



**In Loving Memory of
Robert L Jones, Sr.**

“May he grant you the desires of your heart and give success to all your plans” — Psalm 20:4.

It was Robert L. Jones Sr.'s heartfelt desire to see this promise realized. His story starts here.

“I was born in Galveston, Texas, and enjoyed a good family life, but in the 1930s, the world was a very different place. While stories of racial prejudice were prevalent, Momma taught us that what was most important was for us to be good people, despite the injustices in the world around us. Eventually, we moved to California in the hopes of a better life. Instead, my life changed profoundly when, at the tender age of 12, my best friend and mentor, my father, died.

Deeply grieved, I prayed to God to help me understand the meaning of what happened, to know him, and to know what he wanted me to do. As I got older, I committed to becoming a father figure to my younger brothers and sisters. I went to school and qualified to be a beautician to support the family. The Korean War was raging in the early 1950's, and I felt an obligation to join the military. In my mind I was protecting my family so that they would have a better life. What happened next changed the course of history in my life.

I promised my best friend that I would look after his girlfriend, Clara, if anything ever happened to him. Tragically, within a few days, he was killed in the line of fire. I sought out Clara, and in time, we were married January 28, 1953. Now, over 71 years have passed.”

— Robert L. Jones, Sr.



Robert & Clara



The Jones Family



Bill Hagler

In the early part of 1957, Robert's lifelong desire to know the Creator was fulfilled. Bill Hagler and others helped both Clara and Robert to come to know and draw close to Jehovah. In 1958, they dedicated their lives and shortly after were baptized. Thus began a new chapter in their lives which would be filled with joy and many blessings. In time, they had five children and enjoyed life with the Mill Valley Congregation in California. Over time, many members of Robert's family came into the truth and helped others to do the same.

In 1965, Robert and the family made the decision to move to the Presidio Congregation (now known as the Golden Gate Park Congregation) in San Francisco where there was greater need. In 1980, they were invited to serve in the circuit work.

"In my view, it was a blessing of a lifetime to serve with my wife on the Circuit after spending our early years raising five children. Jehovah opened a door that required full trust in his holy spirit and directives from the faithful slave. Each week, it touched my heart to help and work alongside our dear

brothers and sisters.

Clara was always ready to help. She was a true beacon for me when anything seemed obscure or difficult. Looking back, the experience that we had with our own children helped us to be patient and loving with the friends."

— Robert L. Jones, Sr.

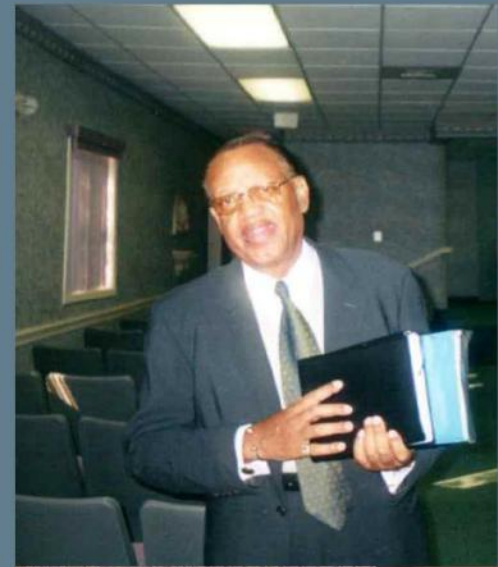


The Joneses spent over 33 years serving in the inner cities of the East Coast, including Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Indiana, and even as far as the state of Virginia. They were keenly interested in the families of the congregations that they served.

One sister recalls an experience that she had when she was nine years old and her sister was six. "Brother Jones sat down and talked to us about our spiritual goals. Later, during his talk to the congregation, he commented about us by name and said how impressed he was with our desire to serve Jehovah."

In their later years, Robert and Clara Jones served circuits in the Los Angeles and Fresno areas. Robert continued joyfully in this work until the age of 81—far beyond the current age limit of 70!

His story will continue in paradise.



"From my perch, serving Jehovah was what life is all about. There are always more clarifications and fine-tuning that we glean from our publications. In reality, serving Jehovah is simple when you follow the bouncing ball of instructions for young and old. We are almost at the finish line for the new world, and my view is eternity. In the event we fall asleep in death, we are still moving on. I just want to open my eyes and see you all, my loved ones."

— Robert L. Jones, Sr.



For more information about the hope that Robert held dear to his heart, please visit JW.ORG