

## MEMORIAL

CHARLES RUSSELL SMITH

Charles Russell Smith, born April 22, 1935, in Forth Worth, Texas, died on August 29, 1990, at Holy Cross Hospital in Mission Hills, California. Having contracted cancer in his lungs fifteen months earlier, he increasingly longed for the presence of his Lord, which he now enjoys fully. On September 1 a private funeral and interment were held at Eternal Valley Memorial Park in Newhall, California, followed that evening by a public memorial service at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California.

Smith grew up in a seminary environment. When he was born, his father was attending Dallas Theological Seminary. After the younger Smith graduated from Bryan College, he too attended Dallas Seminary, completing his master of theology degree in 1960. From there he went to Florida where he first engaged in youth work followed by a teaching ministry at Miami Christian College. During the late 1960s he attended Grace Theological Seminary in pursuit of his doctorate in theology, which was conferred upon him in 1970.

At that time he was offered a teaching position at Grace Seminary. There he served as professor of theology and also carried on several administrative responsibilities from 1970 to 1986. During those years he became distinguished in evangelical circles as an author, Bible conference speaker and educational leader. In 1986 he was invited by the board of The Master's College in Newhall, California, to develop and oversee a graduate division, now The Master's Seminary of Sun Valley. Under his leadership as executive vice president and dean the school was granted accreditation in 1988, while the student body grew from 99 master of divinity students in 1986 to 163 at present. Due to Smith's deteriorating physical condition, he was honored with the title Dean Emeritus in June of 1990.

In addition to his significant book, *Tongues in Biblical Perspective*, Charles Smith also participated as editor and translator for the New King James Version project. He was a longstanding member of ETS and served on the board of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

He is survived by his wife, Ellie Smith of Valencia, two sons, Stephen, a Christian counselor in Wichita, Kansas, and Douglas, a medical doctor in the United States Air Force, and five grandchildren. Also surviving are his mother, two brothers, three sisters, and a host of various individuals who knew and were known by Chuck as "friend."