



# John Johnson

**Godfrey | Friday, November 22 2013**

Elder John Wesley Johnson passed away peacefully in the arms of the Lord on November 22, 2013 at his home. John was a “*Show-Me State*” native son of Jim Johnson and Mary Reddiex, and raised by his grandfather, Tom Reddiex, in the Boot Heel area of Southeast Missouri, where he also received his elementary and high school education. He received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior during his boyhood years. He was called to ministry during his young adult years, and later served as Pastor of New Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Charleston, MO. He worked hard as a “Share Cropper” on large farms in Sikeston and Bennett, MO. After he relocated to Alton, IL in the mid-1960’s, he joined ministry fellowship at Bethesda Temple and served faithfully as Associate Elder for several years. Subsequent to this assignment, he joined the congregation at Grace Temple in St. Charles, MO where he served as Elder under the pastoral leadership of the late Bishop Jessie L. Watts. Elder Johnson worked as a crane operator at OLIN Corporation completing nearly 30 years of service prior to his retirement in 1995. He also worked part time in the same capacity at the Sand Plant, earning the beloved nickname of “*Big Daddy John*” at both locations. Elder Johnson was preceded in death by his devoted wife, Joyce Irene Johnson, his parents, grandparents, brothers Joe and Robert Johnson, and sister Barbara. Left to mourn his passing are 2 daughters: Essie Getter of Alton, IL and Joyce Fortenberry (Willie) of Jacksonville, FL; Son: Ronnie Buchanan (Sophia) of Sikeston, MO; grandchildren: Carmen Boyd of Alton, IL; Jesse Getter Jr. and Leonard Getter, Indiana; Henry G Cobb (Andrea) of Atlanta, GA; Renee Cobb-Pressley (Ronald) of Jacksonville, FL and 3 granddaughters, Whitley, Tyler, and Miranda Buchanan of Poplar Bluff, MO. Also grieving this foot-stomping, hand-clapping praying preacher is his devoted caretaker, Linda Smith, who enjoyed hours of fellowship and laughter with her “Adopted PaPa”. She gave God her heart and accepted His Spiritual Gift of Helping and Hospitality. He is blessed to leave a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends. Visitation will convene Wednesday, November 27, 2013 from 9 until time of service at 10:00 a.m. at Harrison Funeral Chapel. Dr. Gregory L. Harrison will officiate. Interment will immediately follow at Valhalla Cemetery.

