

My Mom Was A Miracle Child!



Cora Ann "Co" Smith May 13, 1927 — July 19, 2021
Photo taken on Mom & Dad's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Notice Dad's right shoulder in the background.

Being a miracle child doesn't mean everything in Mom's life was easy, simple, and smooth. Jesus was the ultimate miracle child and practically nothing in His life was easy, simple, or smooth. Without sharing the details, I will simply testify to the truth of my statement—My Mom was a Miracle Child! God used my Mom to perform many miracles. To God be the glory forever and ever!

I remember my Mom playing the hymn, **I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES**, on the piano and singing along with her beautiful soprano voice: Creation shows the power of God. There's glory all around and those who see must stand in awe, For miracles abound. I cannot doubt the work of God, it's plain for all to see: The miracles that he has wrought should lead to Calvary.

The love of God! O power divine! 'Tis wonderful to see. The miracle of grace performed within the heart of me. (Chorus) I believe in miracles. I've seen a soul set free. Miraculous the change in one redeemed through Calvary; I've seen the lily push its way up through the stubborn sod. I believe in miracles for I believe in God!

God loved my Mom so much that He arranged for one of His best men – Wesley John Smith — who lived just a little way down the street from her on North Westnedge, on the North Side of Kalamazoo, to fall in in love with her and ask for her hand in marriage.



Dad grew up in this house on N. Westnedge & Mom worked at Uncle Walt's Grocery Store on the corner.



Mom grew up in a house on this lot on N. Westnedge—directly across from Third Reformed Church.

By God's grace Mom gave birth to four miracle children. Linda Joy—you are a miracle! John Wesley—I am a miracle! James Warren—you are a miracle! Jeffrey Wayne—you are a miracle! Believe it—it's true!

I remember as a young boy I believed my Mom was famous and important. When we drove into the downtown Kalamazoo area, I was riding in the back seat of our car and I saw my Mom's name in bold letters on the side of a huge building: Sears, Roebuck & Co.

My Mom told lots of very funny stories of things I did as a little boy. One of my favorite stories was when my Mom was trying to train me not to cross the road to play with my friend who lived directly across the street from our house on N. Fletcher. She would tell me not to cross the road. But as soon as she would turn her back, or go back into the house, I would cross the road to play with my friend. She tried a variety of ways of convincing me, and persuading me, but nothing worked. Finally she decided she had to

restrain me to save my life. She found a rope and tied me to our front lamp post. She kept some slack in the rope so I could move around, but not enough to get even close to the road.

Yes. It took a miracle working Mom to keep me alive and safe! I'm glad she loved me enough to put a rope around me and tie me to the lamppost! There is no doubt in my mind, that God used my Mom to save my life on more than one occasion.

God used my Mom to save my life for eternity by consistently, effectively, and patiently introducing me to Jesus Christ as Savior and as Lord!! My Mom had the deepest, greatest, most consistent impact on my life spiritually. My Mom was the one who led me and introduced me to Jesus. I wanted what she had. But there were times when I wanted to keep one foot in the world. I prayed to receive Jesus into my heart as Savior many times. While I would say that Jesus was my Savior and Lord, I mostly focused on the Savior part. I still resisted Him being Lord of everything in my life. A year after returning home from Basic Training in the Army, I surrendered my life completely and totally to Jesus as LORD. I met with the Elders of Hope Reformed Church and confessed my personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD. I made public Confession of Faith before the congregation and became a member of Hope Reformed Church on Mother's Day, May 14, 1972, the day after my Mom's birthday. That, my friends, is the miracle of being Born Again! It may never have happened in my life if God had not graciously blessed me with a miracle working, praying Mom!

One of my favorite scriptures is Revelation 12:10-11 *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (NKJV)*

The only way to overcome Satan, the Devil, who is our constant accuser, is by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. I can rejoice and celebrate in complete confidence and certainty that my Mom is home in heaven with Jesus because I have her testimony in writing!

Co Smith's Testimony of God's
AMAZING GRACE
Written on 12/12/1985

At Third Reformed Church, God called me to Himself thru the testimony of a young man who sang these two songs at a C.E. meeting. These have now become my testimony and song down thru the years.

Holy, Holy is what the angels sing, and I expect to help them make the courts of Heaven ring. But when they hear redemption's story, they will fold their wings, for angels never felt the joy that my salvation brings.

"I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus, since I found in Him a friend so strong and true. I would tell you how He changed my life completely. He did something that no other friend could do. 2) All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me, all my heart was full of misery and woe. Jesus placed His strong and loving arms about me, and He led me in the way I ought to go. 3) Every day He comes to me with new assurance, more and more I understand His words of love. But I'll never know just why He came to save me, 'til someday I see His blessed face above. Chorus: No one ever cared for me like Jesus. There is no other friend so kind as He. No one also could take the sin and darkness from me, O how much He cared for me."

