



Bishop John Smiley

July 24, 1973 - Oct. 29, 2024

Bishop John Smiley, 51 of Drexel, NC passed away, Tuesday, October 29, 2024. Born on July 24, 1973, he was the son of the late Donald Smiley and Mary Ruth Goss. John was the founder and Pastor of Souls Harvest Ministries, where he labored many years in the gospel, reaching out into the community, leading many to Christ. John was currently a member at New Hope in Christ Church. He loved the Lord and dedicated in his walk in Christ. John was a people person and loved his family very much, he had a passion for helping others. He also loved sharing the Word of the Lord with other churches and instilling himself in other churches. John was a jokester and loved to make people laugh.

John is survived by his daughters, Melea Smiley Harrison (Brad), Brittney Smiley (Dylan Conley); grandchildren, Grayson, Shay, Londyn; siblings, Sherry Goss Cunningham (Mike), Donnie Goss (Vickie), Otela Flanders (Greg); Dahelin Goss, Makeyla Goss; number of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and his loving k-9 companion, Cricket.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his brother, Wayne Alexander Baldwin Goss; nephew Brayden Dennis; several aunts and uncles.

The family will receive friends from 4pm until 5pm, Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at

Sossoman Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will follow in the Colonial Chapel of the funeral home at 5pm.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



So sorry to hear of John's passing. Rest in peace, you are now home with the LORD.

–Linda Barrier Clark



My condolences to Family Members Pastor Smiley great man of God Rest from your labor Restoration Church Victory Church

–Apostle Reese - Miller



I have no words..... one of the most amazing men I have ever met, so much love and compassion!! Much love

–Michelle D Frey



Was shocked and saddened to learn of Bishop John's transition. We had just spent a marvelous time in revival the previous week at my church!! I offer my deepest condolences to the family!! Well done, John, may you SIHP!!

–Ruth Roseboro

Today we celebrate the life of a great man of God. My nephew bishop Join Smiley and he will be missed greatly . To my beautiful nieces and Smiley family you are in my prayers and always in my heart i pray the Lord hold each of you

ever so close with comfort today and in the days ahead. I love each of you just remember it's not good bye it's I'll see you later

–Rita Pritchard



John This is so hard for me. You my baby brother and we were ever so close growing up. I started watching you all when I was 8 and half so you are so much more than a brother to me. We always been friends and talk about anything. I always loved out Bible studies we would start out for an hour and end up up all night I know you dancing jig with mom, aunt corrine? Uncle Bob, Bobby, Tammy, uncle Phillip, aunt pearl, aunt Wilma? Bo bo you got to meet bo bo, aunt Cora, uncle dee, and all the rest that have gone on I love you so much and miss you so much. I always knew you were destined to be a preacher just a wee fellow when you began practicing. I've always been so proud of you for following your calling. You have touched so many life's all over world. You told me one time when you went to heaven you wanted pass all up to go straight to Jesus feet and I iniq you shouted and danced all the way to his feet. I love you my brother Sherry Lynn (as you called me most time) . 1 .

–Sherry cunningham

How do I navigate this part John. We have always navigated the good and the bad together. A light in me is now dark.... A voice I always looked for is now quite.... I have a vacant spot in my heart that is weeping.. I am filled with a life time of memories that are now covered with tears your absence is a painful

time of memories that are now covered with tears.... your absence is a painful reminder to cherish every precious moment... you left light in everyone to come in contact with, which will continue to shine.... It's not goodbye baby brother, it's see you later. I love you so big always, Otela

—Otela Flanders



Just seems so surreal. Uncle John, I'll miss your random calls asking me about this car or that car. If Devin can come wash your car for you. Where my momma at or what she doing. Your smile was always present, your laugh was memorable, and the energy you brought with you into any room was contagious. I know you're back at peace being reunited with Maw. I know your pain isn't lingering anymore. I have realized over the past few days how much you were love and respected by our community. You touched the hearts and minds of so many, and helped some through the toughest situations. I'm proud to say that you were my uncle, and it may be selfish of me...but I just wasn't ready to let you go yet. Miss you always. Kiss maw for me

—Candice Harwood (CANCAN)

Another good man gone home.see u in Heaven.

—Jeannie Burns



going up he's going to be missed till we meet again

—Andrea Elizabeth Robinson Thomas





–Sherry Cunningham

In our Prayers Tony & Kim Austin

–Tony & Kim Austin



Family I was truly heartbroken and sad to hear of “Smiley’s” passing. I met him years ago when he sold me a car. I don’t know if I got the car to get him to hush or because I liked the car! We often laughed about that when we saw each other. But I was also privileged to be in several of his services, oh how he let God use him!, a mighty move of God! He was also a good friend, he always had a smile when we met. He loved cricket! He was my neighbor for a little while and I would hear him yell (CRICKET COME HERE)! He would a lot of times be with me or my daughter or granddaughter trying to get attention, Smiley would say cricket leave then alone!! He will truly be missed. You all have my deepest condolences, and you all will be continued to be lifted in my prayers. May God truly give you the peace that surpasses all others.

