Sincere THANKS

WIFE

Carol "Ellen" Johnson

CHILDREN

Glen & Margarita Johnson
April Cardelli
Rennie Johnson
Duane Johnson (*with Jesus*)
Nancy Lenhart (*with Jesus*)

GRANDCHILDREN

Celeste Polanco
Shawn Johnson
Nicole Lenhart
Stefan Lenhart
Luke Cardelli
Sarah Becker
Rebekah Cardelli
Noah Cardelli

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

IN LOVING
MEMORY OF

FEB 10, 1928 - JUNE 18, 2025

MELVIN *Johnson*

Monday
30 JUNE 2025

AT ONE O'CLOCK
CORNERSTONESF CHURCH
3459 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master."

Matthew 25:21

A LIFE WELL LIVED

FEB 10, 1928 - JUNE 18, 2025

On June 18th, a beloved founding member of our church went home to heaven. Melvin Johnson was born on February 10, 1928. He lived to be ninety-seven years old and still retained a sharp, active mind as well as a deep love for Jesus until his passing.

In 1946, upon returning home from his service in WWII (Melvin was part of MacArthur's famed guard in Tokyo, Japan), he started work as a service engineer for United Airlines, where he stayed until retiring some forty years later, around 1987. In 1951, Melvin felt led to help plant a church in San Francisco. Along with his wife, Ellen, and another couple, he asked my grandfather, Albert H. Brisbane, and his wife, Elinor, to pray about starting one. He told them, and this is something Melvin would say many times over the years, "If Bert was willing to lead a church, Ellen and I would back him all the way." After prayer, my grandfather said yes, and a new church—Apostolic Temple of San Francisco (what eventually became Cornerstone Church of SF)—was born in 1952.

Melvin served as my grandfather's right-hand man and was the secretary-treasurer for almost three decades. He was also instrumental in securing the loan that allowed for the 1963 purchase of the Cornerstone building we own on 17th Street in the Mission. He faithfully served in the church as an elder until he retired around the age of sixty-one, and it was then that he and Ellen began the next phase of their ministry.

Together they fulfilled a long-ago dream and calling to serve in a foreign mission field: first in China as part of a Bible smuggling ministry and then later in India as missionaries to pastors and ministry leaders. Melvin and Ellen served abroad—flying back and forth from San Francisco as their home base—until their retirement from mission work when Melvin was eighty-four.

For the next thirteen years, Melvin was a fixture at Cornerstone. He continued to lead a weekly Bible study small group in Millbrae, along with the founding pastor's wife, Elinor Brisbane, and several others. Week in and week out, he never lacked joy or enthusiasm for the things of God. For him, the Scriptures were an inexhaustible treasure chest, and he loved to explore them in intricate ways. His love for the Kingdom, for the church here in San Francisco, and his love for Jesus—the King of his heart—will live on as an enduring legacy for anyone who has been or will be impacted by our church.

Melvin Johnson is connected to all of us at Cornerstone. He walked by faith. He put his money and time into play, believing it was true treasure laid up in heaven, and he died a wealthy man—possessing the wealth that Jesus said cannot be taken away. He is a Cornerstone legend. His race now finished but his story unfinished, in heaven and on earth.

Thank you, Brother Melvin. We shall miss you, but not forget you. Until we meet again in Christ, in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Pastor Terry Brisbane