

Short Biography of (Charles) Darrell and Bonnie Sheets – Missionaries to Haiti – 1980 – 1993

(Charles) Darrell Sheets June 27, 1933 – November 12, 1995

Born in Macoupin County, Illinois, to Charles John Sheets and Selma (Prater) Sheets.

Married Bonnie Jean (Phelps) Sheets 1953 in Boyd, Illinois.

Father of Bonnie J (Beckwith) Charles D, Tresea L. (Loveless),  
Darlene R (Ayers), Darrell P, Jeffrey E, Rhonda G (Burk), and Twila D.

Darrell received the Holy Ghost at the age of 14 in Centralia, Illinois in a revival. The young evangelist, age 17, was Rev. Wayne Rooks.

Graduated Woodlawn Illinois High School 1952.

Graduated Lewis and Clark College 1979.

Pastored in Carlyle in 1966 (an Independent Oneness Church)

Voted in as Pastor in Wood River, Illinois in 1968.

Received license with the UPC in May 1970.

Pastored Wood River, Illinois until June 1980

Appointed missionary to Haiti, West Indies – May, 1980

Resigned as missionary in 1993

Appointed as Haitian Liaison in North America at the General Conference in October, 1995.

Darrell Sheets was an outstanding man, dedicated to his God and to his family. He was a man of prayer, and was dedicated to much fasting.

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### **Detailed longer Bio**

At the age of 14, Darrell and his family visited the church in Centralia where his family received the Holy Ghost and were baptized in Jesus Name, during that revival.

After graduation from high school he was employed as a mechanic for the Illinois Central Railroad.

In May 1953 he was drafted into the U.S. army. After basic training, although his entire troop was sent to Washington State to ship out, his orders were to go to Great Lakes in Chicago, Illinois. Our home state! He came home to Southern Illinois every other weekend until orders came for him to go to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. There he rented a small apartment and in February of 1954, I moved there also.

One day a man knocked on the door of our apartment. He said he had heard of a young Pentecostal couple who lived there and wanted to know if we would help start a church there. His name was Edwin Colegrove, a young minister in the UPC. That was the beginning of our missions work.

After being discharged from the army in April, 1955, we moved to Beckeymeyer, Illinois. Darrell took a job as a mechanic at Moody Chevrolet in Granite City, Illinois where he worked until 1957. The owner of the Chevrolet dealership in Wood River, Illinois was Mr. Charlie Albrecht . He heard Darrell was a good mechanic and called him to see if he would come work at his shop in Wood River. Darrell took the job.

Darrell and I moved to Wood River where we lived for 8 years attending the Wood River United Pentecostal Church.

In 1962 we moved to a country house near my parents, south of Centralia, Illinois. Darrell took a new job in Mt. Vernon, Illinois at the Chevrolet Dealership. Having never lived near my parents since we were married, he wanted me to be near them.

That only lasted about 9 months. Mr. Albrecht heard Darrell wasn't happy at the "new" job, called him to come back to Wood River. So Darrell quite the new job and went back to work at Albrecht Chevrolet in Wood River.

About that time Darrell was feeling his call into the ministry. We were attending Centralia church when a small Independent Pentecostal Church in Carlyle, Illinois called him to help out as they didn't have a pastor. He "helped out" there from 1966 to 1968 when the church in Wood River (UPC) called and ask him to consider pastoring.

They voted him in as pastor and we moved back to Wood River in 1968 where we pastored until 1980. Many services, Darrell played the piano, and led services and delivered the Word of God. The church was small. There were not enough saints who could help out so for years he pastored and worked a 40-hour week job.

In those years God gave him a burden for missions. This burden grew over time as the church grew. Darrell decided to quit his job and enroll in college. He still had some schooling through the G.I. bill from his years in the military, so in 1978 he quite the mechanic job and for 2 years he attended Lewis & Clark College in Alton, Illinois. He made the Dean's list every quarter.

While studying Caribbean history the Lord gave him a burden which he thought was a "prayer burden" upon his heart. But, after much prayer and fasting, he decided to make an appointment with Foreign Missions to tell them he was available for missions. He thought they would think him too old (age 47) but said if they said no he would accept their decision. In May, 1980 we were appointed as missionaries to Haiti in the West Indies where we lived for 12 years and though it is a rough country to live in, we enjoyed every day of our time there.

We left Haiti in August, 1993 with very mixed emotions. We had a grandson, Kyle, who had M.D. Doctors said he would live to age 18. We decided to come home to be near family. God, the great God that He is, let us have 2 years with family before Darrell's death in 1995. Kyle lived to age 24, passing away in February 2010.

Even leaving Haiti, Darrell never lost his love for the Haitian people nor did his burden ever leave him. He was developing a Bible School in Miami, Florida, approved through the Home Missions Division and with approval of the Foreign Missions Division. He received his appointment at conference in Des Moines, Iowa in 1995.

He died in Bradenton, Florida on November 12, 1995 on a trip to check out how arrangements for the school were coming along.