



## Vernon Johnson

December 10, 1951 - October 29, 2008

Services for Vernon Wayne Johnson, age 56, of Bullard, will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 1, 2008 in the chapel of Stewart Family Funeral Home with Neil McClendon and James Palmer officiating. Burial will follow at Bullard Cemetery in Bullard under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Johnson passed away on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 at his home in Bullard. He was born on December 10, 1951 in Lufkin to Vernon and Georgia Johnson. He attended Bethany College in Bethany, Oklahoma and graduated in 1972 from Nazarene Church Seminary in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Johnson was a certified Insurance Agent and worked for Sterling/AON Insurance Company as a salesman and then manager for five years. For four years, he was named Top Market Manager of Sterling Insurance and was a Round Table member for three consecutive years. Mr. Johnson was a member of First Baptist Church in Neches and served as director of music. Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by a brother, Dennis Ray Johnson. He is survived by a loving family including his wife, Toni Johnson of Bullard; his parents, Vernon and Georgia Johnson of Stuart, Virginia; a son, Jeffrey Wayne Johnson and wife Wendy of Pine Bluff, Arkansas; two daughters, Nicole Clark and husband Chant, Natalie Jones and husband Brad, both of Center; a step-daughter, Tina Hardaway of Houston; two sisters, Branita (Pug) Beeson and husband Leon of Temple and Donna Kay Zabodyn and husband Jeff of Elon, North Carolina; a brother, Rodney Glen Johnson and wife Sherry of Burlington, North Carolina; sister-in-law,

Robbie Johnson of Houston; grandchildren Cayden Johnson, Cole Clark, Christian Clark, Brook Sadler, Britney Sadler, Whitney Harrod, Kennedie Smith, and Breanna Jones; and nephews Lloyd Baldrige of Austin and Jeffery Zabodyn of Elon, North Carolina. Pallbearers will be Jimmy Oliver, Jimmy Batchelor, Jerry Smitherton, Todd Thoene, John Lageman, J.D. Hart, and Dan Bridges. Honorary pallbearers will be the male employees of Sterling Insurance. Visitation is scheduled from 5:30-8:00 PM on Friday, October 31, 2008 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. Memorials in honor of Wayne Johnson may be made to Charlie Pack Tadpole Foundation, 7111 Bosque Blvd., Suite 207, Waco, Texas 76710.

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ Thank you for your leadership and guidance. You will be remembered by all you have touched.

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**Aaron Hampton** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ We feel extremely lucky and blessed to have known such a fine man. We will miss him terribly. Toni, I am so sorry for your loss and always know that we are as close as a phone call.

Love,  
Janis and Joey O'Kelley

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**Joey and Janis O'Kelley** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ My family wishes to express our deepest sympathy to you Toni and to your family during this most difficult time. Mom has always spoken of Wayne with high respect as well as being such a joy for everyone to be around. Know Toni that you are in our thoughts and prayers as we ask God to carry you through the pains of your loss.

Rae, Daughter of Mary Alice

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**Rae Hutchings** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DZ

“ Jeff and I so wish we could be there with all of you at this difficult time. Wayne was so special to me. He was a big brother I could call if I needed. He encouraged me even when his health was failing. I saw how many lives he touched and how he wanted to be a witness even up until he could no longer have the strength to speak. I thank God for the 42 days I had there with him. I know he is free from pain and happy in Heaven. I miss him so much already my heart is breaking. I WILL see him again some sweet day in Heaven , and Dennis too. I am sorry I can not be there for his services because of finances and my inability to be able to ride for 21 hours. I will be with all of you there in spirit and mind. Mom is not doing good. I am going to see her today. Toni stay strong and look often at what Wayne had me write on your board in your work shop. He loved you so much. He can smell all the gardenias he wants now and see such beautiful sights. The last bloom I have here is opening today. I have it beside his photo. Our church is having a little memorial service for him on Sunday night since I can't make it to the funeral. You are in all our prayers at church. Phillipians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which Strengtheneth me. Hug everyone for me.  
Love, Donna Kay

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**Donna Kay Johnson Zabodyn** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JZ

“ You will be missed And loved.  
See you one day in Heaven.

