

Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

AUGUST
2025



Alice McPherson Benson Johnston (May 11, 1929 – July 1, 2025)

Alice Benson Johnston, 96, of Tijeras, NM, died on July 1, 2025.

She was born in Norwich, New York in 1929 to Rev. Norman McPherson and Florence Fairbanks McPherson. “Our first-born baby, Alice, ushered in the Great Depression,” her parents quipped. Alice grew up helping her mother make and distribute sandwiches to unemployed neighbors. She helped raise her two younger brothers, David and Bruce. Although her parents were from New York City, they chose to send Alice to the local public schools. Later, she studied at Wheaton Academy and Wheaton College, IL while living with her aunt, Helen Fairbanks Eve.

On September 8, 1948, Alice married Donald Ebenezer Benson, a Wheaton classmate, who shared Alice’s upstate New York origins. The Wheaton College Revival of 1950, which resulted in one-third of the graduating class becoming foreign missionaries, had a transformative impact upon Alice and her husband. They became missionaries to the Philippines from 1957 to 1972 with the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

In 1972, they moved to Albuquerque, NM to



minister at Faith Baptist Church with Alice’s father, Rev. MacPherson. Rev. Don and Alice Benson went on to plant several churches in the Albuquerque area, beginning with Agape Baptist Church. Alice worked tirelessly as a Christian educator, church school principal and a manager at the High Teens thrift

shop.

Five years after Don Benson’s death in March 2005, Alice married Donald Anthony Johnston in 2010, and together they managed the prison ministry, Titus House.

In 1950, Alice gave birth to her daughter, Constance Louise Benson (spouse Brian D’Agostino) while a student at Wheaton College. Alice and Don expanded their family and adopted Janet Kathleen Benson in 1956, James (Jim) Elliot Benson (spouse Kerry) in 1961, and Kelly Joe Benson (spouse Brook) in 1969. In turn, Jim and Kerry Benson gave birth to three grandchildren, Andrea Jo Reed, Marisa Kathleen and Morgan Kyle. Andrea Jo and her husband, Lamar Reed, gave birth to one great-grandchild, Aaliyah Jo Reed, in 2023.

Alice is survived by her husband, Don Johnston, her children and their spouses, grandchildren, her great-grandchild, and her beloved mountain dog, Goldie. (continue on pg. 2)



Alice

She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Nancy and Wanda MacPherson, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Don Benson, and in 2018, by her brothers, David and Bruce MacPherson.

When she became a missionary, Alice chose a Bible verse which remained her life theme: *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”* (John 15:16 ESV)

A Memorial Service is scheduled for family and friends at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 9, 2025 at Foothills Fellowship, 12504 Candelaria Rd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. For more information, please call Don Johnston at (505) 315-7940.

India's Trains Will Use AI-Based Facial Recognition At Railway Stations to Identify Sex Offenders

Source [freepressjournal.in](https://www.freepressjournal.in) 7/21/25

AI-powered facial recognition will be deployed at major Indian railway stations, including Mumbai CST and New Delhi, to identify known sex offenders. The initiative aims to enhance safety, particularly for women, by integrating AI tools with national offender databases under the Safe City project.

The Indian government will soon begin using artificial intelligence-based facial recognition systems at major railway stations, including Mumbai CST, New Delhi, and Ahmedabad, to track individuals listed in the National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO). The initiative is part of a broader plan to enhance passenger safety, particularly for women, under the Centre's Safe City project.

The AI system will be linked with CCTV cameras installed at railway stations, reports TOI. It is designed to scan faces in real-time and compare them with entries in the NDSO, which currently contains over two million records of convicted sex offenders. The goal is to flag known individuals attempting to enter or travel via railways, **allowing authorities to take appropriate action.**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved this pilot rollout at seven major stations across the country. In addition to Mumbai CST and New Delhi, the system will also be deployed at Bengaluru, Chennai, Howrah, Ahmedabad, and Pune stations. These locations were selected due to their high footfall and strategic significance in the rail network.



Remembering Alice By Sandy Zalecki

My dear friend Alice, the founder of Titus House, passed away on July 1st. Anyone who knew Alice will miss her dearly. I know I will.

I'm not sure exactly how I got Alice's information and hooked up with her back in 2009. I'm sure it had something to do with Titus House, a ministry for sex offenders, and my husband being on the registry. When I learned of her past I was impressed. She had spent many years in the Philippines as a missionary, and she had spent many years a pastor's wife in Albuquerque. When her first husband passed, she eventually started Titus House. She said she really didn't want to start the ministry, but the Lord kept pushing her that direction. One thing I learned about Alice was her deep devotion to the Lord and her calling. She was always willing to go where the Lord was leading her even if it wouldn't have been her first choice..