–Robin Caldwell



Daddy, this takes my breath away trying to even type out these words, I feel sick to my stomach and my body numb. I can’t even begin to tell you the countless times within the last few days where I’ve said “ I need to call Dad” or, “Let me call daddy and see what he says”. I will never forget the horrid day I got the news you left me alone, I threw my phone screaming at the top of my lungs as I hit the floor

begging God to not be so. But then I called your phone over and over and sent text after text to be left only with silence. I know your pain free and surrounded by so many loved ones and you aren't alone or hurting and for that I am thankful, but I now carry everything feeling you left behind.

Watch over me my sweet sweet daddy as I try to navigate life without the most incredible important man in my life. I am unsure of how a "Daddy's girl" is supposed to live without her daddy but I suppose I'll try to find the way. Until we meet again, my hero, fly High and keep me a seat warm. I love you forever and always, to the moon and back forever and a day!

—Your Baby Girl- MoMo



Wow! It still seems so unreal and yet I should be rejoicing cause God has one more added to his army in heaven now, but I can't help but be a little selfish wanting to see that smile and hear that laugh one more time my friend. Since kindergarten we have shared a lifetime of laughs, jokes, tears, and deep conversations. So glad you reached out to me in the past months and we had some "good talks" , that will forever stay with me and comfort in knowing you were saved and born again just 4 days before your heavenly graduation . As for Melea Brittney O'Tela Donnie and Sherrie I pray for all of you in the days ahead Not good ye just See ya Soon !

—DeVera Powell

I am so so sorry to hear this news. John was my sales manager at Brookdale Hickory Northeast when I was the administrator and we became great friends. We stayed in touch all these years and I just talked to him a couple months ago. I am so sorry for your loss and praying for strength for your family

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–Kim Harris

We send our deepest condolences to the family of Bishop John Smiley. May his soul rest in peace with our Savior Jesus Christ.

–Rev. Andrea Purcell / Slades Chapel AMEZ Church

So sorry for the lost .I enjoy listening to John preach .I am lost for words my prayers to the family .he will be miss so much .I enjoyed cutting his hair back in the day. He loved to joke .then he would say he was just picking . God bless u and spending ur time with God.

–Sherfy Smith



–Faye D Gee



–Anonymous



To Melea, Brittney and all the family, I pray God's comfort and peace during this season of your lives. I will miss John dearly. I will miss my telephone calls with him and his Godly advice. I loved him and he was my Pastor and always will be my Pastor. I love all of you. God Bless you!

–Cheryl "Sister Sarge" Kirby



Ole John, God Has Truly Truly Taken A man OF GOD Home. Sherrie,Donnie, Othela, & Kid's I'm So Sorry For The Families Loss. You Know Sherrie, & Donnie, When I WAS 19yrs old An John Use To Go To Church With Me Over at Shady Grove Baptist AN To A little Church Over In Cazar, NC. Off Hwy 18 south. When We would Go to Shady Grove AT THAT TIME in our Lives We Had A pretty good size teenage Sunday School Class an moved it up stares in the Church Part. We had 19 teenagers in class And 15 Of Us Sang In The Teenage Choir. I Am Not Only Glad But I Am Pivledged To Have Had A 13 Yrs Old Young Man Named John Smiley As A Friend for Over 38 Yrs. From The Old Fourway Grill Off Hwy 18 TO A Church Off OF Sugarloaf Road. To Later On In His Life's Journey To Becoming A Bishop . R.I.P. My Brother IN Christ. I WILL FOREVER CHERISH OUR TIME'S OF TEARS SWEET AN MOST CHERISHED OUR FRIENDSHIP. LOVE YA JOHN TIL WE MEET ON THE OTHER SIDE MY BROTHER. YOUR FRIEND. BRIAN KEITH PROPST ANGEL AKA THE *WHITE ANGEL*

–Brian Keith Angel

I'm so sorry about your loss Mr Smiley was a great Christian of a man my prayers and condolences to his family.

–Lolita Armstrong

He was a wonderful brother in Lord and always a smile and a great blessing to all those he met,he lived for people and fellowship and he will be missed .

–Rev. George R.Moore

Until we met again ...my Pastor, friends and Alli..oh how I miss you one of a kind ..a masterpiece...one word to describe you is UNFORGETTABLE!!! Amen

–Maw Linda Young y

I'm still in shock. Thank you for never giving up on me. I love you an I will continue to tell my testimony where you are a big part. Until we meet again. See you later

–Maggie Kelly

He was a very special man. He will be missed. Praying for all the family. Live your lives for Jesus. I know that is what he would have wanted. God bless you all.

–Kathy Owens and Mike Owens



I met John when he was sixteen and was privileged to watch him grow into a mighty man of God. I loved him with all my heart. So now I say ' fly high son, I sure will miss you' ,!! See ya soon!

–Shelia Mays



–Bishop Martin Wilson

–Becky Campero



To family, my love and condolences. For many years we've sang, worshipped, and enjoyed many tears and laughter with John. This one hurts Big!! I can't make it in person



with John. This one hurts Big!! I can't make it in person.
But know that my heart is there with you all, day and night.
God is still good! I love you all dearly With a whole lot of
love Heather Younce

–Heather Younce