



## Abraham Mathai

March 2, 1939 - November 23, 2024

Abraham Mathai, age 85, of Bourbonnais, Illinois, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on November 23, 2024. A beloved member of his community, a devoted family man, and a lifelong servant of the Lord, Abraham's impact will be felt by all who knew him.

Born on March 2, 1939, in Kuzhikala, Kerala, India, Abraham and his sister Aleyamma Chacko were raised by his dear mother, Aleyamma Abraham, after the passing of his father when Abraham was just 3 years old. His mother instilled in him a deep love of Christ, a strong work ethic, and a passion for education. Abraham's early years were shaped by her influence, and these values guided him throughout his life.

Abraham married his beloved wife, Saramma, in November 1959, and shortly thereafter, in January 1960, he moved to the United States to attend Olivet Nazarene University. He earned both a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a Master's degree in Theology from Olivet, where he developed a lifelong passion for science and faith.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Abraham worked for over 40 years at Mobil Chemical and Valspar Coatings, where he made lasting contributions to both companies. He also spent several years at St. Mary's Hospital, where he touched countless lives through his dedication and care. Abraham's faith was central to his life. A lifelong member of College Church of the Nazarene, he was an active congregant for more than 60 years. He found great joy in his J.O.B Bible Study and in his involvement with the

Homebuilders Sunday School class, where he formed lasting relationships and deepened his faith. He also volunteered with the Gideons and the Bourbonnais Library, sharing his love of learning and his commitment to service.

Abraham was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Aleyamma, and his wife, Saramma, who passed away in 2003. He is survived by his children: Saji Mathai and Joyce Mathai of Bourbonnais, and Thomas Mathai, his wife Libby, and their children Noah and Micah Mathai of Plano, Texas. Abraham was a devoted father, grandfather, and friend, and his family was a constant source of joy and pride.

He shared a special bond with his five brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law, as well as his nieces and nephews and cousins who were all dear to him. Abraham will be remembered for his gentle spirit, unwavering faith, and generosity of heart.

He enjoyed playing golf with his friends and cherished the time spent with his grandsons. His legacy of love, faith, and service will continue to live on in the hearts of his family, church, and community.

A visitation will be held at Clancy Gernon Funeral Homes (Bourbonnais) on Friday November 29 from 4 pm to 8 pm.

A funeral service will be held at Clancy Gernon Funeral Homes (Bourbonnais) on Saturday November 30 at 10 am with burial to follow at Kankakee Memorial Garden. Abraham will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his lasting impact through his faith, love, and service will continue to inspire those fortunate enough to have known him.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Abraham's name to the College Church of the Nazarene Missions:

[https://subsplash.com/u/-QZBD6G/give?frequency=once&next\\_process\\_date=11/26/2024&fund\\_id=7ee14ba6-fd98-4110-99ae-f17ae693ac70](https://subsplash.com/u/-QZBD6G/give?frequency=once&next_process_date=11/26/2024&fund_id=7ee14ba6-fd98-4110-99ae-f17ae693ac70)

# Cemetery Details

## Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

NOV **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ Joychayan or Appachan (as I fondly called him) was my father’s (Late Mathew K Abraham, Mavunilkunnathil, Kuzhikala) uncle. I met him for the first time when I arrived in the US for higher studies. Appachan helped me a lot in several ways to settle down at the University where I studied. I do not have words to express the gratitude for all that he did for me during my stay there. From receiving me at the airport to the last day when I left, he was there for me. He was a very loving and gentle person and his kindness can never be forgotten.  
Heartfelt condolences and prayers to Joyce and the rest of the family. May God comfort and strengthen each of you at this time.

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**Seena Mathew** - November 30, 2024 at 12:41 PM

JB

“ Thoughts,prayers and sympathies are with all of you.

*John Bourrell*

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**John Bourrell** - November 30, 2024 at 11:54 AM

RJ

“ I am deeply sorrowed to hear about the passing of our dear Joychayan.words cant express the sorrow I feel for the loss of our dear uncle.  
Our heartfelt condolences and prayers.May his soul rest in peace.His kindness and love will always be remembered .

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**Rosamma John** - November 28, 2024 at 10:31 AM

DB

“ Abe was a true gentleman and one of the kindest individuals I ever met. He always had a smile. Keeping Abe’s family in my prayers.