All those accomplishments were amazing, but the one thing that really stood out to me was that she was about to turn 80 years old and she was going to Las Vegas to drive a race care. I was intrigued and said, "I've got to get the know this woman." And I did. My husband and I would drive from the 220 miles for Deming, NM to Albuquerque to meet with her. She was always welcoming. She became a friend, a mentor, and a spiritual mom to me.

She was single and the time, but things were about the change. I got a call from her one day. She said, "There's the guy named Don. He needs some transportation." My husband and I were going to trade in his 1995 Red Ford Ranger for a new truck, but we decided to give it to Don instead. We thought the truck wouldn't last him long because it was getting older. I found out on thing; Red Ford Rangers live forever. Don still has that truck.

Not so slowly and not over very much time Magic Don used his magic and magically stole Alice's heart. We got a call that they were married. Greg, my husband, and I thought, "Great, now we have someone else to pal around with." That we did. We became a foursome. We had a lot of good times together. In fact, some of the best times I had were spent with Don and Alice. Greg even tried to play the guitar with Don a couple of times. Greg was a good guitar player. All I can say about Don was, he tried.

Everything was going fine until in March of 2017, Greg had a massive heart attack. Greg lived for eight days before he passed away. Who dove the 220 miles just to spend a couple of hours with Greg before he died; Don and Alice. That is a visit I will never forget. Not many people will go that far out of there way just to visit a man on his death bed and a soon to be widow.

After Greg passed, my life changed. I moved to Prescott, Arizona to be closer to family. I didn't see Alice in person much after that, but I knew that I could call her any time I needed to, and she would always take time out of her day to talk with me for as long as I needed. She knew the pain of being a widow and gave me comfort whenever we spoke.

Alice always said wanted to live to be 100 years old. She almost made it. She succumbed to dementia and a stroke at 96. I'm sure the Lord ushered her into heaven with open arms. Now she is reunited with her family, her first husband, my husband, and the thousands of people she helped along the way.

Alice was always the kind of person and Christian that I aspired to be. She was kind, welcoming, went out of her way to help you, and followed the Lord wherever he led her. She had one child but adopted three others and took them into her heart. She ministered to the least of the least without caring what people said or what how it impacted her life.

I love this quote from Billy Graham. "Some day you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God." Welcome to your next adventure Alice. I hope to join you someday when it's my turn to change addresses.



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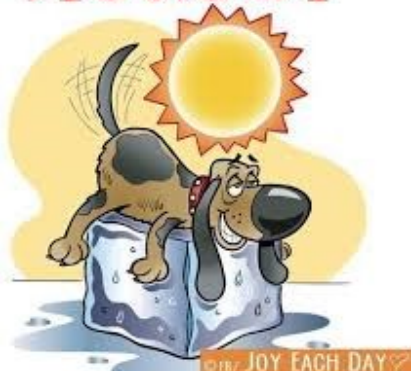
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We're on the Web
titushouseministries.org

Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter

welcome
AUGUST



Message From Don

Hi everyone,

I guess you are wondering how I am doing. As the song goes "One Day at a Time". It is with the help of Jesus and now Alice looking over me.

I hope you had a nice 4th of July and that those in prison were given something good to eat.

I have a lot of letters from you all sitting on my desk. Things around here have been a little busy around here. Therefore please forgive me for not answering your letters. I try to at least enter into the database the new people that write me.

Alice was cremated, I went to pick up her ashes last week. Once I arrived the funeral director ask me if I wanted to open the box she was in. I said yes, and he proceeded to open it. I was surprised to see that her ashes were pure white and looked like crystals. I thought they would be gray or dark

colors. I told the funeral director this and asked him why. He told me that some ashes are indeed gray or dark colors. He said that he thought it had to do with the soul. When he told me this it made my heart smile. Alice told me she wanted to have her ashes spread on our mountain here which is the Sandia mountains at Cedar Crest, She pointed out to me a certain tree she wants to be spread around. She even picked a song by the Gaither called "Good bye world goodbye" that she wants to be played at her Celebration of Life.

Please keep us all in pray as Alice's children come into town. She has kids that live in New York, New York, Portland Oregon, Las Vegas Nevada, and Pennsylvania. Pray for safe travel.

As we carry on her at Titus House we pray for you all. Please pray for us too. May God bless and keep you, May God's face shine on you, may God be kind to you and give you peace.



Circle of Concern has gone **ZOOM**

Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma they face. The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on **August 17, 2025** at 3 pm—4 p.m. MST (Mountain Standard Time). We will meet on Zoom. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us. If you are planning to attend call Don at **(505) 315-7940**. He will send you the link to join by computer or phone. You can contact him at the number above or email him at donmagicjohnston@gmail.com