



## Dr. Jerry Lloyd Johnston

November 19, 1937 - February 3, 2021

Memphian Dr. Jerry Lloyd Johnston, 83, a servant of Christ, went to his heavenly home on Feb. 3, 2021.

Dr. Johnston was born in Monette, Ark. on November 19, 1937 to Cynthia Alena Johnston and James Albert Johnston. He attended Arkansas State University and earned his dental and pediatric dental degrees from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry.

Between earning his dental and pedodontic degrees, Johnston served as a captain in the U.S. Army stationed in LaRoche, France where he met his future wife Joan, whose father was also stationed there. The couple settled in Memphis and had three children. Dr. Johnston founded Pediatric Dental Group in Whitehaven in 1968 which expanded to two practices in both East Memphis and Southaven, Miss. where he treated multiple generations of patients. He was also on staff at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center.

An active member of First Evangelical Church, Johnston served as a longtime elder and head of the missions board and in foreign missions for decades. His heart for missions was evident even as a young dentist when he worked for a year for the state of Kentucky traveling in a mobile unit in Appalachia doing dental work in rural communities. Johnston made many trips with his family to Belize to run dental clinics and has traveled to Austria, India, Singapore, Nepal, and the former East Germany providing dental care and supporting local pastors. He has led multiple Bible studies at church and with friends and neighbors. His guiding light in life was Christ's charge in Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." His gentleness, kindness and love for the Lord touched the lives of countless people and will continue to be his legacy.

Johnston is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Joan Tibbs Johnston; his sons, Jerry Kirk Johnston and wife Karen Grupp Johnston, and James Kevin Johnston and wife Amy Rhodes Johnston, all of Memphis; a daughter, Julie Johnston Litfin and husband Matthew Allen Litfin of Wheaton, Ill.; nine grandchildren: Kate Johnston, Allie Johnston, Fraser Johnston, Ethan Johnston, Ross Johnston, Luke Johnston, Sally Litfin, Lauren Litfin and Audrey Litfin; a brother, James Dennis Johnston and wife Sheila Davidson Johnston of Paducah, Ky. and a niece, Kathryn Denise Johnston Jennings and husband Craig Lee

Jennings and their three children of Hernando, Miss., along with extended family, many friends and generations of former patients.

Funeral services will be held at First Evangelical Christian Church on Sunday, February 7 at 2 p.m. with Pastor Cole Huffman and Pastor Ronnie Stevens officiating. There will be seating for 250 people and the service will also be live-streamed at [firstevan.org/funeral](http://firstevan.org/funeral). In lieu of flowers the family asks that expressions of sympathy take the form of contributions to [Missions@firstevangelicalchurch](mailto:Missions@firstevangelicalchurch).

# Cemetery

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## Memorial Park Cemetery

5668 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, TN, 38119

# Events

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**FEB**

**7**

## Memorial Service

02:00PM

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First Evangelical Church

735 Ridgelake Blvd, Memphis, TN, US, 38120

# Comments

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“ Dr. Johnston was my dentist when I was a kid. He was a great guy - very funny and gentle mannered. I will be 50 this year, but I still have distinct memories of visiting his office in Whitehaven. God bless his family and I trust he is celebrating with Jesus.

**Brandon Lail** - February 08 at 03:26 PM

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“ Jerry: such a good man inside and out. Following Gods callings. He encouraged all and gave so much of himself and his talents to everyone. We have all been so blessed by knowing Jerry Praying for the Love and Peace that passes all understand for each and all the family.

**sarah K Dyer** - February 05 at 06:10 PM

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“ Jerry was so proud of his family and always kind and gracious. He took pride in all he did and was a very accomplished person. He loved being outdoors and shared his gracious smile daily with his neighbors. Jerry was truly forever young in spirit. We will miss him dearly.

**Adrienne Zaitz** - February 04 at 11:48 AM

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“ Jerry was so much more than a neighbor. He was a dear friend and brother-in-Christ. He always had a terrific smile and kind word for you. He will be greatly missed and always remembered.

**Cheryl M Parker** - February 04 at 09:13 AM