



## Emmett Solomon

January 2, 1936 - April 26, 2014

Emmett Webster Solomon Jr went to be with the Lord on April 22, 2014 at the age of 78. He was born the fourth child of Emmett Webster Solomon and Velma Upton Solomon on January 2, 1936. He was born on a farm near to Memphis Texas along Highway 287 and the Fort Worth Denver Railroad. He was preceded in death by his father and mother and his three siblings: Garland Stanley Solomon, Henry Lee Solomon and Betty Jean Stanford as well as his eldest son Emmett Matthew Solomon. He is survived by his wife Janet Lorlei Solomon, one son John Mark Solomon and his wife Laurie of Lovelady TX and three grandchildren: Amanda Solomon of Waco, Stephanie Solomon of Tyler and Stephen Solomon of Huntsville. He is also survived by nieces: Cheryl Betzen of Hereford, Suzanne Kennedy of Yoakum, Karen Jared of Salem Oregon and Kathy Bletscher also of Salem Oregon. He is also survived by 4 nephews: Stanley Solomon of Dallas, Michael Solomon of Hereford, and Craig Solomon of Vega and David Stanford of Allen TX. He is survived by dozens of great nephews and nieces. He graduated from Hereford High School in Hereford TX in 1954, Bob Jones University in Greenville South Carolina in 1958. In 1958 he enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore Kentucky. After one year, he transferred to New York Theological Seminary in New York City. He was pastor at Wurtsboro Reformed Church of America and his family returned to Texas and enrolled to do graduate studies in Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. During his first semester there, he was recruited to Huntsville to do a

course of study at the Huntsville Unit in 1964. Chaplain Clyde Johnston supervised a training program for clergy called Clinical Pastoral Education. Following one year of CPE he began serving as a chaplain for the Texas Department of Corrections at the Central Unit in Sugar Land. In 1967 he was reassigned to the Eastham Unit by Dr. George Beto the Director of TDC. At Eastham he was the first resident Chaplain where he served until 1984. He and Jan raised their family at the Eastham Unit. In 1984-85 he served as Interim Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lovelady. In 1985 he and his family moved to Huntsville. He became the second Director of Chaplains after the death of his mentor Clyde Johnston who was the First Director of Chaplains for TDCJ. He loved being outdoors. He led his sons on some notable expeditions including: Canoe Trips on East Texas Rivers, Bicycle trip to Louisiana, and Motorcycle trips to Padre Island and Queen Wilhelmina Mountain at Mena Arkansas. He was an avid fisherman on the Trinity River. He also had a passion for sports especially football. He followed the Sam Houston State University sport teams and was a loyal supportive fan. After retirement he served for 20 years as Founder and Executive Director of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network housed in the First Baptist Church Educational Building. That organization published and mailed a Prison Ministry Trade Journal for 12 years. The journal was to network people who do ministry with prisoners, prisoner families, victims of crime and Criminal Justice Professionals. RJMN also sponsored 14 statewide Restorative Justice Ministry Conferences and dozens of regional conferences. During the last 8 years, RJMN has focused on the needs of the returning citizens who were being released from prison. Because of health issues he relinquished leadership of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network in 2013. Emmett furnished leadership for several organizations. He was the President of the American Protestant Correctional Chaplains Association in 1978. He held offices on the local and regional level for the Texas Public Employees Association. His service to that organization led to his being elected President in 1982-83. That year he spearheaded lobbying efforts for 186,000 public

