

# IN MEMORY OF REVEREND PAYTON SMYER



*"My Jewish Messiah" is dedicated to my earthly father, Reverend Payton Smyer; a faithful disciple of Jesus for over 60 years; who's favorite Scripture was from: **2 Timothy 4:7-8 New International Version (NIV)** " **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.**"*

*As a young evangelist, so poor he had neither a car nor a horse, my father walked from one revival to another on foot. Without the finances to replace shoes lacking soles, he would tie gunny sacks to his legs with twine and keep marching for the Lord. Many nights were spent under a tree with fallen leaves as his mattress. His nutritional sustenance often came from honey combs, berries, and wild game. If he was lucky, a kind farmer would show mercy and invite him for a meal. Rain or shine, this servant was on fire for the Savior.*

*In spite of numerous physical hardships, he walked mile after mile delivering Spirit filled sermons that saved the lost; followed by baptizing services in local streams or a place called Miller's Pond. He would baptize so many people at these Sunday afternoon events that his arms would give out!*

*Yes, folks, this was the old time religion that caused people to shout and sing praises to God without restraint; raising the rafters and shaking the ground like thunder.*

*Although he eventually had his own church, Sundays were spent delivering messages where needed; never giving a thought to denomination. Once when he did not have the money to help a neighbor in need, he borrowed \$25 from an individual intending to go hungry himself. However, God being God, laid it on the heart of a wealthy neighbor to pay my father for a family member's funeral that he had delivered free of charge. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, that check that arrived in the mail was for exactly \$25.*

*Yet, right along with his ministry, he was a dad to three little girls he showered with humorous stories and unconditional love. Through example, he taught us to love the Lord with all our hearts, minds, and souls.*