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**jeff zabodyn** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ I want to express my sincere sympathy to the family and friends Wayne has left behind. My brother and his wife, Janis, spoke so highly of him and you, Toni, that I feel like I know you. Wayne was there for my brother and I cannot extend enough thanks for that. I know the Lord will comfort you in the days to come and I know that Wayne is not sick anymore but in the presence of His Lord, brother and other loved ones. I know my Mother will give him a big hug for what he did for Joey! God Bless.

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**Vicky O'Kelley Croft** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ a lot of people donot know some ofthe things wayne done in his service .Like taking a small church and with the help of god see grow to a large church to seeing a new church built. most of the nails were driven by him and his dad. Or how much he loved to fish .He would set trotlines and run them all night . my dad still has that old boat he got from Wayne. you will be missed by alot of people ..waynes life left alasting impression on a lot of people over the years . TO THE FAMILY OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU .

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**rocky rozell** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ We are praying for Wayne's family. We are thankful that Joey knew Wayne and thankful how Wayne ministered to Joey and Janis. Blessings!

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**Gayle Childs** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ Toni, I met you and Wayne on one occasion. The two of you came by to visit with Janis and offer your friendship and support at time that she desperately needed a shoulder and kind word. Joey truly loved his association with Sterling and he especially loved and respected Wayne, his boss and friend.

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**Emily Adams** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Wayne and I became close friends when I left Sterling's training department and joined his sales team in the Tyler office. I went on to become a true colleague as the Market Manager in the Waco office. We remained close friends even when I lost my position with the company. When Wayne was in the hospital in Dallas, he called me to see how I was doing, job hunt wise. There he was with a hole in his head and he was worried about me. Now, that's a true friend. I felt like I could trust him with anything. I will sorely miss my dear friend. However, I know that I will get to see him yet again when the Lord calls me home as well. Thank you, Wayne, for being a stellar guy!

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**Jim Cox** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ We are so sad that our Wayne will not be with us any longer. We will miss his daily calls. There were so many . We are rejoicing though because he is at home in Heaven with a new body and no more pain or suffering. I play everyday on the keyboard " There's Going to be a meeting In the Air " We know that some day we will meet Wayne in the air in heaven with our other loved ones that have gone on before us. Dad misses his oldest boy so much. He was his first born son. We couldn't have been more blessed with a son such as Wayne was. He and Toni sent us many goodie boxes in the mail and so many other nice things . We treasure them all. We are still eating the candy that he sent us. Toni we are praying for you and the family and are sorry for your loss as well. We know how much he will be missed. Love and prayers, Mamaw and PapPaw

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**Vernon and Georgia Johnson** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Hello,  
I'm a long time friend to Donna Kay Zabodyn. I've listened to her brag about her brother many times. She was very proud of him and I feel her broken heart. I wish I would have had the opportunity to meet Wayne and his wife.  
I'm so very sorry for your loss....

*Jaclin*

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**Jaclin Fulkerson** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ *May God bring the comfort and peace the family needs at this time. May the Holy Spirit fill the hearts of those grieving over their loss. Only God can fill that empty hole inside. You will continue to be in my prayers.*

*God bless you with peace and rest in Him.*

*Donna S. Johnson/friend of Donna Z.*

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**Donna & Gareth Johnson** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Toni, thank you for the loving and tender care you have always gave my baby brother. You have nurtured his physical, emotional and spiritual health all these years. He was truly blessed to have you as his best friend and wife.*

*Leon and I will always treasure our memories we all made together. I will miss my phones calls from Wayne at my office to see what I was doing but I know that he now has greater conversations. He will be in our hearts forever until we are all together again.*

*It has been a long and hard struggle for him and he is now free from all of it and doesn't have to say "I Can Only Imagine" anymore, he now knows, and I know, he bowed down!*

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**James Bickley** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *I want to express my deepest sympathy in the loss of your husband Wayne. I have met you one time at church with Donna. Please know that you and your entire family are in my prayers. I pray peace and comfort for you at this time.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tony and Sherri Wolford*

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**Tony & Sherri Wolford** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ WAYNE WAS A SPECIAL UNIQUE MAN AND I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH HIS FRIENDSHIP. I JUST KNOW HE IS ALREADY SINGING IN GODS HEAVENLY CHOIR, I WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH. THANKS WAYNE FOR BEING MY FRIEND

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**MARY ALICE OLDHAM** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *Dear Family of Wayne,*

*I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I became acquainted with the Johnson family at the old Northshore Church of the Nazarene in Houston, Texas many years ago. My father-in-law was the pastor of that church.*