Since that day, April 1, 1945, when I gave my heart and life to Jesus, these next songs have become so meaningful, as have countless others.

“Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before. Every day with Jesus, I love Him more and more. Jesus saves and keeps me, and He’s the One I’m waiting for. Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.”

“There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing It’s worth. It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth. Chorus: O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.”

“The blood that Jesus shed for me, way back on Calvary. The blood that gives me strength from day to day, it will never lose its power. It reaches to the highest mountain, it flows to the lowest valley. The blood that gives me strength from day to day; it will never lose its power.”

“Shackled by a heavy burden, neath a load of guilt and shame. Then the hand of Jesus touched me, and now I am no longer the same. 2) Since I met this blessed Savior, since He cleaned and made me whole. I will never cease to praise Him, I’ll shout it while eternity rolls.”

“I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold. I’d rather be His than have riches untold. I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands. I’d rather be led by His nail-pierced hands. 2) I’d rather have Jesus than men’s applause. I’d rather be faithful to His dear cause. I’d rather have Jesus than world-wide fame. I’d rather be true to His holy name. 3) He’s fairer than lilies of rarest bloom. He’s sweeter than honey from out of the comb. He’s all that my hungering spirit needs. I’d rather have Jesus and let Him lead. Chorus: Than to be the king of a vast domain, or be held in sin’s dread sway. I’d rather have Jesus than anything, this world affords today.”

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see. 2) T’was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed. 3) Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come. Tis grace hat brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me HOME.”

In 1976 my beloved Wes took me to the Holy lands to walk where Jesus walked. There in Gethsemane, I rededicated my life to Christ.

“I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. 2) He speaks and the sound of His voice, is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that He gave to me, within my heart is ringing. Chorus: And He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am his own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.”

Returning from the Holy Land, God soon called me to work with His precious little ones in B.S.F. No greater truth could I tuck into their hearts than this precious hymn: “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong. Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.”

For all my wonderful family: Wes, my children, their mates, my beautiful grandchildren, wonderful friends, family of Third, all those who know my Lord and for all those who do not know Him: may these songs speak to your hearts: “I wish you knew my Jesus and loved Him as I do, for if you knew my Jesus, then you would love Him too. He gave His life at Calvary, the sacrifice for you. If you’ll receive my Jesus, then you will love Him, too.”

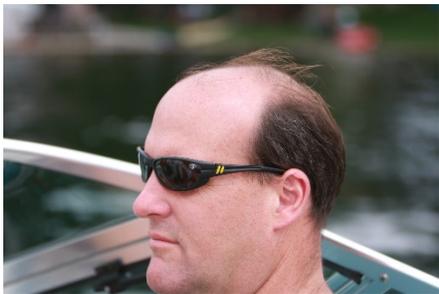
“Take time to be Holy, speak oft with thy Lord. Abide in Him always and feed on His Word. Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek. 2) Take time to be holy, the world rushes on. Spend much time spend in secret with Jesus alone. By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be. Thy friends in thy conduct, His likeness shall see. 3) Take time to be holy, let Him be thy guide. And run not before Him, whatever be tide. In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord, and

looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word. 4) Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul. Each thought and each motive, beneath His control. Thus, led by His Spirit, to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above. Chorus: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know. Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go. Chorus: Just when I need Him most, just when I need Him most, Jesus is near to comfort and cheer, just when I need Him most."

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer. O what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Mom's daily prayer was: *May all my family be safe in Jesus!!!*





(My new external hard drive with all of my recent photos crashed. Matt is recovering the photos, but it is a very slow process. I only had access to my photos from 2009 – 2011. Yes, I am transferring to secure online storage.)

One of my most prized possessions is my Mom's journal of her life story. At my request, she started writing it for me on June 15, 2002. It my privilege to share with you some of what Mom wrote.

Mom's Journal p. 76

Long Funerals

Story 42

I think Mom's (Grandma Smith's) funeral was the longest I've ever attended. Jim Lester and our John did it together. It was a time of loving reminder of how special she was & how we loved her & she us!! John reminded us that it was OK to take time to grieve. We smiled. John has come a long way since he asked me "Why are you crying? (at my Mom's 87th funeral) You know Grandma is with Jesus." I said I know, but I miss her & I miss all the things she'll be missing now. She loved my twins & they wouldn't see her anymore. The last thing Jim got for her was a glass of ice (for she had stopped eating.) We did take time to mourn Grandma Smith—and part of me still misses her! & a part of me still mourns.

