

E. STANLEY JONES



The Rev. E. Stanley Jones preaching in the Sat Tal Christian ashram, 1960s.



E. Stanley Jones as a young missionary to India, 1940s.

Missionary to India, Global Evangelist and Author

Born in Clarksville, Maryland, E. Stanley Jones was converted at age 17 and graduated from Asbury College in 1906. In 1907, under the Board of Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he went to Lucknow, India. Ordained as both a deacon and an elder in 1908, he worked as district missionary superintendent and revival preacher.

Responding to a call to serve India's intelligentsia, Jones delivered carefully prepared addresses, followed by grueling question and answer periods, in public halls throughout India. His early narrow and individualistic approach became more liberal and social.

Jones attended meetings of the International Missionary Council at Jerusalem (1928) and at Madras (1938). He founded a Christian ashram at Sat Tal in the Himalayas (1930) and later an international ashram movement. He was a friend of Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders of all religions; his sympathies with the nationalist movement antagonized the British authorities and

kept him out of India during World War II. To avoid war between Japan and the United States, Jones worked with his Christian contacts in the Japanese embassy in Washington to stimulate last-minute communication between President Roosevelt and Emperor Hirohito. His interest in mental health led to the founding of Nur Manzil Psychiatric Center, Lucknow (1948).

From the 1930s, Jones's evangelistic work extended to six continents, including 10 visits he made to postwar Japan. His interest in church union led to 500 addresses to Christian gatherings across the United States. He wrote 28 books, giving all royalties back to the church for scholarships and evangelism. His labors brought missions and evangelism to the forefront again and furthered peace and social witness. He declined episcopal election (1928). He received the Gandhi Peace Prize in 1961 and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Source: James K. Matthews, in *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*, with modifications.