employees in Texas and felt good about the 7.5% pay increase the Legislature Awarded to state employees that biennium. Emmett served as President of the Board of the Houston County Hospital in 1983-84; after moving to Huntsville he joined the Huntsville Rotary Club where he was a Paul Harris Fellowship recipient. In 1999-2000 Rotary year he served as President for the club. At the First Baptist Church he served as the Department Director for the Kingdom Builders Department and taught the Andrew Sunday School Class for 15 years. He received many awards for his service: these include the Gene Stallings Service Award, two Volunteer of the Year Governor Awards, Chaplain of the Year from the Salvation Army and the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. The family will receive friends on Friday, April 25, 2014 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville Texas. Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 2:00 pm at First Baptist Church in Huntsville Texas and graveside at 4:00 pm at Evergreen Cemetery in Lovelady Texas. Memorial donations may be made to the Restorative Justice Ministries Network, 1229 Avenue J Huntsville Texas 77340. Memorial condolences may be made to the online at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Emmett Solomon*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I pray comfort and peace for the Solomon Family. Saying goodbye to a dear loved one is not easy. He was always so nice to be around. Emmett is now wearing a crown of jewels and walking on streets of gold.*

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**Sandy Murphy** - April 30, 2014 at 05:10 PM

“ To all of the Solomon family: All of us that operate in the area of restorative justice ministry in West Texas join myself and you in taking off our cowboy and other hats in respect for a man who in the state of Texas has personally served as a pioneer and trailblazer in the area of this unique area of ministry and extending our sincerest condolences and prayers on your behalf in light of Emmitt's passing. Having personally had the privilege of knowing Emmitt on many occasions (both at various conferences as well as previous visits), I am a personal direct beneficiary of Emmitt's most gracious hospitality, example, and Christian demeanor as a man that served as a giant voice here in Texas to encourage the spread and growth of a ministry that the universal Body of Christ has not done enough of in recent years and should do more.

*I might not in my present situation be able to send anything like flowers or anything like that to your family...but there is one thing above all else that I think might be at least one lasting legacy that I would hope to do on his behalf. It's this...Oral Roberts once said, "Success without a successor is FAILURE!" If there is one thing a person like Emmitt has inspired me to personally do, it's this. I now myself eventually am now working in various ways to start up an appropriate ministry organization of my own. It might not be much otherwise I can do to return his old favors to me...but maybe it's one thing I can try to do on my end to keep his candles and torch burning that he has left behind for all of us to follow.*

*Sincerely yours,  
Coy Reece Holley*

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**Coy Reece Holley** - April 28, 2014 at 06:24 PM

RH

“ Jan, So sorry to hear of your loss. As you know, Emmett and my dad, Walt, were infamous for their remarkable fishing expeditions on the Trinity. I will cherish those stories forever. It makes me happy knowing that they are together again, singing praises to the Fisher of all men. Sending our love and prayers to you and your family.

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**Ron & Anne Headley** - April 28, 2014 at 04:03 PM

ES

“ Dear Jan, Joyce & I just read of the passing of Emmett. I am eternally grateful for the time Joyce and I shared our grief at Glorieta. Emmett put his arm around me and told me they needed me in prison ministry. It helped re-direct the rest of our life. I am fighting leukemia now and won't live long. God bless you. Thanks for your love and friendship.  
Chaplain Jack Milligan

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**Emmet Solomon** - April 28, 2014 at 01:55 PM

GG

“ Jan, So sorry I just found out today about Emmett's passing. What a soldier for Christ! Know that we will keep up the fight in his memory and honor.

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**Greg and Dani Gathright** - April 27, 2014 at 07:18 PM

JS

“ Jan, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

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**Judy Sower** - April 26, 2014 at 11:35 PM

AJ

“ We enjoyed the 10 plus years we were a part of "First Contact" and worked with Emmett. Our love and prayers are with you and may God's peace and comfort be with you in these days ahead.

Love,  
Al and Ruby

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**Al and Ruby Johnson** - April 26, 2014 at 09:26 PM

JC

“ Jan, Please accept our deepest sympathy. We had some good times on New Years Day playing cards, etc. and will miss those times. Emmett was a special guy to us and always made us feel special in return. It is comforting to know that our Lord had many crowns awaiting Emmett on his arrival in glory.