*Wayne was a blessing to many. May God comfort and sustain you always.*

*Mildred Holcomb*

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**Mildred Holcomb** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HN

“ *We have watched Wayne through the years and have been pleased with his life and accomplishments. Our hearts are saddened to see him go but blessed to know that he is now with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

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**Houston Calvary Church of the Nazarene** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ Toni,  
I've been corresponding with Donna Kaye concerning Wayne and his battle with cancer. Wayne and his family lived next door to mama and daddy on Force Street in Houston for many years and also attended the Nazarene church with them. Wayne and my brother Skeets were the same age. This family means alot to us and we are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that you and your family are in our prayers.

Elaine Young Nicholds  
Mable Young

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**Elaine Young Nicholds** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ I'm so sorry for your lost and if there is anything I could do for you please just call. I have prayed for him alot, and will continue for comfort for the family. Im so sorry!!!

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**Mary Wolford** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ We were so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband and Donna's brother. We know this is a very difficult time for you. Donna is having a hard time being so far away, but thank God that she has her Church family. Please know that you all will be in our thoughts and prayers. In Christ, Pastor Mike & Belinda Jones, Pilgrim Chapel Baptist Church.

Rq2EHK

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**Pastor Mike and Belinda Jones** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers!! May God Bless You!!

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**Brent and Missy Smith** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ my dad was a wonderful person he touched many peoples hearts and lives. he will be truely missed. dad will still be with us where ever we go in our hearts. i know that someday i will see my dad again when i walk through the gates of heaven. he will be there waiting.

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**jeffrey wayne johnson** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Toni, I read about Wayne in Center's paper this afternoon. I'm so sorry. I wish I could have been there. Please know the love and prayers of our family are with you and all of Wayne's family. We love you. Aunt Jayne

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**Jayne Hughes** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ We will miss Uncle Wayne. I especially know and see how much my Mom misses him.

When my Mom ( Donna Kay ) told my son Logan about Uncle Wayne he got big tears in his eyes and asked Granny , Did uncle Wayne Die Granny and she said ,yes , he is in Heaven and Logan then asked With Jesus and Dennis ? Granny assured him yes that is where he is at. Logan has prayed with Granny for a long time for Wayne's healing. We know he is now healed .We will miss him but are comforted by the fact we KNOW where Uncle Wayne is at. Time will heal broken hearts. In tribute to Uncle Wayne and honor of my Mom who unselfishly helped where she could I give thanks that they both are healed. She really hated missing his funeral but could not afford to fly back again and my mom is not able to travel far by car. Each thing she does is a task for her. At the end of each day even keeping the kids she hurts but she is a true believer in the same verse that she says Uncle Wayne loved and she has always loved it since she almost died in 1979 .God was not ready for her yet but I know when he is she too will have a perfect body with no more aches and pains and hurts.

Phillipians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Last night at Mom and Dad's church their pastor had a memorial service to help Mom find some closure to losing her oldest brother since she could not attend the funeral service of Uncle Wayne. It was a wonderful service. Mom wrote a eulogy for Uncle Wayne that her pastor read for her knowing she was too emotional to do so herself and they played the CD of him speaking of Tom Bryant and him singing "He touched Me" and also the one of him singing "Calvary's the Reason Why." Pastor Mike read all the appropriate verses from the bible. Mom had a very handsome 8x10 picture of Uncle Wayne there on the communion table.Her pastor said he looked like Kenny Rogers. That is what we always thought too. I know he is rejoicing with Uncle Dennis and loving his new , healed, perfect body. We will always love you uncle Wayne!  
Jeffrey James Zabodyn Jr & Family

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Jeffrey J Zabodyn Jr - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ As I try to comprehend and understand everything that has happened in the last two years, I realize God's perfect plan. In my dear Dennis' passing on to glory, God made it possible for me to come back to Texas. I often wondered what God had in store for me and it was revealed as I was able to be with my brother Johnny and his son Joshua during the long illness of his wife and Joshua's mother Dianne. God gave me the words to minister to them both. God took Dianne home on August 11, 2008. So Toni, I say to you with love and understanding, God has a plan for your life. I know you will miss Wayne and I pray for you to be patient and listen for God's sweet voice. He will always be with you.

Love,  
Robbie

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**Robbie Johnson** - October 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM