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E. STANLEY JONES

53 Worthington Road  
Brookline, Mass. 02146

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Eastertide, 1972

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This letter comes to you from my hospital bed. It brings you my special greeting, which St. Paul invariably used in his day: "Grace is yours and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." His Grace and Peace are indeed our never-failing heritage.

As many of you will already know, I was smitten with a paralytic stroke shortly after midnight on last December 8 in Oklahoma City. Since there was no telephone in my room it was not until about breakfast time that help came to me. Ashram friends saw to it that I had every attention in the Baptist Hospital in that city. I am indebted to all who extended kindness to me.

I was in Oklahoma City to conduct an Ashram. I had just returned from Japan where during eight weeks I gave 154 addresses. God assuredly blessed the effort Mary Webster and I put forward there, for more than six thousand Japanese signed cards indicating their desire to become Christians.

Just before Christmas my grand-daughter, Mrs. Anne O'Connor an occupational therapist, accompanied me back to Boston where my daughter, Eunice, and her family live at the above address. Here I have so far had two weeks in the Massachusetts General Hospital and more than two months in rehabilitation hospitals.

My condition has now somewhat stabilized. My voice, which was severely impaired, is, they tell me, back pretty much to normal. The right side of my face is still affected. My left arm and leg are also involved. Sight and hearing are restricted but I am grateful that my mind is as clear as ever.

My Inner Voice assures me that my spirit remains unimpaired and that the essential E. Stanley Jones is well. Moreover, He assures me that I shall have the faculties necessary for what He may require of me: sight and hearing sufficient for effectiveness, the ability with assistance to walk again. Even my left arm will be a kind of "handmaiden" to me, empowered to assist my right arm in its work.

For all this I am grateful and if it should please God, in response to the intercessions of multitudes, more fully to restore me -- then His will be done! Meanwhile, I can only repeat the reflection which came to me when I was first visited with this affliction: "I may die and that is victory. Or I may not die and that too is victory. So that whether I live or whether I die, I am the Lord's. It is victory both ways." Years ago He gave me this verse, a kind of guiding star through the years: "In him who strengthens me I am able for anything." (Phil. 4:13, Moffatt)

So I can say, once more with St. Paul, "we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!" (II Cor. 4:9. Phillips) His grace is sufficient for me and I have had no blue hours about this whole matter. At times I seem to be going through a tunnel but there is light at the end! Now I understand the Cross better or Paul's "thorn in the flesh." How often I

have urged that suffering and calamity should be used. Now I bear witness to this from personal experience!

Even from my sick-bed my work goes on. With the cooperation of many colleagues of the spirit plans for the Ashram movement have gone forward. Thanks to Mary Webster and my daughter I am preparing by dictation a draft for a new book: The Divine Yes. (See II Cor. 1:20). Furthermore, my twenty-seventh book, The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person has passed through both galley-proof and page-proof stages. It will be published in June of this year. In addition there appeared in mid-March another book, Selections from E. Stanley Jones: Christ and Human Need. This was compiled by my daughter and son-in-law, Bishop and Mrs. James K. Mathews. Both of these books are being published by Abingdon Press. I commend them to you and your friends. The latter may prove useful, especially because it quotes from some of my books which are now out of print.

Now, may I come to a need with a directness that I have never expressed before. Through the years I have considered those who receive this letter to be my comrades in the pilgrimage of the spirit. You have had an indispensable part in my ministry. All along the way I have put all offerings from the evangelistic meetings into my work for Christ in India. The same has been true of most of the royalties received from my books. This money has, in turn, gone for evangelism in India, for the training of preachers and evangelists, scholarships for students, for Nur Manzil Psychiatric Center, and for the Ashram at Sat Tal in the Himalayas. May I count on you now to do what I can no longer do by myself?

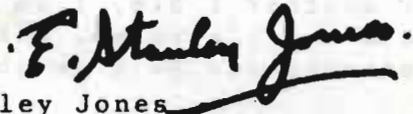
For years I have hoped that enough could be on hand to assure the continuance of this work there during the years ahead. This would require additional gifts totalling at least \$100,000. With this affliction I can no longer work directly for this end. My plea is not for myself but for India. Therefore, I urge you prayerfully to share generously in this extended ministry. As never before I plead with you to participate as God has prospered you.

If you will do so, please send your gifts to:

E. Stanley Jones Work Account,  
c/o H.D. Griffin,  
Room 1547,  
475 Riverside Drive,  
New York, N.Y. 10027.

May the Lord who loves the cheerful giver bless you abundantly.

Your brother in Christ,



E. Stanley Jones

P.S. Please remember the Ashram this summer. Come and bring friends. Many also will wish to attend the World Ashram Congress at Jerusalem, June 22 - July 6, 1972. Details may be had from Brother Bill Richardson's office, 60 Bluff Road, Barrington, R.I., 02806.