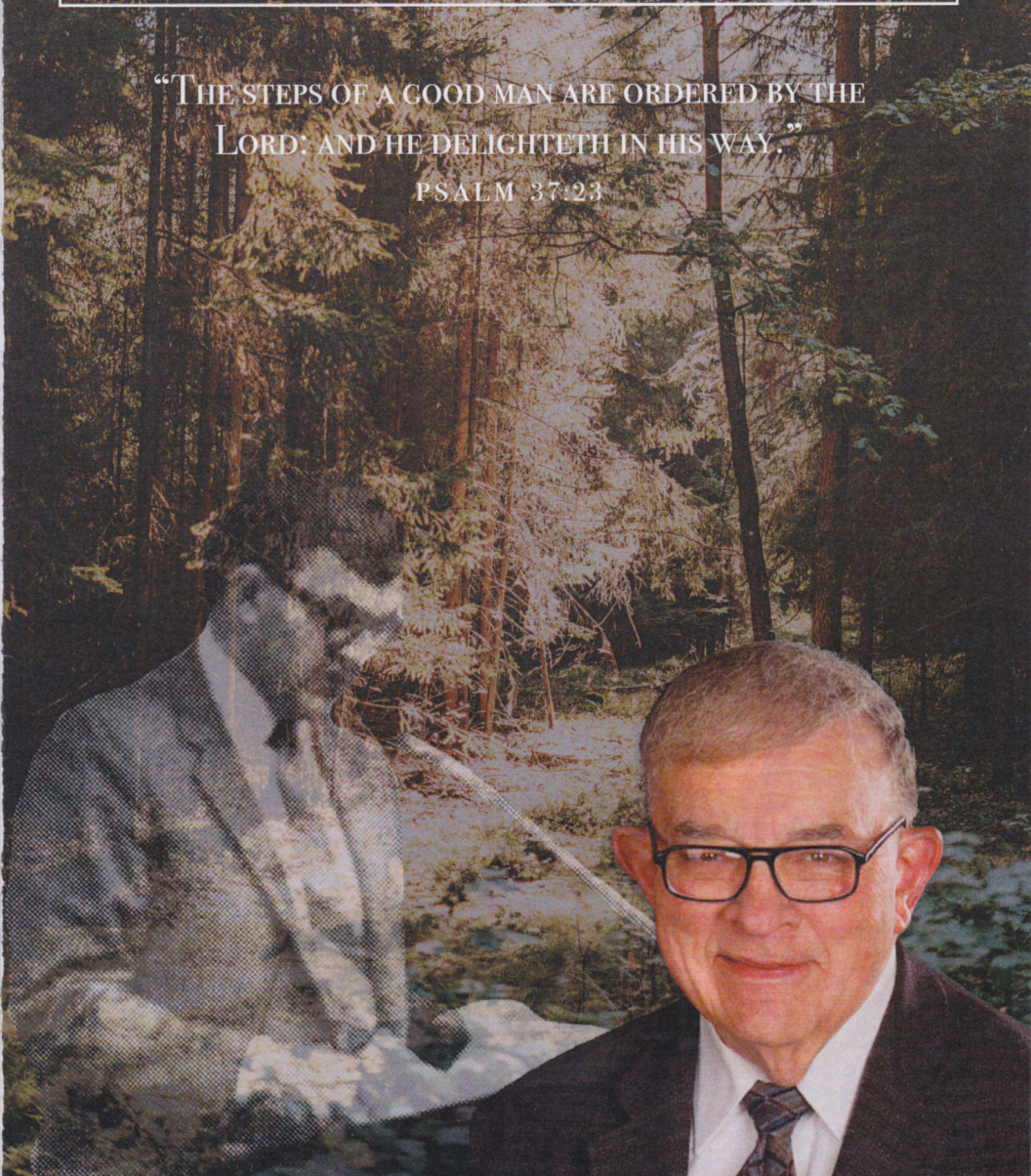


REMEMBERING  
DR. JOHNNY COLSTEN

OCTOBER 11, 1934 - OCTOBER 22, 2020

“THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN ARE ORDERED BY THE  
LORD: AND HE DELIGHTETH IN HIS WAY.”

PSALM 37:23







## THE LIFE OF JOHNNY COLSTEN

Born in Muncie, Indiana, on October 11, 1934, Johnny was the third of four children of Harry and Grecial Colsten. This close-knit family lived right next door to Bro. Colsten's grandmother, who was very influential in the family faithfully attending the Whitely Methodist Church every week.

Johnny was saved when he was 12 years old, but he got the assurance of his salvation when he was 15. Johnny had a happy childhood and teen years, learning how to work hard with his father and brothers, while seeing how his father took loving care of his family, especially his mother and sister.

After Johnny graduated from Royerton High School in 1952, he went to Ball State University. During his senior year, he met Miss Elaine Habegger. After graduating from college, Bro. Colsten was drafted into the Army. Before he was shipped to Germany, he and Elaine were engaged. Elaine graduated from Ball State while Bro. Colsten was away, and upon his return, they were married on June 20, 1959. While living in Fort Riley, Kansas, and after being married for only a year, Bro. Colsten was shipped to Korea.

While Bro. Colsten was in Korea, Mrs. Colsten was offered a teaching position in Hammond, Indiana, moved there, and began attending First Baptist Church. Soon after Bro. Colsten arrived in Korea, an abandoned baby girl was available for adoption. He brought her back to the States with him. The Colsten family began to grow with the addition of Keren.

The family moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky, until Bro. Colsten was discharged from the Army. The Colstens then moved back to Hammond in March of 1962 and made it home. Their family grew again with the birth of their son Jeff. Mrs. Colsten jokingly says, "Johnny had the first baby, and I had the second one!"





After attending First Baptist Church for a while, Bro. Colsten was hired by Bro. Hyles to be an assistant pastor. His initial duties included working with the Rescue Mission and expanded into the organization of all transportation for Pastors' School and visiting all new adult church members. Bro. Hyles then asked Bro. Colsten to start visiting the sick, and while that is not all that he did as a staff member, it is the one thing for which he is best known.

Bro. Colsten comforted and prayed with the sick, rejoiced with parents of new babies, compassionately conducted funerals and memorial services for departed loved ones, visited and loved his adult Sunday school class, baptized thousands of new Christians, read the Scriptures before the messages of three pastors and many guest speakers, played "Old Timer" during Vacation Bible School - and he made us laugh!

Even though he was a busy man, Bro. Colsten devotedly loved and cared for his wife of 61 years and their children and proudly showed pictures of his six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Most importantly and most impressively, he loved the Lord Jesus and wanted to please Him with his life. He desired to show the love of God to everyone and through everything he did. As Pastor Wilkerson has described godly Christians, Bro. Johnny Colsten did the right thing, in the right way, for the right reason, for a long time, and was truly the epitome of a servant.







————— THANK YOU —————

FOR JOINING US TODAY AS WE CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER THE  
LIFE OF OUR BELOVED HUSBAND, FATHER, FRIEND, AND  
SERVANT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.  
THE COLSTEN FAMILY



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMMOND  
PASTOR JOHN WILKERSON