

In Loving Memory of Gary Duane Johnson

Gary was born on March 1, 1940 to Marvin and Dola Johnson in Lawrence, Kansas. Gary turned to Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour in 1949 during a neighborhood Bible study taught by the wife of an American Indian. He resided in Topeka until 1952 when the family moved to Prairie Village, Kansas. After graduating from Shawnee Mission High School in 1958, he studied Business at the University of Kansas. In 1960, at 20 years of age, he met his sweetheart Judy in a hospital room while they were visiting a mutual friend. Judy was only 16 years old. They waited two long years and were married on October 6, 1962. In 1963 their first child—a boy, James “Jim” Buckley—was born. In 1965, they were happy to add a girl, Lisa Kay, to the family.

Gary had been working for Interstate Securities as a loan officer since 1961, and he continued climbing the corporate ladder. Around 1973, after studying the Scriptures for two years, he came to the conviction that he should not be helping people get into debt by loaning them money, so he changed fields and began to work in income tax services becoming a personal and business financial consultant. It was at this time that he began attending a fundamental Bible teaching church. In 1977, Gary left Interstate Securities in Olathe, Kansas and took a job with Household Finance Corporation in the Chicago area, moving his family to Hanover Park, Illinois. Gary and Judy enrolled their children at the nearby Schaumburg Christian School. Both children graduated and went on to study at Christian colleges.

In 1984, Gary and his family helped in planting the Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Gerald Goss. They continued there until September 1997 when they joined the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Hanover Park, Illinois. While there, Gary was the Chairman of the Deacon Board and the Church Treasurer. Gary was also quite active in the community: at one time hosting a local television show and just recently served as the Treasurer of the Progress Party of Hanover Park. Gary was happily married to his sweetheart Judy for 46 wonderful years. Incidentally, after first meeting in a hospital room, they also celebrated their 46th and final anniversary together in a hospital room in Zumarraga, Spain where they were on a church missions trip. Gary entered into the Lord's presence at 2:25a.m. on Christmas Eve. While family and friends were singing “How Great Thou Art”, he lifted up his hands and went into the presence of his Lord. Gary was the loving father of Jim (Lydia) Johnson and Lisa (Dante) Antonucci and the loving grandfather of Anna and Calvin Johnson and Jonathan, Joshua, Caleb, Rebekah, and David Antonucci.

Order of Service

Piano Prelude, *Marion Bailey*

Welcome & Prayer,

Matt Black, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church

Congregational Hymn

How Great Thou Art

An Encouraging Word

Pastor Brad Hilgeman, Gary's former pastor

Message in Song - “Three Times”

Jon, Rebekah, & David Antonucci

The Life of Gary D. Johnson

“Stories about Dad”

Jim Johnson

Lydia Johnson (read by Jim)

Dante Antonucci

Lisa Antonucci (read by Dante)

Solo – Finally Home/Glory for Me, *Pastor Matt Black*

Message, *Pastor Matt Black*

Congregational Hymn

Amazing Grace

Closing Prayer, *Pastor Brad Hilgeman*

Pallbearers

Dante, Jon, Joshua, Caleb, David Antonucci, and Jim Johnson

Honorary Pallbearer, *Calvin Johnson*

Postlude, *Marion Bailey*

All are invited to the Interment at Memory Gardens Cemetery

2501 E. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004.

Following the graveside service, please be our guest in celebrating

Gary's life at 2pm at Old Country Buffet

154 S. Gary Ave., Bloomington, Illinois 60108.