TITLE: 30 Days with E. Stanley Jones

SUBTITLE: Global Preacher, Social Justice Prophet

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PUBLISHER: Read the Spirit Books, an imprint of Front Edge

Publishing, LLC.

Publication: February 15, 2022

FORMATS: paperback, hardcover and eBook

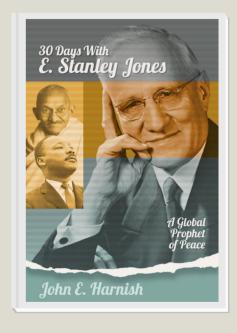
PAPERBACK: ISBN-13: 978-1-64180-131-7

HARDCOVER: ISBN-13: 978-1-64180-132-4

ePub: ISBN -13: 978-1-64180-134-8 **iBook:** ISBN-13: 978-1-64180-133-1

SUGGESTED RETAIL: paperback \$19.99,

hardcover \$27.99, eBook \$9.99



Does a preacher from the previous century have anything to say to this generation? Yes! His clarion call to justice and loving community was shaped by his friendship with Mahatma Gandhi and influenced the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In one of his famous appeals, Jones wrote: "Let us go out to stimulate everybody and throw open the doors of equal opportunity to every single person. We must galvanize beaten down people with a faith in God, in themselves and in the future. ... And this faith in humanity would apply to people outside our own borders."

In his day, E. Stanley Jones (1884–1973) was described as the "greatest missionary since Saint Paul." More than an evangelist, he was the author of 27 books that sold millions of copies. He also was a statesman, the founder of Christian ashrams, an interfaith leader as well as a spokesman for peace, racial inclusion and social justice. He was a confidant of presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, his ministry in India brought him into close contact with that country's leaders including Jawaharlal Nehru, Rabindranath Tagore, and Mahatma Gandhi. His writings from India influenced Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s own nonviolent approach to injustice.

The crystal clarity and the warm hospitality of Jones' Christian message formed working relationships with leaders of other world religions and often startled his own American evangelical colleagues, especially when he prophetically condemned racism as "spiritual treason against God."

As challenging as his preaching sometimes was in confronting injustice, Jones was best known for inspirational Christian messages of hope and refreshment for the millions of people from every walk of life who he addressed either in person or through his writings.

Now, a widespread movement is reviving Jones' spiritual wisdom in the midst of global tensions over faith, ethnicity and race. The Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish, himself a noted Christian educator, writer and pastor, has written 30 short, inspiring true stories from Jones' life and the people that he touched, that illustrate the timeless, loving wisdom that he believed lay at the core of Christianity.

The stories can be read as daily devotionals or could be discussed with friends or within small groups, Sunday schools and congregations. The book includes a complete discussion guide as well as links to introductory videos by Harnish that can be used to spark discussion in your group.

In his introduction to these 30 stories, Harnish writes, "From Jones' life and work, we can hear a word which is as relevant today as it was 75 years ago. In a day when tensions between races and religions are on the rise globally and the message of the Christian faith seems to be either weak or aligned with a political agenda, the voice of a true World Christian needs to be heard once again."

Available at: Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Walmart.com and independent bookstores everywhere.

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JOHN E. HARNISH



Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish is an ordained United Methodist pastor, the Pastor Emeritus at First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, Michigan. A native of Clarion, Pennsylvania he was ordained in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC and served churches in Western Pennsylvania and Michigan, including First UMC Ann Arbor, Michigan and First UMC Birmingham, Michigan.

For seven years, he was the Associate General Secretary for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. In that role, he worked with seminaries and programs of clergy education and was involved in the work of the World Methodist Council around the world.

He has served on the Boards of Trustees for the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Adrian College and the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary in Estonia.

As a writer, he has published two previous books, *The Orders of Ministry in the United Methodist Church* and *Do Not Be Afraid: Bishops and Young Clergy Share Signs of Resurrection and Words of Hope.* He is a frequent columnist for *MIConnect*, the Michigan UM online magazine and the *Record Patriot* newspaper in addition to his weekly blog "Monday Memo" which can be found at JackHarnish.wordpress.com. In 2019 he received the Donn Doten Award of excellence from the United Methodist Association of Communicators.

A graduate of Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and was awarded the Eliza Garrett Distinguished Service Award in 2013.

Jack, as he is often known, is married to Judith Harnish. They have two sons who are both in education and he makes his home on Platte Lake in Northern Michigan.

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ADVANCED PRAISE

This book is unlike most every devotional book I have ever seen: it both warms the heart and instructs the mind. E. Stanley Jones would like this book, and I think you will too.

Dr. Stephen Gunter, Director of E. Stanley Jones Professorships and Teaching Evangelist, Foundation for Evangelism

E. Stanley Jones was one of the world's most influential Christians of the 20th century. Harnish taps into the heart of his life and ministry in this accessible resource. I recommend it to all Christians who want to glimpse what it takes to follow Christ in a multi-religious community.

Dr. Jack Jackson, E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism, Mission and Global Methodism, Claremont School of Theology

John Harnish has done an outstanding work in putting into words the true essence of the remarkable E. Stanley Jones. His way of weaving in Jones' quotes and prayers bring to life the rich soul and spirit of the man. It is a book that is truly enriching and inspiring and brings a word we desperately need in our world today.

Betty Shannon Cloyd, former Director of the Upper Room Prayer Center and missionary to the Congo and to the Navajo People

I like this, a LOT! This is exactly the kind of book that E. Stanley Jones would write. The style speaks plainly with the opportunity for an appropriate response. Stanley would be pleased.

Dr. Robert Tuttle, author of In Our Time: The Life and Ministry of E. Stanley Jones

I remember the pure joy of reading The Christ of Every Road as a teenager in Estonia when religious books were banned. Some people managed to hide copies and shared them with us. Jones was one of my spiritual mentors in the midst of the openly atheist society. Jack Harnish offers valuable insights into the rich spiritual heritage which seeks mutual understanding based on the values of the Kingdom of God.

Dr. Meeli Tankler, Former Rector of the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, Tallinn, Estonia

It is indeed a joy and honor to read Thirty Days with E. Stanley Jones. In its 31 chapters, different aspects of Jones' life and work are described with insights and implications for us in our time and place, so it becomes a valuable resource for both academic research and meditation. I wholeheartedly endorse this work of great value and significance for all Christians.

Dr. Naveen Rao, Principal, Leonard Theological College, Jabalpur, India

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- So how did you get interested in the work of E. Stanley Jones?
- In his time, Jones was best known as a United Methodist missionary, an evangelical of the day. How would you say that label fits him today?
- Your book focuses on Jones' strong convictions about racism and racial justice. Do you feel that has been over-looked in the decades since his death?
- Jones wrote 28 books, most of which were inspirational, devotional books. Do you see his balance between a clear proclamation of the Christian faith and social justice in those books as well as his longer books?
- The cover of your book suggests a connection with Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Let's talk about his relationship with Gandhi. What was that like and how did it develop?
- And what's the connection with Martin Luther King, Jr.?
- I understand his wife, Mabel Lossing Jones was pretty effective in her own right. What can you tell me about her?
- Some people have suggested that his creation of the "Christian Ashram" was one of his greatest gifts. What is an Ashram and how did that movement develop and where is that movement today?
- One of the most fascinating moments in his story was his work to try to avoid war with Japan. Tell us about that.
- You obviously believe Jones' message is relevant today. Are there places where you think he falls short, or is out-of-date?
- If you were to pick one phrase, one theme to characterize the life of E. Stanley Jones, what would it be?
- Jones wrote 28 books, many of which are being republished by the E. Stanley Jones Foundation. If folks are interested in reading some of his work, where would you suggest they begin?

Contact Information:

