60 YEARS OF SHARING Through The Advance

1939 World War II creates massive relocation of Missionaries

World War II begins, and Methodist mission and personnel are disrupted. Political upheavals force missionary evacuations and relocations around the world.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South unite to form the Methodist Church. Mission work is centralized.

1941 THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR II

The United States enters World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

1944 \$27 MILLION IS RAISED FOR MISSION

A world traumatized by World War II is in dire need of new vision and new hope. Amid the hunger and want of ruined cities and scorched villages, hope seems lost.

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam requests \$25 million over four years for the "crusade for Christ" to finance war relief and evangelism efforts. An unprecedented 1.6 million new members join the Methodist Church in one year. Fund-raising and evangelism efforts go hand in hand. More than \$27 million is collected for the Board of Missions, predecessor of the General Board of Global Ministries.

1948 GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITS TO WORLD-WIDE MISSION

General Conference declares a commitment to "a world-wide Advance in which Methodists may share in a ministry of relief and in carrying the Gospel of Christ to the peoples of the earth." Because United Methodists from all over the world are connected by doctrine, practice and mission, we are positioned to do the work of Jesus Christ both within and beyond our immediate reach.

General Conference approves the "Quadrennial Plan for Christ and His Church," with an educational component and "The Advance Fund." Projects authorized for giving through The Advance receive designated funds from churches and conferences directly. World Service is raised by 33 percent, and a channel of giving for churches—the "Week of Dedication"—is established.

Gifts are generous, with \$10.5 million for The Advance, \$2.5 million for the Week of Dedication and \$27 million for World Service.

1952 SPECIAL CONFERENCE PARTNERSHIPS ARE ESTABLISHED

The Advance continues for four more years, with a provision that 10 percent of funds raised will go to conference-initiated projects in the United States.

THE ADVANCE IS ESTABLISHED AS A PERMANENT STRUCTURE OF CONTRIBUTION By 1956, General Conference solidifies The Advance as a permanent structure and a continuing source of funding and begins to regulate the ways in which contributions are collected and designated. Local churches collect and send funds

to the conference treasurer, who forwards the money to The Advance.

1968 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS FORMED. ADVANCE CONTINUES.

The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) unite to form The United Methodist Church. The EUB Church had a similar second-mile giving channel. The Advance continues as the two structures merge.

1999 Advance projects received \$44 Million

Contributions to Advance projects totaled \$44 million in 1999, compared to \$30 million in 1998. The previous record for annual giving to the Advance was \$34 million in 1985.

2001 Advance responds to Sept. 11 terrorist attacks

By the end of November, UMCOR had received a total of \$22.3 million through general Advance specials, including "Love in the Midst of Tragedy", the church's special offering in response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In addition, Advance specials to other mission program areas totaled \$13.2 million. Almost \$1 million had come in for bishops' appeals.

Together, these three areas of Advance specials had received nearly \$36.4 million.

2004 United Methodist Global HIV/AIDS Fund Established

The United Methodist Global AIDS fund has awarded a grant to Chicuque Rural Hospital.

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund was established at the 2004 General Conference to raise \$8 million by 2008. Funds are to be used to support programs offering HIV and AIDS education, prevention, treatment and care services in the United States and around the world.

THE ADVANCE IS ASSIGNED A NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

General Conference votes to dismantle the General Council on Ministries and replaces it with the Connectional Table. Oversight for The Advance is changed to The Advance Committee of the Connectional Table and the General Board of Global Ministries.

THE MINISTRY OF THE ADVANCE TODAY

Your gifts through The Advance make a difference! Thanks to your generosity, Bibles are printed, children receive vaccinations, pastors get bicycles for ministry work, wells are dug and much more is accomplished. Lives are transformed daily in Africa, Asia/Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States. You serve in Christ's name through The Advance. More than 2,000 mission projects are funded every year because of your partnership with missionaries and mission organizations in more than 100 countries.