Mom's Journal p. 78

Sin and It's Pain

Story 43

When you ponder sin, and we all sin — it makes you think! At a funeral of a dear friend I heard a pastor say at that funeral something I don't remember hearing a pastor say before: He said, "I long for the day when I will no longer sin against my Lord. I long for the day when I will bring no grief anymore to Him by my sin." I would add, "me too." I think it would be wise — any time we introduced ourselves to say, "Hi I'm Co Smith, a sinner saved by grace." We have no authority to judge, we only need to forgive as we have been forgiven. To love the unlovely as He has loved us. God is love John 3:16...

Mom's Journal p. 79

Flash Backs

Story 44

Can you remember Mom saying "If you can't say something good — don't say anything." If you do remember — thank my Mom. She said it to me many times. An invaluable check on one's tongue. When I was young, Mom was washing curtains in the basement & they caught fire. When I saw the fire I ran for help. "Call the fire trucks, my Mom is burning." Dr. said she burned even longer as she was searching for me. She suffered a long time with her burns but pretty soon she was nearly back to normal. I tucked that love-note in my heart. She was searching, for me! Wow.

Mom's Journal P. 80

1927

Story 45

I began life in 1927. I went thru the Great Depression — yes I had some money in the bank — guess I got most of it back. We always had a warm house, good clothes and food, a car to drive — so I don't think we were as hurt by the depression as many were. I lived through the horse and buggy — even Ben used to deliver bread & sweet rolls by horse and buggy. A man named Jerry would come with vegetables on a flatbed truck shouting, "Vegetables of all kinds." A man would come shouting "Rags—lots of money." He would pay you for your rag. I always felt so sorry for him — but later learned he was very wealthy. The ice truck would come & bring ice for our ice-box. Often I would receive a free chip of ice to suck. Years later I realized it came from a frozen lake. Yuk! But as a child — it was a great treat ☺.

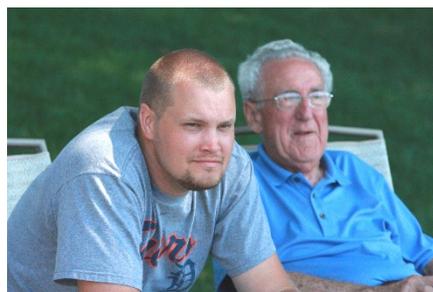
Mom's Journal p. 98

Favorite Bible Verses

Story 54

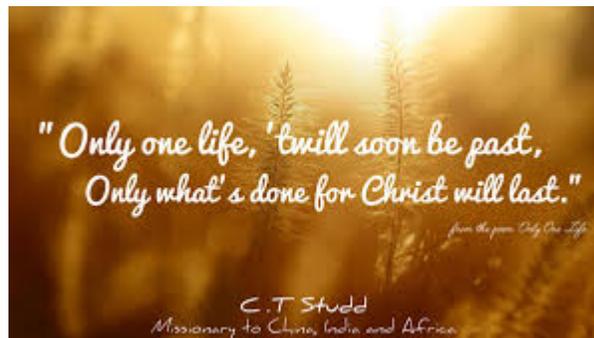
My most favorite **John 3:16-17** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Most favorite Psalm 100 *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. ² Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. ³ Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. ⁵ For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*



Mom was always watching, always counting heads, always praying for her children & grandchildren.

Mom always had a plaque hanging on her wall with this powerful saying:



Thank you for all of your prayers, expressions of sympathy, compassion, and reminders of the eternal hope we have in Jesus Christ. The outpouring of love from so many friends has been wonderful! We have so many beautiful memories to cherish and share. We are blessed beyond measure!

Please join me in praying this prayer of commitment to Jesus as our LORD and KING:

Lord Jesus, I give myself to you whatever the cost may be.

Take every aspect of my life and use me for Your Kingdom to glorify Your name.

I'm not here on earth to do my own thing, to seek my own fulfillment or my own glory.

I'm not here to indulge my desires, to increase my possessions, to impress people, to be popular, to prove I'm somebody important, or to promote myself.

I'm not here even to be relevant or successful by human standards, I'm here to please You.

To live like this, I yield myself to You, to know You, to love You, and to grow in Your Holy fear.

I desire to become a person who understands and lives in reverent awe of You.

I'll do anything that you want me to do, go anywhere You want me to go and say anything that you want me to say.

Father, there isn't any gift You have for me that I don't want.

If you want to use me in a way that I'm not used to, I yield myself to that.

Today I affirm my love for You my God and I choose to live and minister in Your way.

I trust You Lord to do that which I cannot do for myself.

Teach me, guide me, empower me to fear Your name.

In Jesus name, Amen.



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Sarah Seaberg and Sue Smith: Two amazing women of God who dearly loved my Miracle Mom!!