



## Rev. Sammy Brister

October 11, 1945 - September 10, 2012

Rev. Sammy Brister, 66 of Ardmore, Alabama died on Monday, September 10, 2012, at his home. Born Thursday, October 11, 1945 in Brookhaven, Mississippi, he was the son of the late Melton Brister and the late Tera Smith Brister. He enjoyed traveling, gardening, and was a history buff. He loved assisting with people and was a jokester. He was the senior minister at Elkton Baptist Church and had lived in the Ardmore area for the past 27 years. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother: Henry Brister. Surviving are his wife: Shortie Brister of Ardmore, AL, sons, Shane Brister of Harvest, AL and Jason (Rachel) Brister of Elkmont, AL, daughter, Shannon Brister of Ardmore, TN, brothers, Paul Brister of Brookhaven, MS, Bill Brister of Brookhaven, MS and Barry Brister of Caseyville, MS, sister, Merle Buie of Caseyville, MS, and three grandchildren: Heath, Summer, and Mason. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at Elkton Baptist Church, Elkton, TN with Bro. William Suddarth and Bro. Billy Taylor officiating. Burial will be in Wellman Baptist Church Cemetery, Brookhaven, MS on Saturday at 2:00 P.M. The family will receive friends from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, September 12, 2012, at Ardmore Chapel Funeral Home, Ardmore, Alabama. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Elkton Baptist Church Building Fund or Church Bus Fund.

# Tribute Wall

“ *My First Christmas in Heaven*

*I see the countless  
Christmas trees  
around the world below  
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars,  
reflecting on the snow*

*The sight is so spectacular,  
please wipe away the tear  
For I am spending Christmas with  
Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs  
that people hold so dear  
But the sounds of music can't compare  
with the Christmas choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you,  
the joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description,  
to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me,  
I see the pain inside your heart.  
But I am not so far away,  
We really aren't apart.*

*So be happy for me, dear ones,  
You know I hold you dear.  
And be glad I'm spending Christmas  
with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I sent you each a special gift,  
from my heavenly home above.  
I sent you each a memory  
of my undying love.*

*After all, love is a gift more precious  
than pure gold.  
was always most important  
the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other,  
my Father said to do.  
I can't count the blessing or love  
has for each of you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and  
Wipe away that tear  
Remember, I am spending Christmas with  
Jesus Christ this year*

---

**Janice Tomerlin- Finley** - December 13, 2012 at 10:30 PM

DT

“ *to the brister family sammy brister was a wonderful guy and he will  
be sadly miss.i can remember coming over to see maw maw and  
paw paw man i can remember some of the stories that was told.my  
family will miss his humor and that wonderful smile. my prayers and  
my thought are with you and the family. god has took home a  
wonderful friend.god bless you.*

---

**debbie taylor** - September 19, 2012 at 10:31 PM

GD

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family during your time of  
sorrow. Your friendship will always be treasured and dear to my  
heart.*

---

**Gay Davidson** - September 18, 2012 at 11:24 PM

RS

“ HI SHORTIE AND FAMILIEY WANTED TO LET KNOW WE ARE THING ABOUT YOU AND PRAYING FOR YOU AN THE FAMILIEY WE LOVE YOU ALL

R.W. @ALMA SHELTON - September 13, 2012 at 07:37 PM

WP

“ I was certainly saddened today to see the obituary listing for Bro. Sammy. I have fond memories of him throwing the football with me and others in the yard of the Salem pastorium. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

Wayne Powell, R.Ph., FASCP, CGP

Wayne Powell - September 13, 2012 at 04:20 PM

RS

“ Sammy, you will always be loved and cherished in my heart, and all of our family, in fact, anyone who ever had the blessing of knowing you. You are a great man of God, a great Uncle, and a great friend. Always loving you Sammy.

Rick (Ricky) Smith - September 13, 2012 at 09:50 AM

CH

“ We grieve with you in your loss. We were honored to have known Bro. Sammy

Calvin & Peggy Holt - September 13, 2012 at 08:55 AM

RM

“ We will surely miss you Bro Sammy. You were a great person and pastor. Words cannot express how much you meant to so many people. until we meet again may you rest in peace

Regina & Jr Maddox - September 12, 2012 at 09:01 PM

SS

“ So sorry to hear about Brother Sammy. (I am Bobby Wallace's sister)

---

**Sue & Steve Stolz** - September 12, 2012 at 08:50 PM

SP

“ Shortie,  
So sad to hear the bad news. So Glad to know he is with God. He was so good to my family, when my Dad died, and you as well. I have always been thankful for you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do. ( I am Troy Hogan's youngest sister, in case you are wondering. We are praying for you and the family. Steve is on his way to New Jersey and we are sorry we can't be there tonight.  
With God's Grace,  
Shelia Pepper

---

**Steve and Shelia Pepper** - September 12, 2012 at 04:15 PM

GF

“ Somehow typing this message seems so very inadequate to express both my extreme sorrow and joy during this time.

*I am so sorry for your loss Shortie and the loss to children, grandchildren, other family, and friends.*

*As I reflected on the special relationship I had with Brother Sammy, I couldn't help but feel joy as well. I truly am a better man for having been his brother in Christ and friend. He touched my life in ways I can't explain and Brother Sammy will continue to influence decisions I make for the rest of my life. As special as Brother Sammy was to me, I suspect he was that special to everyone. God gave him a gift of being able to make a person feel as if theirs was a special bond with him not shared by many...but in reality shared by all he knew.*

*He always told me he liked to feel mud between his toes and eat boiled peanuts. We shared many laughs, but he was also there when all 4 of my children were born, he kneeled on my dining room floor with me and prayed when I lost my job, he stood with me when we tried to start a Christian School in Ardmore, we prayed many times at the alter, and I could go on and on.*

*Shortie, I am hurting with you, I am praying for you constantly. I know I will see Brother Sammy again, and who knows maybe we can find a good ol' muddy peanut patch in Heaven and enjoy some fellowship as we worship our Lord.*

*We love you Shortie,  
Gary Fox and Family*

---

**Gary Fox** - September 12, 2012 at 03:06 PM

JT

“ You are and have been in and will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers daily during this most trying/difficult time. I have dearly loved all of you from the moment I met you at Harvest Baptist Church and on to First Baptist Church in Ardmore and so cherish the time I spent with you. You have richly blessed my life.

*May God Hold You Closely in the Palm of His Blessed Hands.*

*Mrs. Johnnie Tyson*

---

**Johnnie Tyson** - September 12, 2012 at 02:57 PM

BB

“ Shortie, we are so sorry for your loss, but he was a good one. We loved him very much. and you to. Your loss is Gods gain. We all know where he is, because he lived. He will be missed greatly. love you,

---

**Billy & Shirley Broadway** - September 12, 2012 at 08:45 AM

SW

“ We are sorry for the loss of your husband and we are sorry we never had the chance to know him. From the things I have heard from Heath he was very loved. I know he was a good person because I can see his influence in Heath. Your family is in our prayers.

---

**Steve & Kim Wachter** - September 12, 2012 at 08:40 AM

JT

“ September 11, 2012

*Dear Shortie and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. My Mom and my stepdad loved him so much (Billie and Charles Cooley) I can't count how many times he has comforted our family and when it was time for our parents to leave he gave truly beautiful services because he knew them so personally. His words were so comforting. The times I visited church with my Mom we were always welcomed. And amazingly he always remembered my name. We want to say thank you for sharing this wonderful man with our family. I will never forget him and all the hours he sat at the hospital with us. God give your family comfort. Jim and Judy Tilley*

---

**Judy and Jim Tilley** - September 11, 2012 at 11:37 PM

CL

“ *Shortie So sorry for your loss. Bro. Sammy was very special to me and Carroll in many ways. We treasure the many memories he left behind. We want you to know you and your family are in our thoughts and Prayers. Sammy was truly a man of God and God will see you through your loss.love Carroll and Janie Loggins*

---

**Carroll & Janie Loggins** - September 11, 2012 at 10:14 PM

RL

“ *We were so sorry of Brother Sammy's Passing. We will never forget him he was so good to us when my mother was sick and passed away. my God bless you all in your sorrow.*

---

**Ron & Peg Leonard** - September 11, 2012 at 09:40 PM

JF

“ Prayers are with you. He fought the good fight. He was a wonderful pastor and 24 years ago he married me to my bride. I have known him longer than that. On Monday, Sammy came face to face with his Savior, who surely said well done thy good and faithful servant. Come on in.

---

**Jackie French** - September 11, 2012 at 09:30 PM

DN

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Brother Sammy was a very special person who was loved by everyone.

---

**Deverl & Kathy Nave** - September 11, 2012 at 08:17 PM

FB

“ we will miss him

---

**frankie and judy billions** - September 11, 2012 at 06:52 PM

SW

“ *Sudie and Family: I am so sorry for your great loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Sincerely,  
Shirley Webb*

---

**Shirley Webb** - September 11, 2012 at 06:19 PM

JG

“ *Bro. Sammy was one of the greatest men I have ever known and he will be missed dearly. He always had me laughing over comments he would make ,Because thats the way he was ,he love making people laugh and I will never forget him as long as I live. My thoughts and Prayers go out to his family. So sad to lose someone so dear.*

---

**Joy Gates** - September 11, 2012 at 06:03 PM

EB

“ Shannon & family: Bro. Brister was a good man and a Godly christian. Earths loss is heavens gain. God needed a special angel.

Emily Billings - September 11, 2012 at 05:50 PM

TB

“ Such a nice man who I know is smiling down from Heaven now.

Tammy Burgreen - September 11, 2012 at 05:21 PM

KE

“ Bro. Sammy was more than my pastor, he was my friend. He was always there when I needed him and I will miss him terribly. Love to all the family.

