



Gloria Bartee Smith

November 16, 1944 - August 3, 2015

Gloria Bartee Smith

'She Stored Her "Treasures in Heaven"'

At Matt. 6:19-21, Jesus admonished:

"Stop storing up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal. Rather, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Gloria's life fully embraced the above words; for she did, indeed 'store her treasures in heaven'.

On November 16, 1944 in Memphis, Tennessee, her parents, Clayton and Charlie Mae Rodgers, chose the name, "Gloria" for their fourth born child, which means: "Thus passes away the glory of the world"; worldly things do not last.' It was almost as if they had peered into the future, and could see that their daughter would come to appreciate the superlative value of spiritual things over all that was earthly.

The doorway to this appreciation was facilitated by Gloria's voracious appetite for reading. Reading was the instrument that quenched the thirst of her

curiosities, ignited the fire of her creativity, and unlocked the doors of her cognitive powers. But there would be one book in particular that would impact her as no other had or ever would again. Coming to understand its pages of prophecies, proverbs, and ancient history would compel her to alter her life's course, mold her principles, and provide her with a real purpose, one established on foundation of indisputable truths, resulting in her genuine happiness and greatest joy. That book was none other than the Bible.

In fact, this early spiritual awareness helped to prepare her for a premature adulthood that began with marriage in 1960 to John William Cochran of Holly Springs, Mississippi when she was only 17 years old. Not soon after, she lost her mother in death and subsequently took on the role of "mother" to her youngest sibling, O'Nairy Rodgers, who was only 11 months older than her newborn son, William Earl. Yet, her reasons for joy increased when her children, Vivian Annette and Dean Edward were later born from this union.

But it was about 1962 or 1963, when Gloria answered a knock at her door and accepted the invitation from Jehovah's Witnesses to study the Bible. What followed was an intense and meditative study of the Bible that opened her mind and her heart to the truths about life's most perplexing questions fueling her deep appreciation for her Creator which increased her desire to live her life in a way that would truly please Him.

And so, it was in December 1964 that her gratitude to Jehovah God motivated her to make a prayerful dedication to Him, foregoing career, pursuit of wealth and all selfish ambitions in order to devote her life to working in harmony with his will and purpose. And it was this friendship with Jehovah God that became her heart's treasure. From that moment forward, she cherished that relationship foremost ... more than her children, her husband, her life. And she demonstrated this love by her zealous ministry as she passionately taught Bible truths to others during her nearly 51 years of dedication to Jehovah.

Her following years were not only spent preaching and teaching the Bible, but also traveling, working, raising her children, and loving and enjoying life with her friends and family.

Then, one day, a fellow Christian Brother began to notice the now single, spiritually-minded and attractive Gloria; and he saw in her 'the bones of his bone and flesh of his flesh'. And on November 19, 1994 she became his wife, Mrs. Jerry Smith. Finally, she would come to enjoy marriage in the way that God had intended.

There's not enough time to mention all the things that made up the life and comprehensive personality of all that was the glorious Gloria, but for those who have known her over the years, a single word or phrase will burst forth memories. Words such as Scrabble, skating parties, bid wiz, Romanoff, peach cobbler, butter roll, "G momma" ... to mention but a few. And although few could rival her quick wit, many enjoyed her wonderful sense of humor.

It will truly be a welcomed day when the beautiful Gloria Bartee Smith is awakened from her "sleep" by her trusted and loyal friend, Jehovah God, to life in a restored earthly paradise where she will rejoin the MANY who loved and will always love her.

She leaves to fondly and affectionately cherish her memories, her devoted and loving husband, Jerry Smith; her son, William Earl Cochran (Geraldine); her daughter, Vivian Annette Cochran Jiggetts (Mandel); her son, Dean Edward Cochran (Tonya); four sisters: Alice Blackburn, Eula Forte (Chris), Barbara Alston (Tony) and Johnnie R. Turner; two brothers, Tyrone Rodgers and Harry E. Rodgers (Diane); sister-in-law, Freida Graves (Darren); sister-in-law, Terzelica Smith; sister-in-law, Shirley Williams; six grandchildren, two

great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and beloved friends.

Previous Events

Service

AUG 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses (Dolton2)
14304 Cottage Grove
Dolton, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Gloria Bartee Smith*

October 04, 2023 at 06:11 PM