

Light of the World Christian Tabernacle International
Established Sunday, December 16, 1990

Light of the World Christian Tabernacle International is a ministry born out of the obedience of God. The vision was first given to Pastor Jimmie Lee Smith in 1985. In the tradition of God's greatest servants, the vision was not immediately accepted without reasoning and questioning. As Pastor Smith continued to work, the ministries thrived, but the HIV/AIDS Ministry, Narcotics Anonymous, and others laid by the wayside. The Spirit continued to deal with Pastor. In January 1990 he and Sister Ruth (his wife) had the same dream, that it was time to get their house in order.

In November 1990, Pastor and Sister Ruth Smith left Beulah Baptist Church with nothing in hand, just faith in their hearts and ministries in their spirits. After a short sabbatical of fasting, prayer and reflection, the Spirit showed Pastor that on the third Sunday in December 1990, his new ministry should begin.

The first meeting of Light of the World Christian Tabernacle International was held at Columbia High School. The following night the congregation began its first revival in its current location, 2135 Shamrock Drive, Decatur, Georgia, with Pastor George Gunn, Word Power Ministries, Tema Ghana, West Africa. Filled with faithful hearts, loving spirits and a desire to praise the Lord, a "new thing" was begun.

The name of the church was given by the inspiration of God. Light of the World was received through inspiration from John 8:12 and I John 1:7, "I am the light of the world..." and "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another..." Christian for what we are, Tabernacle because, just as the pieces of the tabernacle in I Kings 6:7 were prepared by God without need for hammer or ax, the pieces of The Light were formed and ready to be placed before the ministry begun. International because of the ministries placed in the Pastor. "The Light" is associated with churches in West Africa, and the Bahamas in addition to twenty other countries.

In the early years, The Light moved into areas where the traditional church refrained from entering. The Intercessory Prayer Team, Praise Team, Missions, Outreach Team, Dance Ministry, Deacons Ministry, Television, Audio/Video Ministry, L.O.V.E. (Little Ones Victoriously Exalting) and J.O.Y. (Jesus Obsessed Youth) Children's and Teen Ministry, L.A.M.P.S. (Ladies Advancing the Ministry through Praise and Service), Front-line (Men) Ministry, Wisdom Ministry, Single's Ministry, Overcomer's Ministry, Greeters and Doorkeepers Ministry, Worship Arts Ministry, Church School and the Christian Academy and Bible College are some of the active ministries at The Light.

Every endeavor of The Light involves ministry, family and education. Our primary job is to serve others and to be concerned with the needs of our brothers and sisters. As there should be no segregation in the house of God, families, husbands and wives are encouraged to work together. The vision presented by the Pastor and adopted by the body is "Evangelize contagiously, educate continuously and edify consistently."

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The Light serves as a teaching force to train others to praise and serve the Lord. The Light also serves as a mother church from which other church ministries are birth and in 1995 its first subsidiary church, The Light of Conyers was established. Over the years, former ministers and members of The Light have accepted the call to pastor eight new churches have been founded and established.

In 1991, The Light of the World Christian Academy was founded with Pastor Carol Davis as its first Director. The Academy enrolled and taught approximately 100 students. The first church wide and couples' picnics were held in the summer and the first Black Expo was also held. The first Foot Washing Service was witnessed and held with the participation of much of the congregation. Cell Meetings were held monthly offering fellowship and an opportunity to learn the Word at member's homes. The women's softball team won its first World Championship title and has gone on to be world recognized winners continuously.

1992 was highlighted by a Crusade at Capitol Homes and The Light Bazaar. The second revival was conducted by Pastor Dexter Wise, and who can forget, "The Patmos Experience?" A host of teaching ministries was born and congregational lessons were taught on Intercessory Prayer, Evangelism, Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts. Pastor Smith also recorded and released his first recording, "Lord Prepare Me"

The first publication of the Revelation, the church's monthly newsletter communicating divine truth edited by Brother and Sister Gary Evans was first distributed to the congregation in early 1993. Our "Fired Up Fellowship" would hold men and women retreats, a parade to kick off the stewardship campaign, and our first eight day conference "New Beginning" all in 1993.

"Not equal giving but equal sacrifice" was our stewardship theme and with praise and prayers we went through the door in 1994. The original musical dramatization of "King of Glory" written by the late Pastor Alandra Horton was presented by the Drama Ministry. Pastor Smith was ordained Archbishop in May 1994 during our first Holy Convocation. Ministers and laymen from around the world came to participate in a week of teaching and worship services held throughout the day. They witnessed Archbishop Malachi Ramsay ordain Archbishop Smith. The Light of the World Interdenominational International Association was founded this year.

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In 1995, there were many accomplishments and highlights. We started our Bus Ministry which has proven to be more than just transportation. Teamed with the Evangelism Ministry they are on the move to win souls for Christ. Healing and Deliverance Services began and a revitalization in the church has the congregation in a Walk through The Bible year long Bible study. A new campaign to payoff debts began and we congratulated the first graduating class of ministers at Shiloh Bible College, our very own school in Ghana, West Africa.

Throughout all our years, Wednesday noon and night Bible Study has been constants in teaching the Word to our congregation and community.

Another year (1996) has come and gone. We continue to experience the blessings of the Lord. The vision has been written and through tarries we wait for there is no doubt that it will come to past; for He who began the good work will be faithful to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

We began 1996 with our Leadership Conference, with Evangelist Jean Porter of the Word Outreach Ministries, Macon, Georgia. Eleven Deacons were consecrated in the midst of the snow storm The men retreated at the Unicoi State Park, while the women gathered to pray. As a body we experienced "Azusa" Live via satellite from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Minister David Ware was ordained Elder and Brother Melvin Ward was consecrated Deacon number twelve (12). The Wisdom Ministry hosted the Spring Festival and we enjoyed the Helps Conference with a speaker from The Body of Christ Christian church. Members young and old enjoyed a lunch celebration for their accomplishments in higher education. Revival began in September 1996 and is still going on as we enter our seventh year, This has been proclaimed, "The Year of Rest." "Resting but not inactivity."

