



## Ms. Carla Jean Smith

July 8, 1961 - August 30, 2020

\* Please fax all condolences to Freedom Baptist Church at (708)449-7366

One of the happiest moments in the household of Richard and Flora Smith and the 6 boys, came on July 8, 1961, with the birth of the 7th child, a girl named Carla Jean. In the hearts of father, mother and the boys, the Lord had granted fulfillment and completion. "7" in the Scripture is one of those numbers of special significance: 7 days in Creation, 7 trips around the wall of Jericho on the 7th day, and now child number 7, is Carla Jean. What joy she brought to the family; always spoiled and treated with specialness. She attended public schools in Peoria, graduating from Richwoods High School in the class of 1979. She was nurtured in the Christian faith, baptized as a child at the Morning Star Baptist Church by the late Pastor Rev. Dr. Calvin Hightower. Her worship was for real: she always sang in the choir, The Echoes of Morning Star; she traveled with the church and choir; she attended the State Baptist Congress as a delegate, participating in the Baptist Youth Fellowship Choir under the direction of her brother, the Reverend Dr. Craig Melvin Smith. Even after leaving Peoria and relocating to Rockford, she united with the Providence Baptist Church pastored by her brother, Rev. Dr. Craig Melvin Smith. Then on to Chicago, she united with the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church pastored by her brother; and finally she was a chartered member of the Freedom Baptist Church in Hillside. She stood on the first worship service on April 9, 2000, and became one of over 300 to be the first members. She sang in Freedom Hillside's Sound of Worship, always travelling across the city and state, supporting her Freedom Hillside Church, her Pastor-Brother, and shadowing her favorite brother, Rodney. Carla even ended up in Hawaii with her Freedom Church crew celebrating Deacon Dave and Karen Hannah's 25th year wedding anniversary. Her annual trip to Las Vegas with her favorite brother was a time of sheer delight. In fact, she was Rodney's shadow. He couldn't go far without her tagging along. She never hit the jackpot but she struck gold in the hearts of her blood family and extended family. She loved the Lord, loved the house of the Lord and the people of the Lord.

Her heart and soul were vested in her two sons, Donald "DJ" and DeJuan Bynum, born to her and her then husband, Donald Bynum. She loved them unconditionally, devoted

herself to then untiringly and cared for them sacrificially. She made her home with her sons and daughter in law, Joanna (wife of "DJ"). Carla Jean was a strong and independent woman. Her work ethic and commitment was commendable: Manager at Kinko's, Ricoh Printing Service in South Suburban Hospital for 7 years; she was employed at the Goodwill store. Before leaving her hometown she worked as a security dispatcher at Bradley University.

She joins in heaven her parents, Deacon Richard H. Smith and Flora Berry Smith; her oldest brother, Richard James Smith and her youngest brother, Mark Anthony Smith. To always cherish her memory and looking forward to joining her in Glory are: her two sons Donald Bynum, Jr. (wife, Joanna); and DaJuan Bynum; 4 grandchildren: Janiya, Jaiyana, Journie, and Jaseon; her four brothers, Duane Earl (wife Sharon), Craig Melvin (wife Patricia), Stanley Thomas, Rodney Lee. Her aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, and god-family will forever cherish her in their hearts.

Among the very special people in her life, both in truth and in trouble are god-sisters, Mary Wright, Cheryl Conners, Wanda Thomas, Taneisha Philips. God-brothers who also had her back: Larry Davis, Antwine Freeman, Michael Young, and Freddie Blake. Mary Etta and her daughter, Tihila "Nook" opened their hearts and homes to Carla to make her comfortable in her final days. Isn't that what family does?

Sister Beulah Brent, CEO, and Lisa Washington one of Freedom's own and the team of woman at Sisters Working It Out gave their hearts, hands, money, goods, services to Carla while she fought breast cancer. Their deeds of faith and labor of love are recorded in heaven. How she appreciated the godly sisters of Freedom Hillside, the Women of Purpose Thursday Prayer Line, and the ladies who send her packages for the refrigerator and her purse consistently. She continued unto her last 3 days of life to call the names of her mother figures, Johnnie Mae Washington and Mother Lottie Geanes. Her daughter in law's mother, Johnnie Watkins, special blessings upon you for your kindness and care. There was a team of healing hands at the South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest who did all within their medical ability to render quality care and reasonable recovery. This they did until they were relieved of their duties by the Eternal Healing Hand that spoke at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 30, 2020 and said to them: "I'll take it from here." He then whispered into Carla's ear: "Cancer loses, you win. Come on into painless peace and the bountiful bliss of Heaven."

She loved to go to church on Sunday; so why not go into heaven on Sunday?! There she will forever be with the Lord. When we all get to heaven. What a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus, we will sing and shout the victory.

