

James Harding Jones (January 12, 1897 – January 11, 1988)

Prepared by his son William Branham Jones

When my father was living it was difficult for me to understand why he did a lot of things that he did. Now at the age of 78, I can better understand and appreciate the man who nurtured me through childhood and guided and inspired me throughout the rest of my life. This booklet is written to preserve the memory of my father; his life and the remarkable things he accomplished.

James Harding Jones (or Jimmy, as my mother called him) was born on a small farm near the village, Sunny Side, in LeFlore County, Mississippi at about the end of the 19th century. When Dad was only 10 his father died, and Dad was raised by a loving mother and a caring older half-brother. My father spent two years in France with the Mississippi Rainbow Division during World War I. After the war he attended Ole Miss where he met and married my mother, Myra Hume. During the decades of the Great Depression and World War II he completed a doctorate in the French language, became a foreign language professor in Alabama and raised three sons. Although our family was poor by today's standards, my Dad always provided us with adequate food, shelter, education and a stable, happy home.

At the end of World War II (1946), my father conceived the idea of starting an international student program at his college. By bringing together students from different cultures around the world, they would learn to know and respect one another, thus making a small step toward the goal of world peace. My father and mother devoted themselves fully to this endeavor until his retirement in 1964. In retirement he continued to be an effective teacher of French in Jackson, Mississippi at a high school and college for a number of years.

Dad was a loving husband of my mother for more than 63 years, until her death. He was a faithful, caring father of his three sons; honest, hard working and completely dependable. He had a strong personality, somewhat controlling when it came to discipline. This was reflected both in his teaching and in the raising of his sons. However, when I was born (I was later informed), Dad told my mother in exasperation that he had tried his best to raise their first two sons, but she would have to raise me, the youngest. I later came to realize my good fortune. In the years to come he had a great influence in guiding and inspiring me, but he never exerted on me the kind of pressure that he placed on my brothers. This man of high standards, integrity and strong personality has had tremendous positive effect, not only on my life, but also on the lives of hundreds of his former students and members of the International House Program which, in its 64th year, continues to bring students together from around the world. I have been most fortunate to have him for my father. May the memory of this remarkable man not soon be forgotten.

Content	page
1. James Harding Jones – 1897 – 1946	3
2. The James H. and Myra Hume Jones International House Program -1946 – 1964....	10
3. Retirement – 1964 – 1988	16
4. Parents	23
5. Grand Parents	26
6. Siblings, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces	30
7. Family Tree and Family Bible Records	39