

MINISTRY

Cross Road News 4-1-66

Under Smith, the church established ministries including ones for youth and sports.

Celebration marks pastor's 42nd year

By McKenzie Jackson

William Smith is marking 42 years at Israel Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta this month, and five pastors are helping him celebrate.

Eddie Jones of First Corinth Baptist Church in Atlanta will be preaching on April 9, followed by B.J. Johnson Jr. of Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Atlanta on April 16, Raleigh Rucker of Mount Parnass Baptist Church in Decatur on April 23, and J.L. Henderson of New Saint John Baptist Church in Atlanta on April 30. They all come in the wake of Jerry Black, pastor of Decatur's Beulah Baptist Church, who kicked off the celebration on April 2.

Church executive secretary Bertha Harden said Israel Baptist has much to celebrate under Smith's leadership. He came to the church as a young pastor in 1964 and pushed the church into rapid growth, she said.

"His leadership has been tremendous," Harden said. "In 1964 we had around 500 members, now it's between 3,000 and 5,000."

Under Smith, the church established more than 40 ministries, including ones for youth and sports activity. In 1979, he moved the church to its present location at 2071 Hosea L. Williams Drive in Atlanta in DeKalb, after fire destroyed its first home on Daniel Street in Decatur in 1964, and after two other moves — one to the old

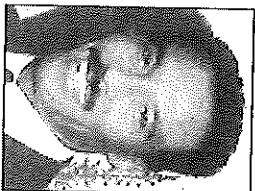
Turner Monument building at Edgewood and another to a facility on Howard Street.

Harden said one of Smith's biggest accomplishments is that

he opens doors for other ministers.

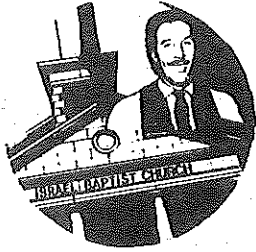
"About 72 ministers have come up under his leadership, including Reverends Black and Jones," she said. "They call him a 'preacher's preacher.'"

Israel Missionary Baptist Church is at 2071 Hosea L. Williams Drive. For more information, call 404-378-2029.



William Smith

Kirkwood Church - Israel Baptist



**Pastor
Honored**

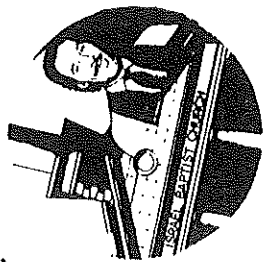
The Rev. William Smith is being honored as he observes 25 years as pastor of Israel Baptist Church. He became pastor of his first church when it had 12 members, and he received a salary of \$12.50 a month. He went to Israel Baptist when it was on Daniel Street, and had nearly 500 members. The church outgrew that location but remained in the Kirkwood community at 2071 Boulevard Drive. Now 5,000 strong, it has the reputation of being the largest black congregation in the state.

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Now
Fulton St



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Debbie Howard

4/12/89

Kirkwood Community Church
Fulton St
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