ARCHBISHOP JIMMIE LEE SMITH
LIGHT OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE INTERNATIONAL
2135 Shamrock Drive, DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032

Archbishop Jimmie Lee Smith has been spreading the Word of God for more than thirty years. He was called to the ministry at the age of eighteen and began to pastor at the age of twenty. Archbishop Smith attended Durham Business College in Durham, North Carolina. He continued his education at Allen university, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in History. He later earned his **Masters of Religious Education** at Emory university in Atlanta, Georgia. Archbishop Smith also holds a **Doctorate** from Southwest London University in London, England and a **Doctorate of Letters Degree** from the California School of Theology in Glendale, California.

Archbishop Smith is a **native of Lithonia, Georgia** and is **married** to the beautiful **Pastor Ruth Williams Smith**. They have five children and three grandchildren who fully support them in their ministry. They pastor The Light of the World Christian Tabernacle International (The Light), an interdenominational church located in Decatur, Georgia. The Light was organized in December 1990 with approximately 400 members and has grown to a maturity of, "Not counting members but, making members count." Archbishop Smith has implemented a number of ministries within this fellowship. They include a television, video and audio ministry, an overcomer's ministry, singles and couples' ministry, and a full children's ministry that includes an academy, early learning center and a bus ministry.

Throughout his ministry, Archbishop Smith has been community oriented and is frequently called upon to participate on a variety of advisory boards. Under his leadership, several other churches in the metropolitan Atlanta area have been established. International ministries in Jamaica, West Indies, Nassau, Bahamas, Croydon, England, Ghana, West Africa, Kenya, East Africa, South Africa and Madras, South India has also been established. Additionally, Archbishop Smith **founded Christian schools** throughout the world. Archbishop Smith is the **presiding prelate of The Light of the World Interdenominational International Association** which oversees churches in twenty-eight countries. He also has been instrumental in the building of two churches and developed two part time ministries to full time ministries; namely Union Baptist Church and Big Miller Grove Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia.

Archbishop Smith is known throughout the country and various parts of the world for his dynamic ability to teach and preach the Word of God from a practical standpoint. He has **authored a book entitled, "How to Spiritually Handle Anxiety."** Archbishop Smith is also renowned for his gifts of singing and playing various instruments. The Lord impressed upon his heart to **record his first album entitled, "Lord Prepare Me."** It has been a successful music endeavor.

The vision that Archbishop Smith readily shares with everybody and promoted at "The Light" is to, "**Evangelize contagiously, Educated continuously and Edify consistently!**" he believes one ought to catch the vision and with the help of the Holy Spirit carry it out." The anointing is truly upon this man of God to go forth into all the world and preach the Gospel.

PASTOR RUTH W. SMITH
LIGHT OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE INTERNATIONAL
2135 SHAMROCK DRIVE, DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032

RUTH W. SMITH, is Pastor, Light of the World Christian Tabernacle International in Decatur, Georgia. She is a **native of Greensboro, Alabama** and moved to Atlanta in June 1970. She attended both Massey Business College and Georgia State University. In 1982 she **married Dr. Jimmie L. Smith**. He is Archbishop and Senior Pastor of the Light of the World Christian Tabernacle and a world renowned minister and community leader. The couple have five children and three grandchildren who fully support their ministry.

"Pastor Ruth," (as she is affectionately called), is an **innovator** with bold ideas, high energy and a **heart for helping people advance into the Kingdom of God**. Pastor Ruth and her sister Ann was two of the African-American students who integrated the white public school system in Greensboro. She was **saved at the age of 12 and filled with the Holy Spirit at the age 29** at which time she totally committed her life to God. In 1990 she answered her call to the ministry and helped organized "The Light" with her husband, Archbishop Jimmie L. Smith in 1990. She was **ordained in 1991**. The church grew from a membership of 400 to 1500 in a 4 year period. The Light has grown to a maturity of not counting members, but making members count. The Light has a television and audio ministry, singles, couples, overcomers, and a full children's ministry that most recently includes a Bus ministry. The Bus ministry picks up approximately 150 children each Sunday from several low income homes and brings them to church. She also assisted in organizing the Light of the World Christian Academy (an accredited school from K2 -- 3rd). Archbishop Smith and Pastor Ruth were inspired by the Holy Spirit to strengthen unity both nationally and internationally. They developed the Light of the World Interdenominational International Fellowship, a non-profit Christian organization with a membership of over 200,000 in 27 different countries.

Pastor Ruth is known throughout the world as an **outstanding speaker** and has become a world traveler sharing her **gifts of teaching and pastoring**. She has worked in places such as Ghana, West Africa, Madrias, India, London, England, Nassau, Bahamas, Paris, France, Jamaica, Germany and numerous other countries as well as a number of cities throughout the United States.

Pastor Ruth worked for BellSouth for 19 years having retired in June 1995 to **fully support her role as wife, mother and pastor**. During her tenure with BellSouth, she was a results driven marketing manager. She helped move Southern Bell into hardware sales by participating on the Divestiture Transition Team, managed the trial of outbound network sales with the Telemarketing Sales Representative and made the President's circle of excellence. At BellSouth she also **developed and implemented training programs** for Service Representatives.

She has been **involved in numerous community activities** such as the "adopt a student" program, United Way, and numerous Chamber of Commerce activities.

Pastor Ruth, the anointing is truly upon this **dedicated woman of God** to go forth into all the world and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ!