

BELIEVERS NEWS

FEBRUARY, 2007

A Memorial

Listening to Brother Branham tell of the trials he endured as a young man is almost more than one can bear. You can hear the way his voice seems to soften as he talks about his first wife Hope and her passing, losing their daughter Sharon Rose, and living with Billy Paul by himself for a time. But true to His word, the Great Comforter was not going to leave His prophet in such straits. With a mercy and tenderness that passes all earthly understanding, the Lord brought Brother Branham to his second wife, Meda, and in 1946 they had their first child, Rebekah.

On November 28, 1965, when Brother Branham preached *On the Wings of a Snow White Dove*, he mentioned his daughter, Rebekah on tape for the last time before his passing. Forty-one years later, November 28, 2006, Rebekah departed from this life and was reunited in Glory with her mother and father, and the many loved ones that have gone on before. What a reunion!

From her earliest childhood, when she stood just outside the spotlight of her father's ministry, to the later years of her life when her writings were read around the world, Rebekah led an extraordinary life that touched many. We are all familiar with the precocious child William Branham introduces on tape, and we can sense even then the depth of thought and maturity that he saw in his daughter.



William Branham, wife Meda, son Billy Paul and daughter Rebekah in a family portrait, 1947.



**Rebekah Branham Smith
1946-2006**

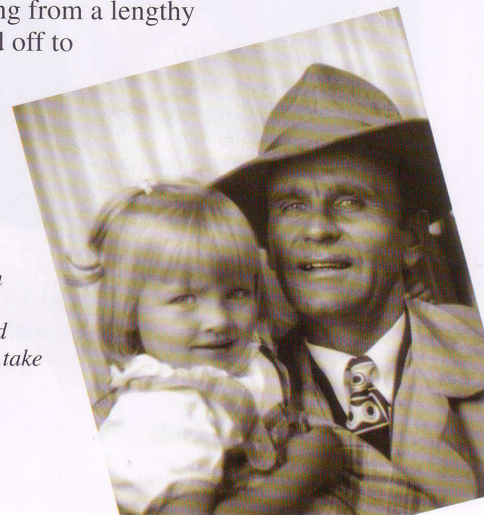
Beginning with those earliest years, many believers began to feel an immediate kinship with the prophet's daughter. Her sincerity and love for the people that crowded into the early healing campaigns left such a lasting impression, even these many years later we are reminded how her faith touched God.

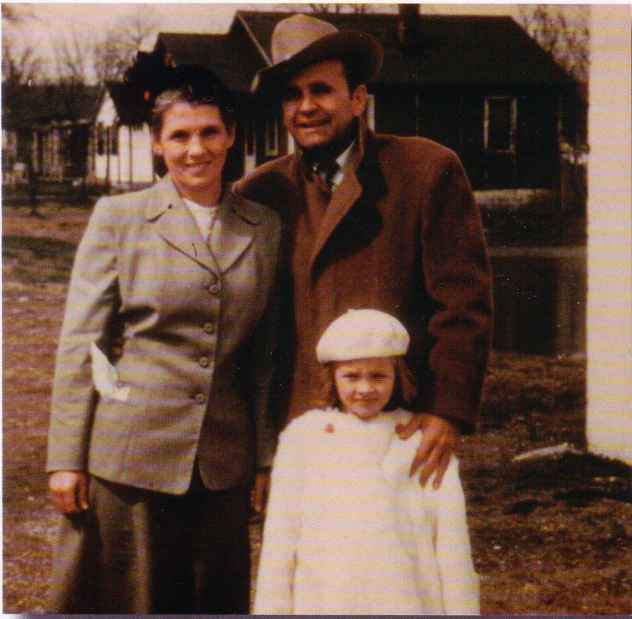
"I felt something moving me. I looked around, and there was an old lady. It told her how long she'd been crippled with arthritis, and where she'd been brought from, how she had been in this rolling wheel cart, not a chair. She had to lay flat. And the Holy Spirit told her to stand on her feet — and she was healed. And when she did, little Rebekah was sitting behind her, praying for her, and that's what done it."

I WILL RESTORE 54-0809A

Growing up in the center of the Branham campaigns and its brutal travel schedule exacted a heavy price from the entire family. In its own way, a great testimony was lived by the sacrifices endured by his wife and children. Even years later, Rebekah would tell stories of Brother Branham returning from a lengthy absence, only to be called off to an emergency, or find unexpected needy visitors waiting at the house.

Brother Branham and Rebekah in a photo booth. Though only a toddler, Rebekah remembered ducking in from a rainstorm to take this picture.





Brother & Sister Branham with Rebekah in 1951, standing in front of the Branham Tabernacle. What is today a parking lot was still a pond, visible in the background.

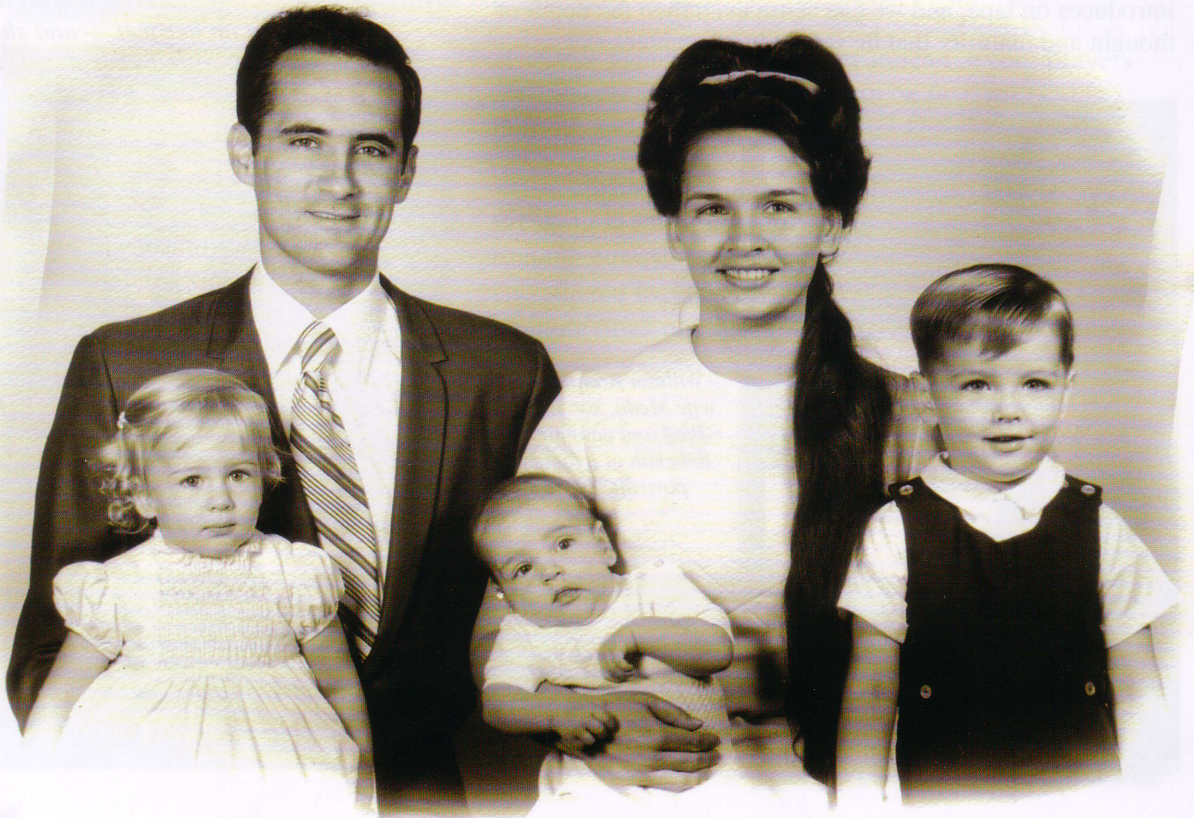


One of the proudest days in Brother Branham's life was Rebekah's graduation in 1964.

As a young woman, newly engaged to be married, it is difficult to imagine the responsibilities she assumed when Brother Branham was called suddenly from the scene. With Sister Branham and Sarah both recuperating from serious injuries, and Joseph a boy of just 10, Rebekah was propelled into a new role caring for them, and a new maturity emerged. It was a pivotal time for the entire family, a time when everything changed, seemingly overnight.

In the following years, Rebekah's marriage and the arrival of her own children, Stephen, Angela & William, brought about more changes. Looking back now, it took but a very few short years for the quiet, introspective child to become a wife and mother of shining character.

Traveling throughout Latin America with George, the whole family would often find themselves in primitive conditions, or church settings far removed from the type of services back home. Most notable was Rebekah's eagerness to pitch in and help, and it seemed like the more rustic the conditions, the more she enjoyed it. Whether she was sorting out supplies, or helping prepare food on a piece of tin that passed for a stove, working in the mission field was one of her greatest pleasures, and is probably the most lasting image of Rebekah for believers around the world.



Rebekah in 1971 with husband George and children Angela, William and Stephen.



1990, cooking with sisters in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

would just *apply yourself*. The mark of her work ethic and professionalism will always be on Believers International, and her writings have set the standard for bringing the prophet's life to the people.

Like his daughter's, William Branham's life was a life of contrasts. At its height his ministry would span the globe, but first he would endure a dark period that would reduce any man. Amidst the sorrow and heartache, the struggles and trials, Brother Branham was able to recognize the gift God had given to him and Meda.

"God gave me back a perfect image of the little girl that He had just taken from me. And I'm so happy about that."

SECOND MIRACLE 51-0722E

In a way, it was a second miracle; God's blessing, and a new beginning, all in one gift. And as the believers around the world absorb the human grief of her passing, we realize that God's great plan is unfolding in His way, and that the gift of Rebekah's life to us, from beginning to end, was indeed a miracle.

And like Brother Branham, we are so happy about that. □

An avid reader from her youth, Rebekah was able to absorb immense amounts of information with ease. This led to her desire to print a magazine and share stories and testimonies with other believers. With a keen eye, not much escaped her notice, and though she had no formal training in layout or design, and knew nothing about commercial printing, she had the ability to envision a finished product, then labor tirelessly until it happened. Not content to start small, the first publication was to be a full magazine, done as professionally as any first issue. It was a task that would have intimidated most, especially given the meager budget, tiny out-of-date mailing list, and limited office space there was to start with. But knowing that it would be a blessing, she persevered and was able to edit and produce a magazine in the spirit of brother Branham's own magazine, the landmark *Voice of Healing*. It was a watershed moment for believers that would have made her father very proud. Beginning in 1988, *Only Believe* magazine broke new ground, bringing people closer together, and gave thousands of believers a glimpse into the prophet's life that they had never had before.

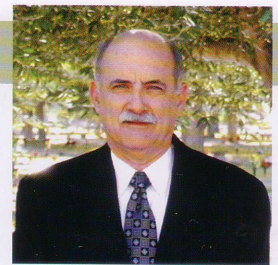
Considering all the roles Rebekah filled and the various paths where life led her, the quiet dignity with which she went about her 'normal' routine was an inspiration to many. It seemed that in her presence, there was no challenge that was ever too great, no answers that couldn't be found, no task that you couldn't handle if you



Overlooking Jerusalem, 1994.

Thank you for letting us share this short tribute to Rebekah's life. Please visit our website at www.onlybelieve.com for some additional photos from her life and also from the funeral service in Tucson.

A NOTE FROM BROTHER GEORGE SMITH...



Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

In searching for words to best express myself to you at this time, the song is ringing in my head, "Without Him I can do nothing, without Him I'd surely fail, without Him I would be drifting, like a ship without a sail."

Praise the Lord; He is my sail, and He is the wind that propels us from one day to another. We are trusting in His unfailing Word of promise. We are so very thankful for the many cards and notes of encouragement, as well as the food and gifts that have been delivered.

The large and extended support group that has rallied around us during these past few months has been a great source of strength. From the entire family, thank you very much and may God richly bless each of you.

Here at Believers International we are busy; not only with our day-to-day missionary activities but with other projects that we believe will be a blessing to many. The Lord willing, during 2007 I plan to be traveling to several countries where missionary work is ongoing and in need of encouragement. I find that by helping others, God in turn lifts my burdens and renews my vision for lost souls.

Sister Rebekah's focus was always on serving others and she was very interested in producing material that would be a blessing to people in more than just the English language. She did leave some projects in various stages of completion. We believe more than ever that time is ending soon and what is to be done must be done quickly. We request prayer for divine direction and inspiration to carry on and be a blessing to others. St. Paul instructs us that all things should be done decently and in order. I am thankful for how God has provided us with many opportunities to stay busy; we desire to manage the time correctly in order to stay right with God's program, following the Master step by step.

Once again, thank you very much for your prayers and concern for all of us. We will be fine, for God is faithful, and Heaven is real.

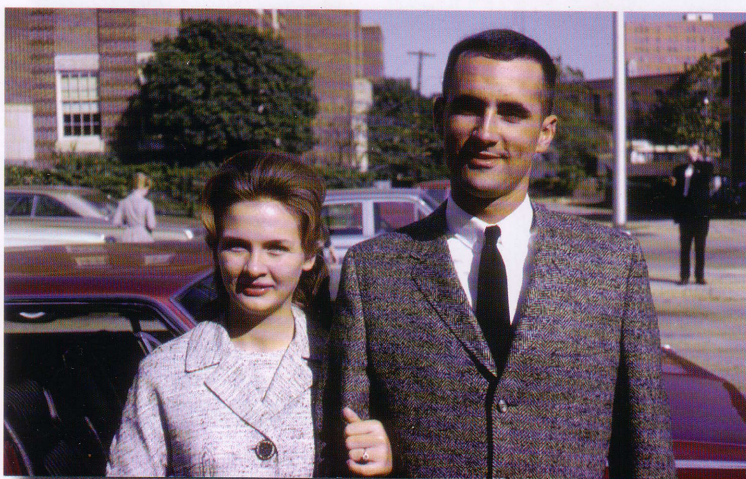
In closing, I would like to quote my father-in-law, speaking in Prescott, Arizona in 1965; "Our times are running out. And yet with this grand Hope, that we'll be gathered together again in Him, where there will be no more time, old age, nothing to hinder us or bother us."

Brother George Smith & Family



A simple passport photo turned out to be one of my favorite pictures of Rebekah.

Below, I was able to obtain a weekend pass from the Army and attend the Sunday meeting November 28, 1965 in Shreveport.



Believers News is a publication of Believers International, a non-profit Christian publishing ministry dedicated to the furtherance of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Message of His prophet, William Marrion Branham.

All Things Are Possible, Only Believe.

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