

Commendation of Christie Johnston:

For the last 14 years, I have had different degrees of interaction with members of the Johnston family. During that time, I have been amazed at how God has used these choice servants for the advancement of His Kingdom. And though I had known 'about' Christie Johnston and her commitment to Christ for well over a decade, nothing could have prepared me for what I have come to know during the last several years.

In 2005, I first visited the church Christie and her husband personally founded. That congregation has been one of the fastest growing churches in the United States since its inception. After moving to the metro Kansas City area, my family and I immediately joined that congregation and, soon after, began serving on staff. The close bonds I developed with Christie remain to this day. It is from that intimate knowledge I have gained of Christie's life that I wish to share with you in this commendation of her ministry.

Christie Johnston is, first and foremost, a devoted follower of the Lord Jesus. I know from personal interactions with her that she is a woman of prayer and a woman of the Word. She also is deeply committed to sharing her faith in Christ through personal and mass evangelism. I have seen her personally minister one-on-one to people in the name of Christ, and I have also heard her speak to thousands at a time when she issued a clear, clarion call for people to respond to the gospel. These evidences of a solid and abiding personal faith are supplemented by her commitment to solitude, study, fasting, worship, and many of the other disciplines practiced by mature believers throughout history.

Along with balancing her commitment to Christ, Christie has maintained a delicate balance with family, local church ministry, and academics ever since I have known her.

With regard to family, Christie is intimately involved with her children and grandchildren. To illustrate this commitment, I can personally attest to the fact that all of her children are faithful followers of Christ and each serves in full-time Christian ministry. These children are all, in their own right, unusually able ministers and communicators, each with his or her own unique set of gifts and personalities that have been cultivated and enabled by Christie and her husband.

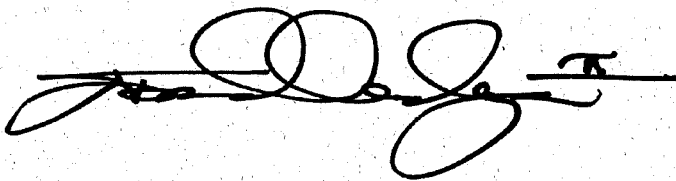
Christie also serves as what I consider to be a model Proverbs 31-like wife to her husband, Pastor Jerry Johnston. I consider the couple to be a towering model and a godly example of fidelity, devotion, and commitment to Christ. In fact, she and her husband may be the single-best examples of purity and collective spiritual power that I know anywhere in the ministry.

In her church ministry, Christie personally established the women's ministry of First Family Church, Overland Park, KS— which has included ministries like an enormous Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) ministry and major women's ministry rallies, in addition to dozens of "Comfort Circles" recovery ministries for men and women. She has also been strategic in the launching of a truly superb Christian Academy, in addition to literally dozens of other key ministries that are regularly touching and transforming lives throughout the greater metro Kansas City area.

Beyond that, Christie Johnston is an absolutely commanding communicator. She is, hands down, the single-best female communicator I have ever heard. She is *also* one of the finest communicators and teachers I have ever met, regardless of gender. She is capable of reeling in her audience with a disarming manner, but dropping an atomic weapon of truth on everyone present, leading to an enormous spiritual fallout and a powerful radiation of God's power.

Beyond these, Christie has a rare type of clarity with her ideas and understandings of biblical truths that easily translate on the written page. I have seen dozens of pieces she has written, and each is marked by depth mingled with practicality. Some good speakers do not have the ability to capture the drama of a live event and encode that energy onto the written page. Not so with Christie~ this is another of her formidable talents that has been supernaturally enabled through the skillful exercise of her spiritual gifts.

More could be said, but these remarks cover the waterfront of my experience with Christie Johnston. Her ability to work within her giftedness and to carefully weave those anointed gifts with her temperament and personality is a great key to her current impact. Because of her devotion to Jesus, it is my hope that she will continue to come into contact with strategic movers and shakers who will be able to help position her for even greater impact. The evangelical world needs a voice such as hers—and though she has already gained a great deal of notoriety, it is my prayer that her future impact will be exponential compared with the past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freddy Cardoza', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Freddy Cardoza, Ph.D.

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