

[Keith Lionel Brown](#) was born on October 17, 1958, at 10:17 p.m. in the Salisbury Hospital in Salisbury, Maryland, which at the time was a small town. He is the second of four children born to two goodly parents — the late John Wallace Brown and Frances Mae Brown (nee Harmon). Patricia (Pat), Sharon, and Kenneth (Ken) are his three siblings. On April 21, 2020, Sharon, the older of the two sisters, died because of COVID-19 complications.

Keith's father worked as a school bus driver, a short-order cook, and owned his own lawn care business. His father loved the great outdoors. He enjoyed gardening, creating things like his own tool sheds, and planting things. For the family to have a roof over their heads, clothes on their backs, bills paid, and food on the table when Keith was a child, his father frequently worked two or three jobs. His father passed away on 20 November 2006 at the age of 71.

After being a longtime employee of the neighborhood McDonald's, Keith's mother eventually worked as a molding specialist for a nearby manufacturer. She enjoyed reading the Bible, solving crossword puzzles, putting together jigsaw puzzles, and sewing and producing her own clothing. His love for the Bible was instilled in him by his mother's example of reading and studying the Bible.

His mother loved going to church regularly and did her best to instill godly values in her four children. Keith participated in the youth choir at the little Baptist church the family attended. Nothing in the world was more important to Frances Mae Harmon Brown than her family, and she frequently put her personal needs aside to make sure that her family was taken care of. She lost her battle with breast cancer on June 12, 1997, when she was just 59 years old.

A Seeker after Truth

Keith began school at the age of five in September 1964. The Salisbury Elementary School, now known as the [Charles H. Chipman Elementary School](#), was the only elementary school that Black pupils in his neighborhood could attend at the time. Until he was bussed across town to Wicomico Junior High School, now known as [Wicomico Middle School](#), in his freshman year of high school, he would not interact with White pupils. After graduating from Wicomico Junior High School in June 1973, he completed his final three years of high school at Wicomico Senior High School, which is now known as [Wicomico High School](#). Keith received his high school diploma in June 1976.

In high school, math and foreign languages were Keith's two favorite subjects. He studied Latin for a year and Spanish for five years. He even tied for fifth place in a National Spanish Exam. He joined various clubs, including the Future Teachers of America club, and aspired to become a teacher. He was also a clarinetist in the school band.

Keith studied at Salisbury State College (now known as [Salisbury University](#)) for a semester after finishing high school. He later attended [Delaware Technical and Community College](#) in Georgetown, Delaware, where he earned an A.A.S. in Data Processing Technology in June 1979. While attending college, Keith worked as a busboy and a dishwasher at a neighborhood family restaurant.

Keith made the decision to create an amazing learning experience by fusing his passion for reading and studying the scriptures with his desire to learn other languages. He made the decision to devote two semesters each to studying Biblical Greek and Biblical Hebrew. Knowing that such studies would open fresh vistas for understanding the writings in their original context, he yearned to go even further in his personal study of the scriptures.

Keith later pursued online education possibilities to improve his education and earned a bachelor's degree in business marketing, a master's degree in business administration, and a master's degree in business finance.

God and Country First

In March 1981, Keith—then just 22 years old—decided to leave his family and enlist in the US Navy. He attended boot camp in San Diego, California.

He initially only intended to enlist for one term, but he ended up serving 20 years on active duty. He traveled extensively during those 20 years of service and had the privilege of serving in countries like Greece, Bahrain in the United Arab Emirates, and Iceland. He was also afforded the opportunity to visit many beautiful locations like Hawaii, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Mexico, the Bahamas, Hong Kong, Jordan, Italy, and the Philippines. He was given the chance to go to places he never would have thought he would see in his lifetime and had several intriguing military assignments.

Keith was also the recipient of a great deal of honors, decorations, and awards. One of the awards that he received was the Distinguished Instructor Award. He earned the award while instructing Navy personnel on electronic calibration techniques in Norfolk, Virginia.

In March 2001, just six months before the horrific events of September 11, 2001, he retired from active military duty. He served in the inactive Fleet Reserve for 10 years, and on September 1, 2010, his name was formally added to the United States Navy Retired list.

Life's a Song in the Key of C

Keith Lionel Brown has a long history in music. The Sacred Doves Gospel Choir at the Baptist church he attended as a little kid included his mother, maternal grandmother, maternal great grandmother, and other aunts and cousins.

The men's group known as the Baptist Jubilees included uncles and cousins who sang and played musical instruments. In his teenage years, Keith participated in the church's youth choir. His younger sister, Patricia, plays guitar, piano, organ, and drums entirely by ear.

