there. We have to engage our community out in our community, not in our facility," Smith said.

"That makes me happy."