Kelly Hill

Kelly - September 11, 2012 at 05:02 PM

KP

“ To the Brister Family, I am terribly sorry for your loss. Rev. Brister was a fine human being. I know my father and mother, Lester and Lyla Dorning, thought the world of him and he helped lay them to rest peacefully.

I'm sure he is up in heaven now having a reunion with friends, family and church members who have gone on before him. May he rest in eternal peace.

Krista Dorning Phillips - September 11, 2012 at 04:42 PM

CL

“ God Bless you and all your family during this time. We will miss him dearly.

*Love and God Bless!*

*Cathy Hill & Maddie Lipham*

---

**Cathy Hill & Maddie Lipham** - September 11, 2012 at 04:37 PM

KD

“ Shortie, Sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family.

---

**Kathy Decker** - September 11, 2012 at 03:30 PM

JF

“ To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say. But first of all, to let you know, that I arrived okay. I'm writing this from the Bridge. Here I dwell with God above. Here there's no more tears of sadness. Here is just eternal love. Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight. Remember that I am with you every morning, noon and night. That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through, God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you. It's good to have you back again, you were missed while you were gone. As for your dearest family, They'll be here later on." God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do. And foremost on the list, > was to watch and care for you. And when you lie in bed at night the day's chores put to flight, God and I are closest to you... in the middle of the night. When you think of my life on earth, and all those loving years, because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears. But do not be afraid to cry it does relieve the pain. Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain. I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned. If I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand. But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is o'er. I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before. There are rocky roads ahead of you and many hills to climb; But together we can do it by taking one day at a time. It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too; That as you give unto the world, the world will give to you. If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain; Then you can say to God at night... "My day was not in vain." And now I am contented... that my life was worthwhile. Knowing as I passed along> I made somebody smile. God says: "If you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low; Just lend a hand to pick him up, as on your way you go. When you're walking down the street with me on your mind; I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind." "And when it's time for you to go... from that body to be free. Remember you're not going... you're coming here to me."

---

Janice Tomerlin- Finley - September 11, 2012 at 03:19 PM

JT

“ When tomorrow starts without me, And I’m not there to see; If the sun should rise and find your eyes All filled with tears for me; I wish so much you wouldn’t cry The way you did today, While thinking of the many things, We didn’t get to say. I know how much you love me, As much as I love you, And each time that you think of me, I know you’ll miss me too; But when tomorrow starts without me, Please try to understand, That an angel came and called my name, And took me by the hand, And said my place was ready, In heaven far above, And that I’d have to leave behind All those I dearly love. But as I turned to walk away, A tear fell from my eye, For all my life, I’d always thought, I didn’t want to die. I had so much to live for, So much yet to do, It seemed almost impossible, That I was leaving you. I thought of all the yesterdays, The good ones and the bad, I thought of all the love we shared, And all the fun we had. If I could relive yesterday, Just even for awhile, I’d say good-bye and kiss you And maybe see you smile. But then I fully realized, That this could never be For emptiness and memories, Would take the place of me. And when I thought of worldly things, I might miss come tomorrow, I thought of you, and when I did, My heart was filled with sorrow. But when I walked through heaven’s gates, I felt so much at home. When God looked down and smiled at me, From His great golden throne, He said “This is eternity, And all I’ve promised you.” Today for life on earth is past, But here it starts anew. I promise no tomorrow, But today will always last, And since each day’s the same way There’s no longing for the past. But you have been so faithful, So trusting and so true. Though there were times you did some things, You knew you shouldn’t do. But you have been forgiven And now at last you’re free. So won’t you take my hand And share my life with me? So when tomorrow starts without me, Don’t think we’re far apart, For every time you think of me, I’m right here, in your heart.

---

Janice Tomerlin-Finley - September 11, 2012 at 03:17 PM

JF

“ Bro. Sammy was a wonderful man, a wonderful Christian. He visited Mother and my step dad “[ Cecil and Eris Smith } often and they loved him so. I think he liked them also, or at least all the food and goodies that he shared with them. He and our pastor, Bro. Moose did a wonderful job delivering Mothers' funeral last year. He was and is loved and missed, Earths' loss is definitely Heavens' gain. May God bless and give you strength and faith during this time and always, Remember, when Bro Brister has been in Heaven 10,000 years, he has no less time to be there.

---

**Janice Tomerlin- Finley** - September 11, 2012 at 03:09 PM

LM

“ Goodbye to a truly great man. He was what a true Christian should look like and was someone that always made me glad to see him. The world needs more people like Bro. Sammy.

---

**Lisa R. Mitchell** - September 11, 2012 at 02:10 PM

SM

“ Our sympathy is with the family. We enjoyed hearing him every time we visited the Newton (Tarris was my brother). He was a wonderful preacher. God bless you.. Shirleen Molenhouse Chicago, IL..

---

**shirleen molenhouse** - September 11, 2012 at 12:36 PM

DB

“ Brother Sammy will be missed dearly. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

---

**Demetria Blackwell** - September 11, 2012 at 12:32 PM

FO

“ Rev. Sammy Brister

---

**Funeral Home Owner** - June 30, 2012 at 01:22 PM