

The church at **Cassville, Missouri** has been faithful supporters ever since we began Words of Life Radio in Southwest Missouri in 1989. It is people like that, that stay with you month after month, year after year that become special to you in the preaching of the gospel.

Joe and Shirley Towell are special people in my life. I met them when I became the preacher for the Central church in Moore, Oklahoma in 1964. A short time later they moved to Ohio but we have stayed in touch. Twenty-five years ago when I told them what I was going to do, Joe said, "We want to help." They have faithfully contributed to my support every single month since then. How grateful I am for their love and friendship and support of the gospel.

Now I could say a lot more. There are many other people who have helped and still do and God only knows how grateful I am to them.

I don't think this column will be missed that much by that many. I haven't written in several months and there has been no clamoring for my insight and wisdom.

So, God bless each of you in your corner of the world, and in your work and service for Him.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN GLORY!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Smithson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ed Smithson

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Thursday, June 9, 2011

I will not be writing articles, I do post the radio programs and have other material that I want to put on the site from time to time.

Before I leave, there are some people I want to thank. First, I want to thank **Pam Albertson of Norman, Oklahoma**. She created the web site, put it online and has kept it running for me all these years. I have known Pam since she was a child and we have worked well together and I just cannot thank her enough. She is special to me.

I also want to thank my longtime friend **Roy H. Lanier, Jr., Lakeland, Florida**, for his constant friendship and encouragement to me in all things. I cannot imagine what it would have been like to do without his help and friendship. How can you thank a guy who physically helped you move from one state to another three times?

I want to thank **Horace and Betty Phillips, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma** who have been the best of friends, encouragers and helpers to me in so many ways. Not only have they contributed to my wellbeing physically and mentally but have also contributed untold dollars to support me in this work. Horace is one of the elders at the Southern Ridge church in Oklahoma City.

I am thankful to **Jerry and Joretta Doyle, Moore, Oklahoma** who have been great friends and supporters over the past twenty-five or so years. Jerry was Superintendent for the Moore school system when we met, helped begin the Northeast church (Now Southern Ridge in Oklahoma City) and served as one of its elders for several years.

I am also thankful to **George and Patsy Keelin of Utopia, Texas**. I first met George through the efforts of Roy H. Lanier, Jr. when I first went to Arizona to the Mayo Clinic. Since the beginning he has been a fast friend and an encourager extraordinaire. We speak often, sometimes more than once a week. I have been in their home numerous times in Az. and Tx.

To the **Lakehoma church in Mustang, Oklahoma** I am also grateful for being my "backup," my strong support, my overseers, for the last 25 years. We're not done yet but I am grateful. Also to the **Southern Ridge church, Oklahoma City**, who continues their help and to the church at **Marietta, Oklahoma** who helped for several years.

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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes . . .

Published as time and opportunity permit, usually a few times a week.

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Ed Smithson, Editor

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Today is June 7th, my 79th birthday. I began this column some 7 years ago because I had some things I wanted to say that could not be said otherwise. There are constraints to pulpit preaching, especially if you want to be proper. Then there are subjects that don't need a lot of time to address and this forum seemed to be just the ticket.

I am not a statistician and I don't keep good records. I don't know how many sermons I have preached, how many articles I have written, etc., because those things do not matter much to me.

For several years I have observed that when people get past a certain age they begin to lose their powers of thinking to some extent, some more than others. Those who have maintained active minds in study and work are less prone to do so. But in observing this kind of situation I have never wanted to get to that point and tear down what little good I have done through the years. So I determined that I would not allow that to happen to me, that before I became dysfunctional in mind and thought, I would cease.

THIS IS THE LAST "FRANKLY SPEAKING NOTES."

It has been a great run. I have enjoyed it and you, my readers, have made the enjoyment greater because of your comments. But I know my thinking is sometimes "fuzzy" and I don't want to make mistakes that will reflect badly on my previous work or the church. So this is it!

I will continue doing the radio program Words of Life as long as I possibly can. I think I can continue that for a while and stay within the bounds of reason. I will also continue work on the web site oldpathspulpit.org. While