

CHRISTIAN HEROES: THEN & NOW

# CLARENCE JONES

Mr. Radio

**JANET & GEOFF BENGE**

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P.O. BOX 55787 SEATTLE, WA 98155

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Benge, Janet, 1958–

Clarence Jones : Mr. Radio / Janet and Geoff Benge.

p. cm. — (Christian heroes, then & now)

Includes bibliographical references (p. ).

ISBN 1-57658-343-0

1. Jones, Clarence W.—Juvenile literature. 2. Missionaries—Ecuador—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Missionaries—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. 4. HCJB (Radio station : Quito, Ecuador)—Biography—Juvenile literature. 5. Radio in missionary work—Juvenile literature.

I. Benge, Geoff, 1954– II. Title. III. Series.

BV2853.E3J66 2005

266'.0092—dc22

2005016637

### **Clarence Jones: Mr. Radio**

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10 09 08 07 06 05      10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Published by Youth With A Mission Publishing

P.O. Box 55787

Seattle, WA 98155

ISBN 1-57658-343-0

Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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Printed in the United States of America.

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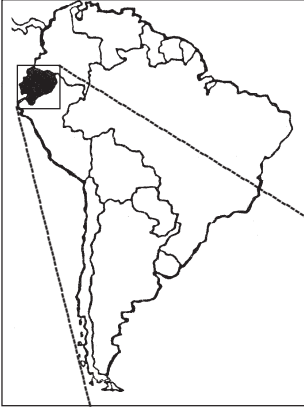
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## South America



## Ecuador





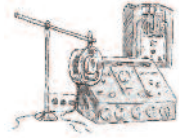
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## Doubts

Clarence Jones stared at the latest letter from the United States. The letter painted a dire financial picture. The economic depression was continuing to deepen, and many people who had promised Clarence and his family financial support were now struggling to put food on the table for their own families. In fact, during all of 1932 the Joneses had received only about five hundred dollars in support. It was not nearly enough to provide for the family and keep their ministry going.

Clarence and his wife, Katherine, had done their best to make the money go as far as possible. Clarence had taken two part-time jobs. The family had gone without some of the necessities they were used to and had planted a huge garden in their yard.

From the garden Katherine canned numerous jars of produce. Sometimes that was all the family had to eat. But their best efforts were just not enough, and by mid-1933 Clarence received word that no more support would be coming from the United States for his family or the ministry.

This outcome stunned Clarence. He and his family had given up everything to serve on the mission field. Was it all for nothing? What more could he give? What had gone wrong? Had God really led him to the mission field, or had coming to it been a horrible mistake?

The turmoil Clarence felt about his family's predicament was made all the worse when an electric bill for \$6.15 arrived in the mail. Clarence had no money to pay the bill, and without electricity there could be no ministry.

Clarence could feel the knot of worry tightening in his stomach as he laid the bill on the table and stared at it. Would his whole ministry go under because he owed less than seven dollars? To Clarence this seemed likely to happen.

Not knowing what else to do, Clarence walked out to the toolshed at the back of the property. He sat down inside and poured out his heart in prayer. But even as he prayed, the doubts kept coming. Slowly, though, his mind drifted back to his earliest memories as a child. He recalled times when there was little to eat in the house and no money to buy anything. Somehow that had never seemed to dent his parents' faith and trust in God. Now it was as if

Clarence had come full circle. There was little food in the house for his family to eat and no money to buy more, let alone pay the electric bill. Clarence began to think about how his parents might have handled the situation. Those boyhood days in Chicago seemed such a long way away and a long time ago.