In April 2019, at the age of 60, Keith debuted his first original song, "Song of My Heart," showcasing his songwriting skills to the world. People from many different walks of life have praised the song. In addition to those of the Latter-day Saint faith, people of other faiths and beliefs, as well as some non-Christians, have been moved by the song. Even a Buddhist monk expressed how much he loved and appreciated the song's message.

Keith rejects the notion that he is a singer. He considers himself to be a man of words and music; he writes the lyrics, creates the tune, and invites other people to provide the vocals. He doesn't just write music for Latter-day Saint listeners. He writes songs with the intention of touching the hearts of listeners everywhere.

Songs of My Heart Music

Keith launched [Songs of My Heart Music](#) in April 2019. He even set up a dedicated website where he posts his own songs, as well as some of his own reflections on the impact of music on society.

On April 12, 2019, Keith released "[Song of My Heart](#)," his debut original song, providing the public a window into his songwriting abilities. He was ecstatic at the positive response the song received because he had never written a song before and was unsure of how it would be received.

Wayne S. Forrey, a Latter-day Saint musician, commented:

As I listened to your, "Song of My Heart," several times, I really felt the beautiful message of your music. The music and lyrics are so very meaningful. I hope that you will issue a new edition of this song with your voice...so we can hear this song with a male voice...from a male perspective. So many beautiful songs seem to have a female voice. We need songs like your "Song of My Heart" sung by a man so we can feel a masculine connection with God.

Sherri Whitehead, the manager of the music group Spark commented:

The initial thing that I noticed was the hauntingly beautiful and familiar-feeling melody. It took no time to attach to it—and it created the perfect backdrop for the lyrics. . . . The lyrics are truly a beautiful outpouring of prayer from the soul of an earthly traveler. It is a song that begs to be sung because it represents what we have all felt. I loved how the tempo slowed near the end and created moments of even greater thoughtfulness.

As of this writing, nearly 3,000 people across Facebook and YouTube have listened to the song. The song was first broadcast over the airwaves in the Philippines after the owner of a Christian radio station came across it on social media. The song's [backstory](#) is available online to read.

"Song of My Heart" was followed in February 2020 by an original song that Keith wrote called "[The Memories Live On](#)." The song is dedicated to the cherished memories of his mother, who passed away from breast cancer at the young age of 59 on 12 June 1997. The song was released on February 14, 2020—Valentine's Day. Online readers can read the song's [backstory](#).

Wayne S. Forrey commented:

I really love your song, "The Memories Live On." The photos of you and your beautiful mother with the music in the background brought tears to my eyes. You are so blessed to have a loving relationship with your mother. You have weathered some tremendous setbacks and heartbreaks

in your life. Your parents have both passed away and your sister is hospitalized. But look at the tenderness and compassion that has come into your life because of overcoming those challenges.

Late in the year 2020, Keith found new inspiration for an original song. This time, he felt moved to express his passion for the scriptures in his writing. He has had a real passion for the scriptures since he was a little child, and he felt inspired to create a song about it as a personal witness and to uplift others, especially in these trying times.

The name of the song is "Thy Word in My Heart." Keith contacted his friend Teeroy Tyobee from the Tiv Nation of Benue State in Nigeria, Africa, to sing the vocals since he wanted a male voice for this song. TeeRoy accepted, and preparations are being made to record and release the song in honor of Keith's sister, Sharon Christine Brown-Bratten, who passed away on April 21, 2020.

In addition, Keith has several other "Songs of the Heart" that he wants to record and broadcast to the world. His goal is to create an EP of his songs under the working title *My Heart Yearns for Home*. Other songs in the works include "If Tomorrow Never Comes," "No More Regrets" (A Loving Tribute to My Father), "I'll Be Home Soon," and "My Christmas Wish."

You can find Keith Lionel Brown's music on his [Apple Music Page](#), [Amazon Music Page](#), [Spotify](#), [SoundCloud](#), and [Vimeo](#). He also has a [Facebook music page](#).

Private Life

Keith Lionel Brown is a member of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#). He was baptized on March 10, 1998, in Reykjavik, Iceland. He was serving on active duty in the United States Navy in Keflavik, Iceland, at the time.

Keith currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland, and serves as the Elders Quorum President of the Annapolis Maryland Ward of the Annapolis Maryland Stake. He has held a variety of church leadership positions over the course of his 23 years as a member, including activity chairman, single adult representative, Sunday School teacher for teenagers, First Counselor in the Young Men's Presidency (Ward level), member of the Stake High Council, in three Bishoprics (as both Second and First Counselor), High Priest Group Leader, and Ward Mission Leader. He also taught missionary preparation classes for the stake.

The second chapter of the book *Led by Example: The Missionary Influence of the Osmond Family Vol. 2* contains Keith Lionel Brown's conversion narrative.