

Dr. E. Stanley Jones (3 Jan 1884-25 Jan 1973)

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E. (Eli) Stanley Jones (3 Jan 1884-25 Jan 1973) Stanley Jones was born in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. He was educated in Baltimore schools and studied law at City College before being graduated from Asbury College, Wilmore, Kentucky in 1906. He was on the faculty of Asbury College when he was called to missionary service in India in 1907 under the Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He landed in Bombay on 13 November 1907. He began his work in Lucknow, among the members of the very low castes and the outcastes. He did not attack Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, or any Indian religion. He presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ, disentangled from western systems and cultures, and their sometimes non-Christian expressions. "The way of Jesus should be—but often isn't—the way of Christianity," he said. "Western civilization is only partly Christianized." From 1921 -1970 he was one of the main speakers of the Maramon Convention. The messages of Dr. Stanley Jones combined evangelistic challenges with social concerns. In 1946 with the help of his friends in USA he donated a megaphone (loud speaker) for the Maramon Convention. He is remembered chiefly for his interreligious lectures to the educated classes in India, thousands of which were held across the Indian subcontinent during the 20th century. According to his and other contemporary reports, his friendship for the cause of Indian independence allowed him to become friends with leaders of the up-and-coming Indian National Congress party. He spent much time with Mahatma Gandhi, and the Nehru family. Gandhi challenged Jones and, through Jones' writing, the thousands of Western missionaries working there during the last decades of the British Raj, to include greater respect for the mindset and strengths of the Indian character in their work. He is also the founder of the Sattal Christian Ashram movement. He is sometimes considered the "Billy Graham of India".