Donna Bedeker - November 28, 2024 at 09:02 AM



“ One of the nicest people I have ever meet, he will be greatly missed.

Raymond Pudlo - November 28, 2024 at 05:49 AM

MW

“ One of the truly finest men. I was privileged to know him. Mike Weimann

Mike Weimann - November 27, 2024 at 01:12 PM

AM

“ I have known Joychayan only for 20 plus years. When he was in better health he would call and inquire about us. Though he will be missed here on this side eternity, we hold that hope of seeing him soon. Our sincere condolences to his loving family. From Babu and Aji - Atlanta GA

Annie Mathew - November 26, 2024 at 08:02 PM

ET

“ Our deep condolences in the passing of Dear Abraham Mathai . He was one of the people I met when I came to the U.S in 1970 . Our encounters were limited but I remember him as a decent person , a Gentle soul . May God grant Peace and Comfort to the family and dear ones 🙏🙏

Elias Thomas - November 26, 2024 at 12:36 PM

RU

“ Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the grieving family of Joychayan. I have faint memories of visiting Kuzhikala on one of his visits from the US. He was my Dad's first cousin (Dad's Mom Ammachi's brother's son )



Rosalind Thomas , UAE - November 26, 2024 at 03:04 AM

MA

“ In loving memory of Kuzikkala Joyachayan, my dear first cousin and beloved brother. I cherish memories of his childhood, marked by his father's untimely passing and his mother's unwavering dedication. Joyachan excelled academically and spiritually, serving as a Sunday school teacher and nurturing strong family bonds. I fondly recall his weekly visits to our house and the countless times he had walk and carry me to his home. His perseverance and faith inspired me as he pursued his dream of studying Bible, moving to the USA, and settling there. Though we were apart for many years, our reunions in 2016 are etched in my memory. Joyachan's legacy continues to inspire me, and I am grateful for the memories we shared. Rest in peace, dear Joyachan. Your memory will live on in our hearts.

Ponnumon Manappallil

Mathew Alexander - November 25, 2024 at 10:43 PM

SO

SoosammaEaso &family. Mavunilkunnathil.kuzhikala.  
Our heartfelt Condolences &prayers.May his soul rest in peace.

SoosammaEaso - November 27, 2024 at 01:35 AM

AK

“ *My uncle was comfort to me. Whenever I need any kind of advice I used to call him and he would give me best advice. He get along everybody. He helped so many people. He knew hardship, so he would help newly arrived immigrants.*



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**Ann Kurian** - November 25, 2024 at 08:07 PM

AK

“ *My only uncle on my Mother's side. He was my favorite person. He was more than my uncle. My mother had only brother. No other sister. When they were younger they were so close. He had no younger brother or sister. When I was born he was so happy. I was like his first born. He was so smart in school and college. He was on deans list at Olivet Nazarene college all the time he was studying there. He came to all my family functions.*



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**Ann Kurian** - November 25, 2024 at 05:57 PM

JT

*Joy Chayan was more than just family; he was a friend, a guide, a source of endless joy. His laughter could light up any room, and his kindness touched everyone he met.*

*When we moved to Clifton, a town close to Kankakee, I remember few weekends with him; sharing stories from his travel from India to USA by ship, those were entertaining as they were insightful. He always knew how to make every moment special, turning the ordinary into something extraordinary. He had a knack for making everyone feel valued and loved. Whether it was his words of encouragement or the way he always showed up when it mattered most, he taught us true meaning of family.*

*Joy chayan was a pillar of strength and wisdom. He had this unique ability to see the best in people, and he made us all strive to be better versions of ourselves. His legacy lives on in the values he instilled in us, the love he shared, and the countless lives he touched.*

*Though he is no longer with us, his spirit remains in our hearts, guiding us and reminding us to live with the same kindness, courage, and love that defined his life.*

*Rest in peace joy Chayan. You will forever be missed but never forgotten.*

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**jacob Chacko (Raju, Memphis, TN.)** - November 25, 2024 at 07:14 PM

JB

*Thank you Abe for your Christian example of friendship and help. May God bless you and your family!*

*John Brennan*

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**john brennan** - November 29, 2024 at 11:03 AM