

A landscape photograph featuring a vibrant rainbow arching across a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Below the sky is a green field with some taller vegetation in the foreground. The entire scene is framed within a vertical rectangular area on the left side of the overall image.

What A Day That Will Be

There is coming a day
When no heartaches shall come,
No more clouds in the sky,
No more tears to dim the eye;
All is peace forever more
On that happy, golden shore,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there,
No more burdens to bear,
No more sickness, no pain
No more parting over there;
And forever I will be
With the One who died for me,
What a day, Glorious day that will be.

What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day glorious day that will be.

*On behalf of the family,
we wish to express our sincerest thanks
and gratitude for your support during this time.*

A photograph of a vast field of sunflowers in full bloom, their golden heads contrasting against the green foliage. The sky above is a dramatic mix of orange, pink, and purple hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The horizon line is visible in the distance.

In Loving Memory Of
Max A. Smith
October 20, 1959 ~ May 6, 2024

Max A. Smith

October 20, 1959 - May 6, 2024

Funeral Service

Monday, May 13, 2023

10:30 AM

Faith Mennonite Church
Iroquois, South Dakota

Officiants

Lonnie Penner

Craig Jantz

Music

Special Music by the Church Choir

Casket Bearers

Joel Smith

Michael Johnson

Clark Smith

Lance Giesbrecht

Jason Smith

Nolan Koehn

Heath Becker

Interment

Faith Mennonite Church Cemetery
Iroquois, South Dakota

Kuhler Funeral Home, Huron, South Dakota

Max A. Smith was born to Paul and Helen Jantz Smith, on October 20, 1959, in Newton, Kansas. He was unexpectedly called home on the evening of May 6, 2024, at the age of 64.

His early childhood was spent in central Kansas near Hutchinson. When he was eight, the family moved to Leland, Mississippi, where he had many good times growing up as the youngest of four boys. Max gave his heart to the Lord and was baptized in to the Church of God in Christ, Mennonite on December 12, 1971, remaining true to his vows until the end. After finishing his education, Max joined his dad and brothers in the land-forming business. He was especially close to his brother, Merle and they did many things together – working, traveling and singing. Losing his mother when he was sixteen was a heartbreaking time in his life. In 1977, his dad married Viola Jantz, who has always been a steady rock for the family.

On May 18, 1980, Max married me, Starla Hiebert, at Iroquois, South Dakota. We shared the joys and sorrows of life for nearly 44 years. Max was affectionate by nature and was not sparing in his praise and compliments towards me. After two years of married life at Leland, we moved to South Dakota in 1982, to farm and ranch with my father. Three children, Jeremy, Justin and Natalie were born to us and we had many happy times together as a family. Family devotions were very important to him and his heartfelt prayers always included the unsaved and those who were facing difficult situations. Our children remember camping and fishing and going on trips to visit friends and relatives. Each fall, he looked forward to the camaraderie of the pheasant hunting with his boys and many long-time friends throughout the years. In recent years, it seemed he was always planning and looking forward to the next trip to Michigan to visit Natalie and her family and the many friends he made there.

The untimely deaths of two of his brothers left Max with heavy burdens. Searching for answers and consolation, he often sought comfort in his “Sweet Hour of Prayer”.

Besides farming, Max did some custom work and also loved driving truck. He learned to love the wide-open spaces of South Dakota, as he drove the many miles across the state. He was an observer of nature and often commented on the sunrises, sunsets and the night skies on the open prairie. The last few years were spent farming with his son, Justin. He appreciated Justin’s energy and innovative talents. His oldest son, Jeremy, lived just a half mile away with his young family, so they had much interaction. Max recently mentioned to Jeremy how much he appreciated that.

Max loved people and never knew a stranger. His magnetic personality and sense of humor won him many friends of all ages. One of his greatest delights was getting together with friends and family for food and fellowship. He especially loved the young people and took the opportunity to sing with them whenever he could. Singing was an important part of his life and he filled the song leader role for many years.

When his children were married, he welcomed their spouses with unconditional love. He rejoiced with each grandchild that was born and made it evident to each of them how special they were to him.

The past couple of years, he courageously fought cancer. He was very relieved and thankful when his last reports came back clear, although there were some other health issues he was dealing with. These experiences promoted a deepening of faith and commitment.

Left behind with broken hearts are his loving family: his wife, Starla; his sons, Jeremy and Jennae of Yale and Justin and Erica of De Smet; and his daughter, Natalie and Brandon Toews of Ithaca, Michigan; his nine grandchildren, Shane, Taylor and Brielle Smith, Kelsyn, Everleigh and Amelia Smith and Saylor, Coleman and Larkyn Toews; his step-mother, Viola Smith of Oakwood Manor, Brooksville, Mississippi; one brother, Denton Smith of Sunflower, Mississippi; his sisters-in-law, Marilyn Smith of Leland, Mississippi and Nona and Arlen Becker of Canton, Kansas; his mother-in-law, Rose Hiebert of Meadowlane Villa, Osceola, South Dakota; his sisters-in-law, Debbie and David Schmidt of Guntersville, Alabama, Susan and Larry Nightingale of Bloomfield, Iowa, Donella and Lyle Penner of Swan River, Manitoba, and Becky and Eugene Nightingale of Mountain Grove, Missouri; and many “favorite” nieces and nephews, cousins and good friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Merle and Doug; his father-in-law, Donald Hiebert; and a special friend, Roger Nichols.