



Bishop Smith was born and raised on the south side of Chicago, alongside two sisters and three brothers, by his parents Shirley and Albert Smith. After the passing of Bishop Smith's mother (he was ten years old), his grandmother, Alberta Pryor, became the children's nurturing influence. She not only helped meet the needs of the children naturally, but also gave them spiritual direction.

Bishop Smith graduated as an honor student from Lindbloom High School and went on to obtain the following academic accomplishments:

- Bachelor of Science Degree (with honors) Chicago State University (1971)
- Doctorate of Medical Science, University of Illinois Medical Center (1975)
- Completion of Pediatric Residency, University of Illinois Hospital (1978)
- Completion of Clinical Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Children's Memorial Hospital / Northwestern University (1980)

On March 28, 1980, following the death of the former pastor, Bishop John S. Holly, Bishop Smith was elected pastor of Apostolic Faith Church. Under his leadership the congregation has grown from under 200 members to over 3,000 people who call Apostolic Faith Church their home. Bishop Smith's vision is uncompromisingly clear with one central principle-to build and develop the Kingdom of God by Empowering God's people, to reach the fullest extent of their God-given potential in every area of their life. (John 10:10)

In 1997, he was elevated to the office of Bishop and in August of 2004 Bishop Smith was elevated to the office of Presiding Bishop of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. (P.A.W. Inc.). The P.A.W. Inc. has over 1.5 million members worldwide, including Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia as well as Central and South America. (For more information on the P.A.W. Inc., visit www.pawinc.org)

Bishop Smith's humanitarian endeavors reach beyond the shores of the United States to support missions in over 90 different countries, including several countries of Africa through his partnership with World Vision USA, where he serves as a board member. Along with his wife, Sister Susan D. Smith, Bishop Smith travels extensively to Africa and other countries to alleviate the devastation caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, provide education and training and bring the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Smith's belief in God and the power of salvation and healing extends to his medical profession as a concerned and committed pediatric hematologist-oncologist for critically ill children. He has served for over 15 years as the director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell/Thalassemia Program at Children's Memorial Hospital and is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern Medical School, Feinberg School of Medicine.

Some people believe that God and science don't mix; that faith and medicine are worlds apart. Accepting no conflict between the two world views, Dr. Smith believes in fact that ministering and medicine help him to be more effective at both. "They mix perfectly. God is the source of all knowledge," says Bishop Smith. "The principles of the Bible unlock ways of helping, healing, supporting and developing people and impacting lives in a positive way. Combining the knowledge of both worlds, blesses those he is called to serve and brings great Glory to God." Through prayers and faith in God as a healer, Dr. Smith has seen God's healing power reverse the course of illness in the lives of his patients.

Bishop Smith has been honored by numerous organizations including the Children's Miracle Network, and featured in local and national newspaper, magazine and television media. He currently serves on the boards of the historic Wabash YMCA, the Family Institute at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center-Community Health Advisory Board.

Bishop Smith has been happily married to Susan Davenport Smith since 1976. They met at the University of Illinois where Susan graduated with a B.S. in Pharmacy. They have three beautiful daughters: Lauren Elrod, Rachel Smith and Emily Green along with their sons-in-law, Brian Elrod and Patrick Green.