A viewing will be held on Friday, September 4, 2020 at Wallace Funeral Home, Broadview, IL from 4 pm until 7 pm.

A funeral service will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at Freedom Baptist Church, Hillside, IL with a visitation from 11 am until 12 noon where Rev. Dr. Craig

M. Smith is the host Pastor. Pastor Ronald Alexander of Hope Fellowship Church, Rockford, IL will bring forth the eulogy. Carla will be laid to rest on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 12 noon at Lutheran Cemetery, Peoria, IL with a graveside service following with a balloon release.

The funeral service will be live streamed on Freedom Baptist Church Hillside Facebook page at 12 Noon at [www.enjoyfreedom.org](http://www.enjoyfreedom.org)

Services are entrusted to Wallace Funeral Home.

Obituary posting courtesy of Simons Mortuary.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wallace Funeral Home  
2020 W. Roosevelt Road  
Broadview, IL 60155  
(708) 334-1288

## Visitation

SEP 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Freedom Baptist Church  
4541 Harrison Street  
Hillside, IL 60162  
(708) 449-3733

## Funeral Service

SEP 5. 12:00 PM (CT)

Freedom Baptist Church  
4541 Harrison Street  
Hillside, IL 60162  
(708) 449-3733

## Graveside Service

SEP 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Lutheran Cemetery  
914 S Pleasant St  
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Carla Jean Smith*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Ms. Carla Jean Smith*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM

JM

“ *Didn't even no you had passed, may GOD give your entire family the peace they may need during this time. You will a!ways be remembered. Janice Miles*



**Janice M Miles** - November 10, 2020 at 10:14 PM

RP

“ *To the Smith Family sorry for your loss and May God's Angel's Wings spread around you all and bring you all comfort during this time of sorrow!! R.I.P. Carla!!*



**Renee Linwood Peoria,IL.** - September 18, 2020 at 09:33 AM

WW

“ *I remember all the fun we had riding the bus to school to Richwoods as you were always composed with grace and elegance. Even at 7am on the those real cool mornings. You and Michael Young, Stephanie Mckissic (RIP), were always the life of the bus ride. God Bless you Bless Carla!!*

**Wayne W.** - September 09, 2020 at 06:34 PM

BJ

“ *My Blessing to the Smith family.  
Bernice Jones .*

**Bernice Jones** - September 08, 2020 at 07:18 PM

KM

“ *Kim Mosley lit a candle in memory of Ms. Carla Jean Smith*



Kim Mosley - September 08, 2020 at 01:07 PM

LA

“ *Mrs. Carla Jean Smith, beautiful young lady with so much life. Little lady from Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church Peoria Illinois Echoes Choir, the best young peoples choir, but most of all she was a Christian baptized by Pastor Pastor Reverand Calvin Hightower at an early age. She walked the walk and talked the talk letting everyone know she was a child of God. She was so uplifting and an encouragement to others this past year. We, Peoria, Rockford, Chicago area, Avondale, Arizona and near and far love Carla but Jesus said you have finished the race, come up Home to Glory to be in the Heavenly Choir and walk around Heaven all day with no more pain. You now have charge of your family as their guardian angel. "When You Get Home" Hallelujah. My prayers and condolences go to Reverand Craig and Pat, Rodney, your children and grandchildren. Hillside Baptist church family and Peoria Illinois family and friends. We love and will miss you.*



Linda Hardy Avondale Arizona - September 08, 2020 at 01:29 AM

DJ

“ *Condolences to the family. Jerry & Derrea James*



Derrea J James - September 07, 2020 at 06:16 PM

JJ

“ *Jerry & Derrea James lit a candle in memory of Ms. Carla Jean Smith*



Jerry & Derrea James - September 07, 2020 at 06:10 PM





“ *With Sympathy Tazo Tea Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Carla Jean Smith.*



September 04, 2020 at 10:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ms. Carla Jean Smith.*



September 04, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ms. Carla Jean Smith.*



September 04, 2020 at 04:12 PM

CJ

“ *Carla Jean you had the ultimate 60th surprise birthday celebration as you entered the gates with Thanksgiving and the courts with Praise amidst the cherubims and heavenly host singing 'Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty, I Love you Lord, Bless It Assurance' talk about a "Celebration", I know your story! I'm So Happy for you because I KNOW HE LIVES. HE lived in you. Thank you for being a good "Stewart" and role model to God's children as you demonstrated loving kindness and forgiveness towards others. I remember a few years back when I was visiting Peoria and pulled up at my parents home, there you were with your son sitting on the porch surprised/happy to share. Back in the day you were the front starting guard at Webster with Linda as center, you were game, Bro Mark taught you well. Our coach Mr Denton highly favored you, always willing and a good student in the class rooms. We have so many great memories from our childhood and adulthood. Thank you for being my friend all these years.*

*My condolences to the Smith Family & Bynum. You are loved by many and thank you for sharing Carla Jean! God Bless servant of the Most High!*

cheryl jackson - September 04, 2020 at 04:00 PM

CJ

“ Cheryl Jackson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Carla Jean Smith



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cheryl jackson - September 04, 2020 at 01:09 PM

PC

“ To the family of Ms. Carla Jean Smith:

*The pastor and members of the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christ would like to extend to you and your entire family our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one.*

*Although our hearts are saddened, we pray that the Lord will comfort you in your time of sorrow and bless you with endearing memories that you will always treasure.*

*He is with you even in this time of grief too deep for words.*

*God be with you*

*Henry L. Bolden II*

*Lady Marcia J. Bolden and the PCJC Church Family*

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Pentecostal Church of Jesus Christh - September 04, 2020 at 09:58 AM

AD

“ I'm sending my deepest sympathy to the Smith family from all of the members of the Evans Family. I know this is a difficult time but God will see you through. Stay Strong and know that even though Carla is no longer with us, her memories will last forever.

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Alfreida DeGroot - September 03, 2020 at 08:45 PM

JB

“ RIH CARLA JEAN SMITH. MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE ENTIRE SMITH FAMILY. SHE WILL BE TRULY MISSED 💔💔❤️



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Joanie Brown - September 03, 2020 at 07:55 PM

EC

“ I know your heart is aching and I am truly sorry. Carla has now joined the heavenly choir.



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**Evelyn Tate Clayton** - September 03, 2020 at 06:03 PM

SM

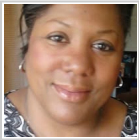
“ Family, May the Peace of God be with you during this time. There are no words that anyone can say to take away the pain of loosing a loved one, especially your MOM. Carla and I recently came together on Facebook and it was great to be able to reach out to her that way. She was a younger cousin but still loved and to young to be gone. To her son's continue to trust in God and trust in what Momma gave you before she left this earth. She's at rest now, cherish the memories you made with her and she'll always be watching over you.



God Bless Family, your family in Renton, WA.  
Shelia D Cayson-Marshall

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**Shelia Cayson Marshall** - September 03, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ I have many childhood memories of us playing together on 4th Street in Peoria. I know right now you are in heaven celebrating. To he family, please know that Carla was a treasure, she loved you all dearly, and she will be missed.

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**Debra Young** - September 03, 2020 at 01:28 PM

DF

“ We are Deeply Saddened in the passing of our Dear Sister but rejoice to know that she is in the present of our Dear Lord...The Smith Family has our Deepest Condolences; DEACON AND SISTER FITE.....

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**DEACON STANLEY L FITE** - September 03, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ *SENDING MY CONDOLENCES TO THE ENTIRE SMITH FAMILY, CARLA WILL BE TRULY MISSED.I AM HEARTBROKEN, WE KNOW GOD MAKES NO MISTAKES.  
PRAYING FOR YOU ALL.  
DIANE DOTSON-HERRON  
BLOOMINGTON, IL*

**Diane Herron** - September 03, 2020 at 09:38 AM

AF

“ *Essie❤️, you will forever be etched in my Heart . Luv an miss you ..  
“Tilly”*

**Antwine Freeman** - September 03, 2020 at 06:33 AM

SJ

“ *Sherry Jackson lit a candle in memory of Ms. Carla Jean Smith*



**Sherry Jackson** - September 03, 2020 at 03:10 AM

KM

“ *In honor of my cousin Carla Jean and to Duane, Pastor Craig and Rodney, My love and prayers are with you all, during this time. Carla is resting in the Master's hands. Time and life's journey has taken us down different paths but nothing can take the history of love and family we have from your youth. Carla, my sister Tina, Rodney, Mark(RIP) and myself, all were close. Rodney was all of our leaders, we all clung to him but Carla had the closest bond of all. I miss the family and I will miss my buddy Carla even more.*

*The battle is over and the fight is won, and her eternity with the Master has just begun.*

*I am praying for the family, Hang on and Hold on to God.*

*Love  
Pastor Kim O'Conner Moore  
Federal Way, Washington*

**Kim Moore** - September 03, 2020 at 12:55 AM

AF

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Antwine Freeman - September 02, 2020 at 10:32 PM

CS

“ Curtis Shumate sent a virtual gift in memory of Ms. Carla Jean Smith



Curtis shumate - September 02, 2020 at 07:40 PM

AF

“ Essie .. I'm certainly going to miss you !!!  
Luv ya 'Twista'

Antwine Freeman - September 02, 2020 at 05:51 PM

DS

“ Condolences to the Smith Family.



Darlene Nance Sykes - September 02, 2020 at 05:43 PM