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**Jim & Mary Coward** - April 26, 2014 at 01:08 PM

PL

“ Jan..My sincerest sympathy to you and your family. I remember Emmett as a kind and caring gentleman. He has certainly left a wonderful legacy for us all to emulate.

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**Pat Locke** - April 26, 2014 at 12:28 PM

BB

“ Emmett was one of the few people who understood me and took an interest in me. We worked together at the unit, but more importantly, he took me with him to Fort Worth to the seminary and encouraged me to attend. Thanks to him, I became a pastor. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless.

Bro. Bob

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**Bobby and Mary Berry** - April 26, 2014 at 08:31 AM

JS

“ We thank God for the life and ministry of Emmett. He was also a personal encouragement to our ministry in New England.

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**Jim and Bev Spence** - April 26, 2014 at 08:31 AM

LN

“ How sad we were to hear of Emmets passing. Louie remembers the monthly meetings he had at a Chinese restaurant with Emmet and Jerry Groom as they solved the worlds problems over lunch and they counseled him as he sought to direct the Wholeway House aftercare in Willis. Jan we trust the Lords comfort to be real and present as the days go by. So sorry we couldn't be there to celebrate emmets life with the rest of the saints whose lives he impacted.

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**Lou & Denise Nobs** - April 25, 2014 at 10:48 PM

TP

“ I have fond memories of our meetings when he came to the units in the Southern region. He was very helpful to staff and inmates. I will miss him.

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**Terry Pelz** - April 25, 2014 at 06:46 PM

AO

“ Jan, So sorry for your loss. I so enjoyed Emmett's professional and personal friendship. I regret not being able to attend because my wife is in hospice care. He is warmly remembered for his tireless work on behalf of the incarcerated. Well done good and faithful servant!

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**Al O'Brien** - April 25, 2014 at 06:40 PM

KS

“ Jan, more Loving Prayers are being sent your way and I know you are being wrapped in His comforting arms with Emmett's passing. We were all very Blessed by knowing such an awesome man. :o) Love You!

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**Kathy Smith** - April 25, 2014 at 02:17 PM

EA

“ Jan & Family, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Edd & Terry Artherholt** - April 25, 2014 at 11:19 AM

MU

“ Jan, you and your family are in our prayers. Pastor Solomon was a very good friend and mentor to me and the Newgate ministry. He will be missed very much and always loved.  
Pastor Marvin Hood & Newgate Church Family

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**Marvin & Bonita Hood/Newgate UMC** - April 25, 2014 at 11:08 AM

MB

“ Jan, please know that we are lifting you up in prayer and know God will bring you comfort in this difficult time.

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**Martha & Michael Blume** - April 25, 2014 at 10:31 AM

VE

“ I am sorry to hear about Emmett. He was a good Christian and a very caring person. You and your family are in our prayers. Msy God sustain and guide you through this.

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**Vicki Pledger Easley** - April 25, 2014 at 10:11 AM

TC

“ Words can't express the sorrow I've experienced since learning of Emmett's passing. He was one of the finest Christian men I have ever known. As I told my Bible class this morning, he started well and finished well. Jan, I know the coming months will be lonely as you go through the grieving process. But we have the comfort of knowing that Christ will never leave us or forsake us, and that Emmett is in the presence of the One whom he loved all these years. My prayers are with you and your family. May God grant you the peace that passes all understanding.

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**Terry M cRight** - April 25, 2014 at 09:57 AM

JL

“ Jan, We are so sorry for your loss and know how much you will miss him. He was a wonderful example of the meaning of a true Christian and his impact on so many lives will live on through future generations.

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**Joe and Cheryl Lawson** - April 25, 2014 at 09:21 AM

RF

“ Jan and family, So sorry to hear of Emmett's Passing, I hold fond memories of our time on Eastham together. Emmett was instrumental in my formal education at Sam Houston, and my TDC Career. I always looked forward to seeing Emmett (and you) at the Old Timers reunion.. Prayers to you all.

Ray

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**Ray Forrester** - April 24, 2014 at 10:53 PM

LP

“ *A mighty oak has fallen but the acorns he has planted are many. He was truly a great leader for many men. He will be missed but his trees he planted will grow.*

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**Lou Powers** - April 24, 2014 at 09:54 PM

DB

“ *Please accept our sympathy in your loss. May God give you grace and peace.*

*Keith Bellamy*

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**Dr. Keith Bellamy** - April 24, 2014 at 09:19 PM

LK

“ *Jan -  
We were so sorry to hear about Emmett. He always held a special place in our hearts since he married us almost 25 years ago. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*Much love -*

*Lundy and Gene*

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**Lindy McDaniel and Gene Keller** - April 24, 2014 at 08:55 PM

JH

“ *Jan sorry for your & yours loss know that you are loved buy all of us here at Southwest Texas Prison Ministry of which you and Emmett helped birth some 25 years ago.*

*Love always*

*Jerry & Tommie Hatfield*

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**Jerry & Tommie Hatfield** - April 24, 2014 at 06:22 PM

DF

“ Jan, I am so sorry to hear of Emmett's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May God comfort you!

Deborah Fowler - April 24, 2014 at 05:22 PM

JM

“ Jan and family, we are so sorry to hear of Emmett's passing but know that his deeds will be fond memories for untold numbers of people whom he served during his life here. He did this unselfishly in God's name.

Joyce & Jimmy Merchant - April 24, 2014 at 04:17 PM

TC

“ Darinda and I appreciated Emmett's ministry at TDCJ. It was a privilege to serve under him as a Chaplain. We will keep his family in prayer as they walk through this time of grief.

Tim & Darinda Crosby - April 24, 2014 at 03:46 PM

PS

“ May the Lord of glory comfort your hearts and grant you peace. A GOOD SOLDIER has gone home to be with the Lord.

*Grace and Peace be with you.*

Penny Stemley - April 24, 2014 at 03:17 PM

TG

“ Jan and Solomon family - No doubt Emmett has already heard "Well, done!" from The Lord! But I suspect Jesus has had to give all the others the first 1000 years to say, "Thank you!" to Emmett for the part he played in their being in the Kingdom!

Beyond those already there many of us are celebrating the wonderful influence and impact he had on us personally. Others are also remembering just how Emmett encouraged our ministries in Restorative Justice.

His legacy has impacted eternity for countless individuals and families. I know Emmett would be deflecting that glory to Christ as he always did here! Blessings on all of you as you rejoice and grieve all at the same time. May God give you great comfort between now and when you see him again.

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**Tomi Grover** - April 24, 2014 at 03:12 PM

TB

“ Dear Family ,  
I have been involved with Prison Ministry for 14 Years and anyone that has been involved with this knows of Emmett and all the good works he has done to grow the kingdom,He has changed and helped so many. He was my inspiration and a Mentor to many. My Deepest Sincere Prayers are with all of you.

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**Thomas J Barnes** - April 24, 2014 at 02:48 PM

PS

“ *Jan and Family,  
We send our deepest condolences to you. It was our great privilege to have gone to High School in Hereford, TX with E.W. and to have known the Solomons. E.W. always had a cheerful smile and Christian attitude and always so pleasant to be around. E.W. was truly a special person.*

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**Phillip & Wynogene Sharp** - April 24, 2014 at 02:22 PM

SW

“ *Jan and family, on behalf of TDCJ Volunteer Services we wish to convey our deepest sympathy during this difficult time. Additionally we want to convey our sincerest gratitude for all Emmett did in advancing the efforts of prison ministries in Texas. He has left a legacy and will forever be remembered for his "love of the least".*

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**Stacie Woods** - April 24, 2014 at 01:39 PM

SR

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy to the Solomon family. I worked with Emmett back in 80's 90's and early 2000's while working with the BGCT Restorative Justice office. I will always remember his kindness and the work he loved being a part of. God bless you all. He was a faithful Servant!*  
*Sharon Helton*

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**Sharon Helton Rodgers** - April 24, 2014 at 01:31 PM

DW

“ Jan and family, you don't know me, but I met Emmett on numerous occasions in my work with Prison Fellowship and later Child Evangelism Fellowship. I also had a sense that I was in the presence of a giant when I was with him. As I read his obituary, I was struck again that this was a life well-lived, and he finished well. Blessings to you all.

*Debbie Walsh*

*US Director of Prison Ministry*

*Child Evangelism Fellowship*

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**Debbie Walsh** - April 24, 2014 at 01:26 PM

GB

“ Jan, my thoughts and prayers go out for you and your family. Emmett will truly be missed, he was one of my favorites from my times in the boat business.

*Gary Bass*

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**Gary Bass** - April 24, 2014 at 10:34 AM

CL

“ Jan and family, Paul and my thoughts and prayers are with you. Emmett was an inspiration to us all and your collective love and devotion to family, friends, and community are certainly noted.

*On a personal note, Jan, I'm thinking of you and know your personal strength and spirit will be a comfort to you....Cindi*

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**Cindi and Paul Loeffler** - April 24, 2014 at 10:00 AM

RC

“ Jan, I am so sorry for your loss. He fought a good fight and he was a blessing in so many ways.

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**Randi Clower** - April 24, 2014 at 08:49 AM

BT

“ We are very sorry to hear about Emmett. May God be with you at this time. God bless all of your family at this time of sorrow. Remember he is in a better place now.

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**Bruce & Mary Thaler** - April 24, 2014 at 08:39 AM

JG

“ Jan and Family: What a pleasure it has been to know the fine Christian man Emmett was. Tommy who enjoyed 1991-2012 in Emmett's Sunday School class, considered Emmett the best SS teacher he ever had, as well as the wisest man he knew. May God bless you.

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**Jeanne Greer** - April 24, 2014 at 12:39 AM

DG

“ Jan and family, we are sorry to hear of Emmett's passing. He was a such a kind and caring man. A great Christian example for others. Prayers for God to give you comfort during this time of grief.

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**Donna and John Gilbert** - April 23, 2014 at 11:06 PM

KB

“ I love each and every one of you. I have always considered yall family and am thinking of all of you through this difficult time. We know he is in a better place now watching down on all of you. Please don't hesitate to call if there is anything you need.

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**Kristen Bitner** - April 23, 2014 at 10:24 PM

KF

“ Our love and prayers to the Soloman family. Emmett was a faithful man of God and was a shining example to all who knew him of what a decent human being should be. We love you especially Mrs. Soloman...we will always be your kids...even if kindergarten was long ago. May God Bless you.

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**Kevin & Michelle Fritze** - April 23, 2014 at 09:03 PM

LW

“ Jan, So sorry to hear of your loss. Emmett was a wonderful man and a true Christian. May God's peace be with you.

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**Linda Wiley** - April 23, 2014 at 08:57 PM

BM

“ Jan and family, you are all in our prayers. Emmett was so special to so many others and always lived his beliefs and convictions. We love both of you very much. If there is anything we can do please let us know.

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**Billie & Donna Mims** - April 23, 2014 at 07:50 PM

NJ

“ Well, Solomon Family, all of you know how much we loved you Dad and love your Mom. Emmett is one of those special people who comes along. Not near enough of those! Carry him in your heart and he will always be with you!

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**Norma Dell Jones** - April 23, 2014 at 05:37 PM

DH

“ Jan:  
Sorry for your loss. He was a great Christian and example for many. God bless.

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**David Henderson** - April 23, 2014 at 05:29 PM

DB

“ *The Solomon family has my deepest sympathy. We can all take comfort in the knowledge that Emmett is now enjoying the company of his Maker.* ”

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**Dan Beto** - April 23, 2014 at 05:11 PM