



## Ida Mae Smith

March 28, 1924 - October 8, 2009

Ida Mae Smith of Fort Collins, age 85, passed away into new life with her Lord Jesus Christ on October 8. She was born in Bertrand, Missouri near Sikeston to Bernard and Willie Hixson, and grew up on a farm "picking cotton", as well as other crops. She was one of seven children and had a very strong constitution, having survived several tragedies while very young, including the death of her mother. She graduated from Sikeston High, and went on to become a telephone operator for Western Union. She then relocated to Riverside, California where she took calls from various celebrities such as Lucile Ball. While in Riverside, in 1943 she met and married Alvin Smith. Following Al's service in WWII, they traveled around the western United States to construction projects, being what she always called "gypsies". They eventually settled in Mesa, Arizona, and then northern Colorado in 1963. While her six children were growing up she enjoyed helping with Cub Scout and Girl Scout activities, as well as activities at church. After raising her children, she returned to her earlier job with the phone company, and retired from US West as a clerk in 1989. Since retiring she has enjoyed her grand kids, gardening, sewing, traveling, and helping in many capacities at Immanuel Community Church, she even became a leader of her Seekers class in recent years. Preceding Ida Mae in death were her parents, five siblings, her husband, and a great-grand daughter. She is survived by her older brother, Jim Hixson of Los Molinos, California; her six children: Kenneth Smith of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Debbie Eckdahl of San Marcos, California,

Barry Smith, Richard Smith and Randy Smith of Fort Collins; Jennie Dachs of Dexter, Missouri; ten grand children, and seven great-grand children. A public viewing will be provided at Bohlender Funeral Chapel on Thursday, October 15 from 4-6pm. A Memorial Service to celebrate Ida Mae's life will be held at Immanuel Community Church, 1725 W. Mulberry in Fort Collins on Friday, October 16 at 10:30am, followed by a Graveside Service at Roselawn Cemetary. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Ida Mae Smith Memorial Fund in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Debbie it was wonderful to talk to you at the birthday gathering earlier. I was happy to know that you were hoping that she would soon go to her Heavenly Father. I am thinking of you and your family as my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. God Bless, Mary Ellen Bley*

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**Mary Ellen Bley** - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Debbie, I am sorry to hear that your dear mother has passed away. I know that at the 60th birthday party, you relayed to me that your mother wasn't doing well. It is good you made the visit. It is difficult to lose a parent even though one knows they are no longer suffering. Thinking of you. Anna Miller*

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**Anna Miller** - October 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ *Randy and family, Sorry to hear about your mom. She was a dear lady. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Floyd and Karla Moore** - October 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *Jenny, So sorry to hear about your mother. Thanks for letting me know. I will be praying for strength and peace for you and your family. Teresa*

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**Teresa Kelley** - October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Ida Mae was a total joy to wait on when she came into Brown's Shoe Fit we always had a good time they broke the mold with her I will miss her alot your family is in my prayers so sorry for your loss/Mike*

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**Mike Morrison** - October 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Rest in Peace Grandma!*

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**jennifer Bennett** - October 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *When Ida Mae visited Jenny & Jim Dachs in Missouri, she made kraut burgers and invited us over. I have never found one as good as hers. We often spent time with her in Missouri and will miss her very much.*

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**Jimmie & Marianna Burge** - October 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Randy and family, you are in our prayers as you walk through this familiar valley.*

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**The Burrill family.** - October 13, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Aunt Ida Mae was always a caring and loving Aunt to me. I will always cherish the time I spent at home in Arizona, and especially attending the Hixson Reunion in tennessee in 1997 with her.*

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**Jim Hixson** - October 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ We will be thinking of all of you during this time of sorrow for the loss of your Mother. She was a very fine woman and we have a lot of nice memories of her. She's in heaven now with God and we know she is very happy!

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**Gerald & Doris Couch** - October 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM