

Global Missions
in the
Presbyterian Church
and at
The Old Presbyterian Meeting House
1949 - 2009



Focus on Partnership

Mission is the work of God

In the Presbyterian Church to do global missions is to walk alongside a partner

The Larger Perspective

“World War II increased the awareness of Presbyterians, as well as other Christians, of the fact that the missionary movement of the nineteenth and early twentieth century had brought into existence a global Christian community on which the sun never sets.

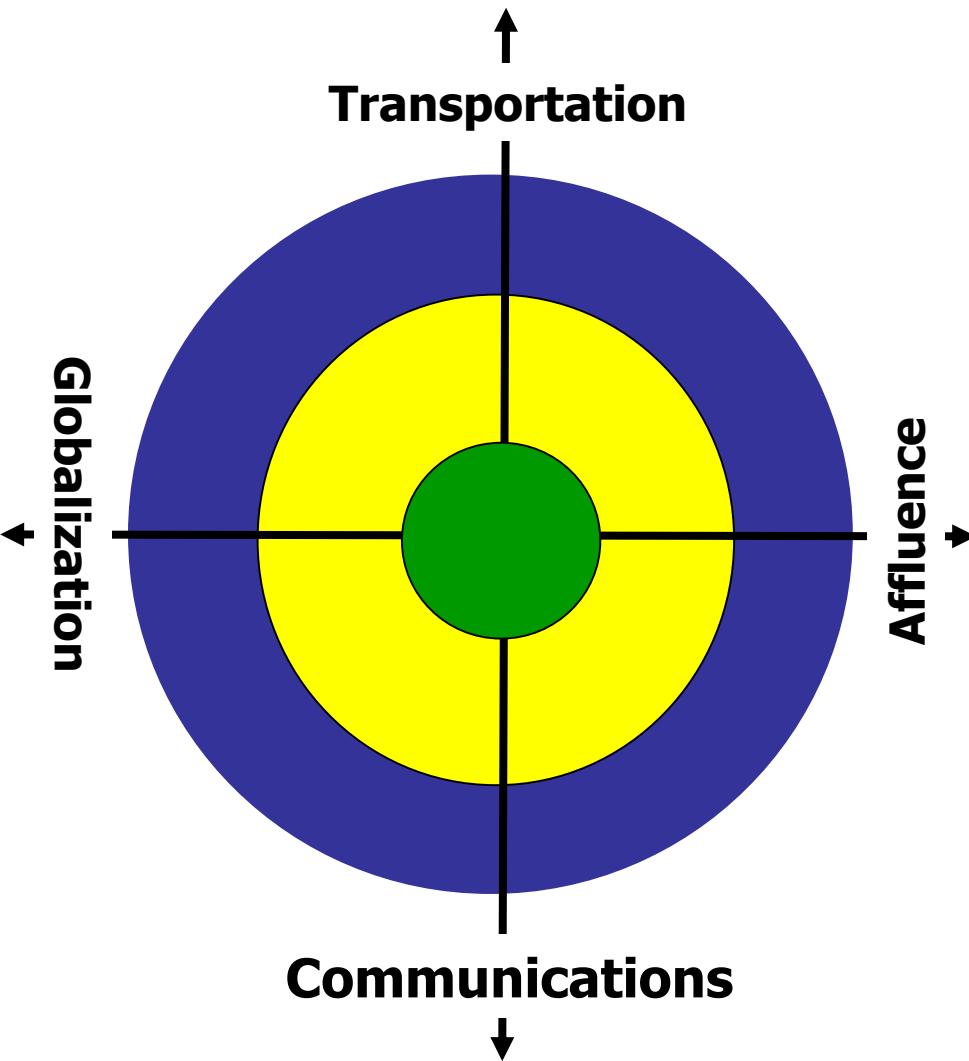
Because Presbyterians through missions had encouraged self governing, self-supporting, self-propagating churches, they now faced the process of dealing with the reformed churches that had developed throughout the world and now asserted independence.

Colonial powers had confronted a similar problem which was sometimes violent, when former colonies asserted their independence.

In 1956, the PCUSA held a conference in Lake Mohonk Pennsylvania, as did the PCUS at Montreat, North Carolina in 1960, to turn leadership roles over to these new churches. The meetings were attended by members of older and newer churches, who helped devise fresh relationships and strategies for mission.”

James Smylie, A Brief History of the Presbyterians, Geneva Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 1996, p. 127

Changes



Partnership

- Congregations take on mission partnerships
- Direct relationships between congregations
- Designated giving to mission partners
- Persistent engagement

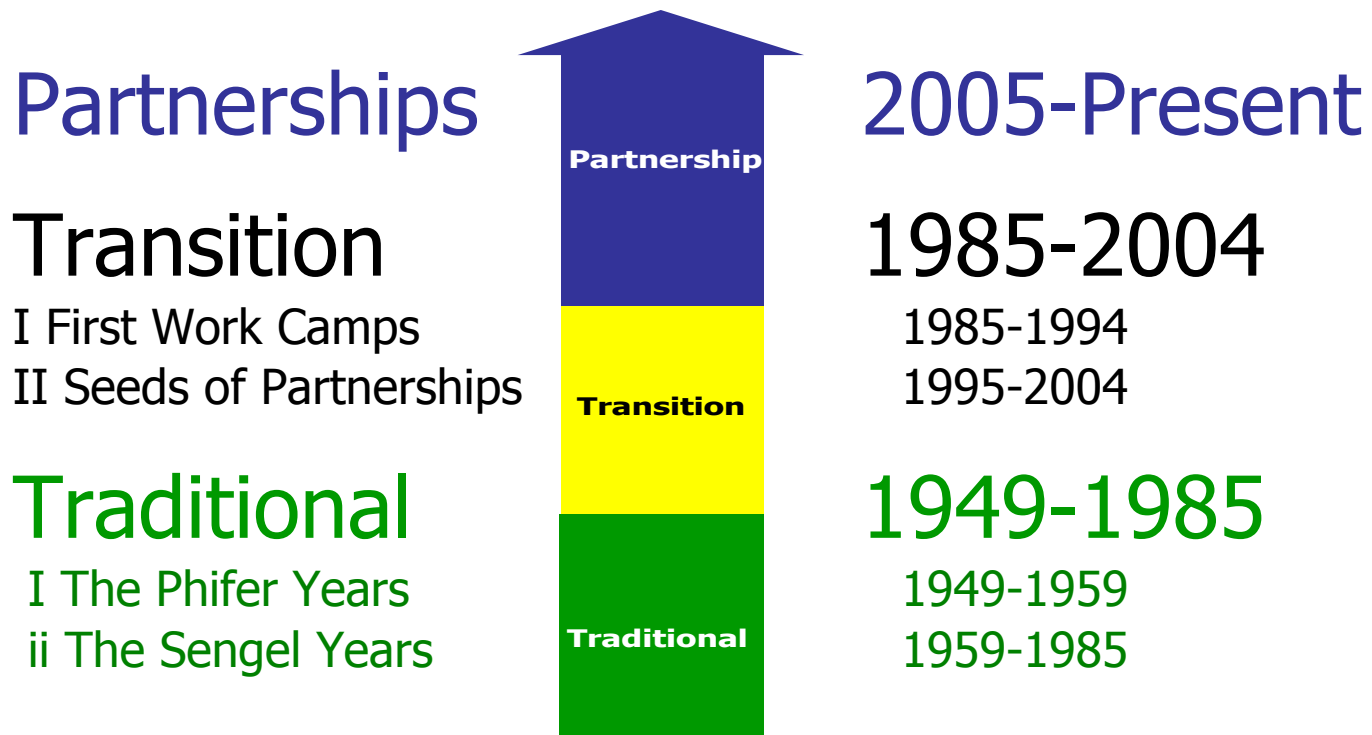
Transition

- Shorter-term mission workers
- Periodic congregational participation
- Designated giving to denomination

Traditional

- Long-term mission workers
- National institutional Relationships
- Undesignated giving to denomination
- Persistent engagement

Phases in the Global Mission Life of the Meeting House



Traditional Phase I

1949-1959 "The Phifer Years"

Key global mission events surround missionary sponsorship and visits, along with response to world events at home



New congregation is formally created
1949

Ruth Daniels becomes the first missionary supported by the new congregation; teaches in Japan and Hawaii
1951



Women of the Church begin supporting two missionaries, Rev Lachlan and Mrs. Winnie Vass
American Presbyterian Congo Mission
1954-1970



World Mission Congregational Supper, with speaker Mrs. Allen Clapp, missionary to Belgian Congo
1955



Congregation approves of issuing a call to Rev. Dr. William Randolph Sengel
1959



Dr. Kenneth Phifer is called to serve as the ninth pastor of the Meeting House
1950

Week of Self-Denial and Prayer for World Missions (with emphasis on Africa)
1953

World Mission program sponsored by Women of the Church
1954

Mission project—congregation assists a German couple, the Hoerdegens to relocate from Germany
1955

Dr. and Mrs. George Hudson, missionaries serving in Taiwan, speak during World Mission Week
1957

1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959

Mission Support 1949-59

"Benevolences"

Undesignated Presbyterian Giving

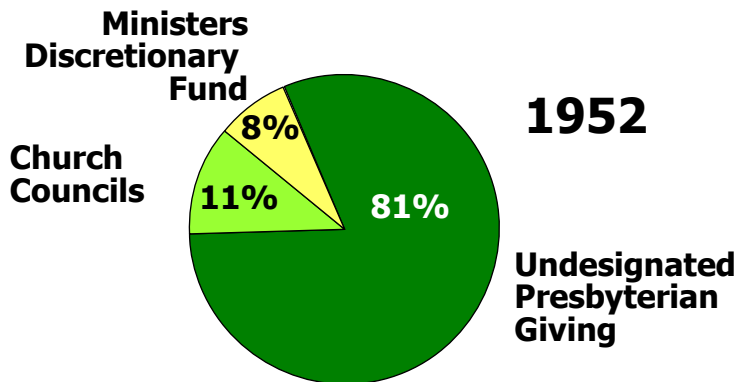
Sponsored by the General Assembly, by the Synod of Virginia, and by Potomac Presbytery

Church Councils

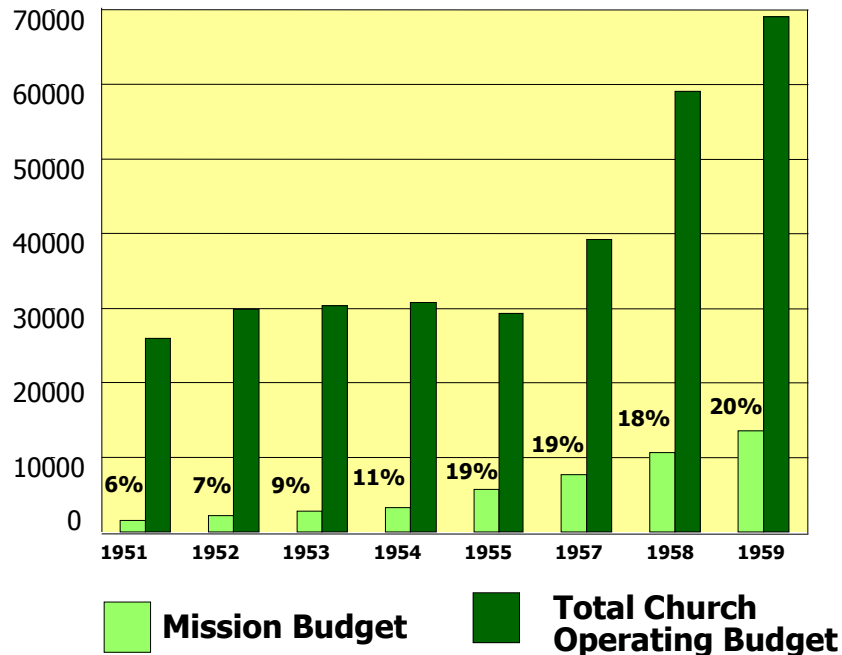
Washington Federation of Churches
 National Council of Christian Churches
 World Council of Christian Churches
 Alexandria Council of Churches
 Virginia Council of Churches

Ministers Discretionary Fund

Missionary Support (**Women of the Church**)

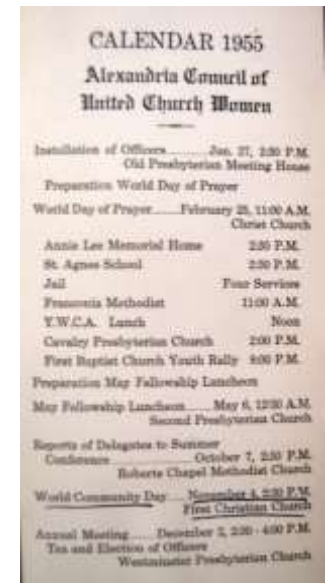
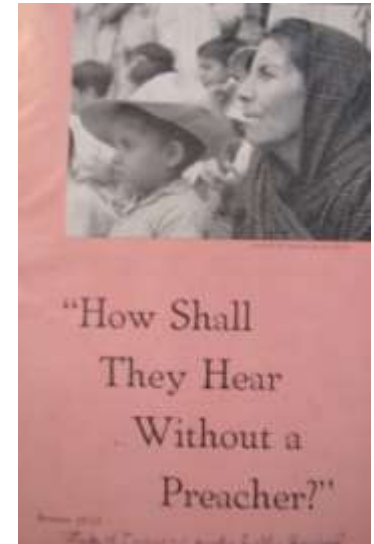
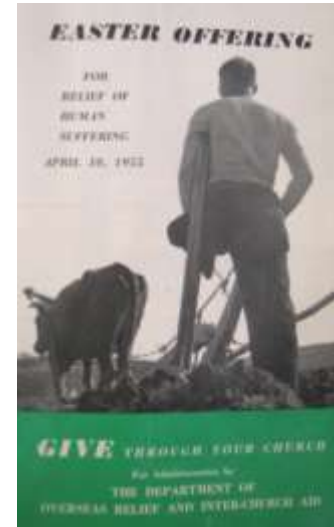
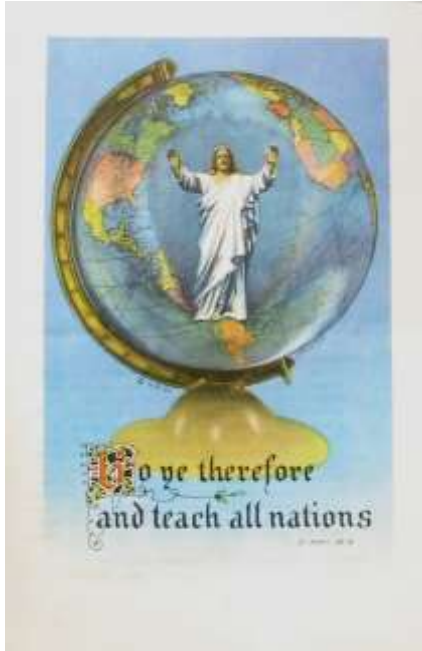


Mission Support and Church Operating Budget 1949-1959
 (% of budget for mission)



By 1959, ~20% of budget supported missions

Artifacts of the 1950s



Traditional Phase II

1960-1985 "The Sengel Years"

Key global mission events focus on missionary sponsorship and visits along with leadership in international institutions and seeds of current engagement

Vass family evacuated from Congo 1960



Winifred Vass speaks at Meeting House 1961

Rev. Sengel attends the Third and Fourth Assemblies of the World Council of Churches in Uppsala and Geneva 1965 & 1967

Rev. Lachlan Vass and his wife retire 1970



Rev. Sengel chairs the Presbyterian Church in U.S. delegation to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Nairobi 1970



The Rev. Dr. Timothy W. T. and Mrs. Kay Lee (b.1936) and their two children, are new missionary family in Korea supported by Meeting House 1970

Rev. Lee preaches at the Meeting House 1976

Mardi Gras Pancake Lunch served by Senior High Youth Group; money to support medical missionary in Mexico, Beth Black 1978



Heifer Project International to receive contributions from children's offerings in Sunday School 1981

Policy on World Missions and Christian Relationships is adopted by Meeting House session 1961

Rev. Lachlan and Winifred Vass and two of their four daughters, Edna Vass and Julia Lake Vass visit Meeting House 1965.

1960

1965

1970

1975

1980

1985

1961 Session Policy on Global Missions

- I. Establish a policy of **inviting foreign Christian students and visitors** to attend our church services and be guests in our home.
- II. Resume our former practice of having **our own Meeting House missionary family**, and recommend to the Board of Deacons the allocation in next year's budget, and thereafter on a continuing basis, of the amount required to furnish financial support for at least one missionary in the field (\$3,600).
- III. Take a good look at the budget for items not directly productive of the church's total mission. Do this at local, intermediate, and national levels. Look for soft spots, over-organization, projects of questionable value, and see **what funds can be better applied to World missions**. Examine the percentage of benevolence funds which actually gets to the field, and somehow increase it.
- IV. Get the facts about **admission practices in our church seminaries and colleges**, and take such action as may be appropriate when stated church policy is not being followed.
- V. As our program develops and greater participation appears advisable, seek the support and **participation of other Potomac Presbytery churches**.
- VI. Give our **members** advance information about this program, solicit their action and support in the work, and keep them informed through the newsletter.

Mission Support 1977-1984

“Our Work in The World”

Undesignated Presbyterian Giving

Sponsored by the General Assembly, by the Synod of Virginia, and by Potomac Presbytery

Family to Family

Missionary Support

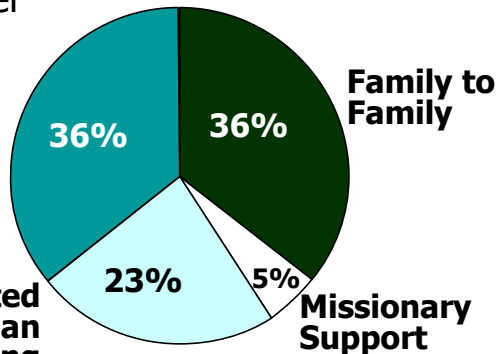
Designated Organizations

- Sunnyside Presbyterian Home
- Zuni Presbyterian Training Center
- Presbyterian Children’s Home
- Clergy Crisis Fund
- Alexandria Residential Youth Services
- Hopkins House
- Good News Mission-Jail Ministries
- Meals-on-Wheels
- Friends of Women Prisoners
- Other

1984

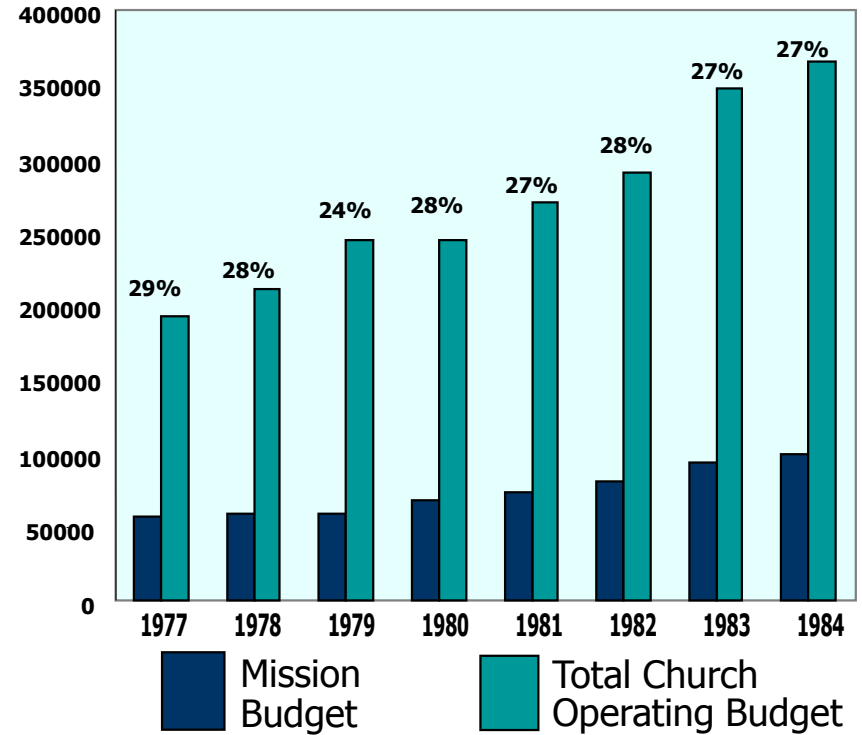
Designated Organizations

Undesignated Presbyterian Giving



Mission Support and Church Operating Budget 1977-84

(% of budget for mission)



24-29% of church operating budget supported missions

Artifacts of the Time

RELIGION IN THE NEWS

EVELYN AGNOR, Religion Editor

Meeting House Will Increase Its 'Work In The World'

Editor's Note: We recommend and encourage every adult, youth or child who can read to read this inspiring, rewarding story of what one church is doing to be "about its Master's business."

By William R. Aumen
Contributing Writer

With church indebtedness wiped out and buildings in good repair, members of the Old

wisely, explaining how to obtain and use food stamps.
• Visiting shut-ins and those in hospitals and assisting them when needed.
• Transporting an amputee for medical attention.

World's Turbulence Is Felt At Geneva Church Gathering

By William S. Engel
Special to the Protestant Post

Geneva, July 21 — When Government Minister United States ambassador to the Court of France, Dr. Engel, arrived in Geneva, he was greeted by a group of church leaders.

Dr. Engel is member of the Old Protestant Meeting House in Geneva.

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Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Built in 1774

Alexandria Virginia



Minister

WILLIAM RANDOLPH SENDEL

Missionaries in the Republic of Congo

LACHLAN and WINIFRED VASS

Worship Bulletin
15 June 1969

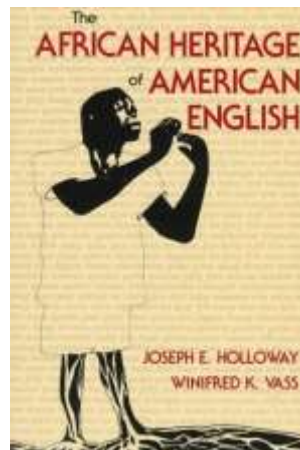
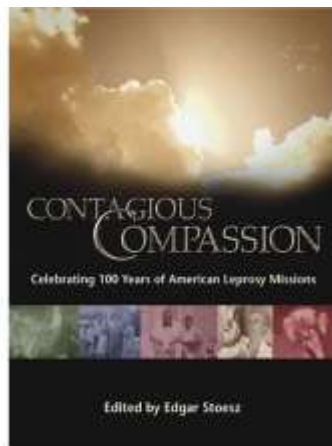
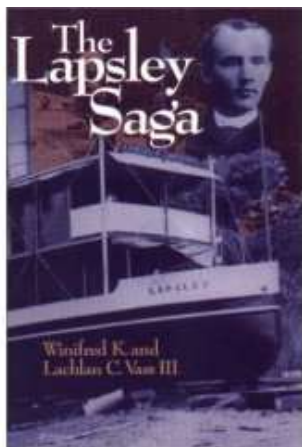
Minister

WILLIAM RANDOLPH SENDEL

Missionaries in the Republic of Congo

LACHLAN and WINIFRED VASS

Vass Family 1954-1970



Rev Timothy W.T. Lee



Taejon Presbyterian Seminary

Transition Phase I

1985-1994 - First Work Camps

Key global mission events shift toward congregation involvement through work camps, international hospitality and continued mission worker support

Reverend Dr. Thomas Keith Farmer is called to serve as the congregation's tenth installed pastor
1986



Mark Reimers, Burke Presbyterian Church, addresses committee about Mission Workcamp in Kibwezi, Kenya
1990



Rev. Timothy Lee, retires
1994



Deantin Guerra, Director of Faith Ministries, McAllen, Texas, describes the program in Reynosa, Mexico, at a luncheon
1994



Rev. Kwame Anku, (Ghana) studies at Union Theological Seminary with Sengel scholarship
1988



Reverend Dr. Gary W. Charles is called to serve as the congregation's eleventh installed pastor
1993

12 Protestant and Roman Catholic youths from Northern Ireland hosted to work on a Habitat for Humanity building project
1994



Workcamp group travels to Reynosa, Mexico, to conduct Bible school and help construct a clinic
1992

Missions Committee formed with three subgroups—Global and National Missions, Local Missions, and Work Camps
1994

Reverend Edna Jacobs Banes is called to serve as the congregation's associate pastor
1987

Rev. Kwame Anku, preaches
1989

One-week work camp to Chavies, Kentucky - 1st Meeting House work camp
1992



Workcamp returns to Chavies, Kentucky for second summer work session
1994

Support for Rev. Timothy Lee, South Korea, continues
1988

Pancake Breakfast
1992

1986

1990

1994

Transition Phase II

1995-2004 - Seeds of Partnerships

Work camps continue and expand; first partnership is formed under National Capitol Presbytery with Ellburgen Presbytery in Kenya



Work Camps to South Carolina, Cumberland, Maryland, and Reynosa, Mexico 1995



Congregation member Charlotte Read participates in trip to Ellburgen, Kenya, to explore presbytery partnership 1996

Alternative Giving Opportunities, Sundays in December 1996-present

Seven Presbyterians from Ellburgen Presbytery, Kenya visit 1999

Congregation members Dave & Ellen Smith return from Pakistan and support to St Thomas begins 2001



Workcamps to Reynosa, Mexico and West Virginia continue

Capital Mission Campaign includes funds for an ambulance in Haiti and three houses through Faith Ministries 1995



Congregation member Beth Eiseman, summer works with Faith Ministries in Reynosa Summer 1995

National Capital Presbytery join in partnership with Ellburgen Presbytery, Kenya in first partnership 1998



Reverend Ann Herlin is called to serve as the congregation's associate pastor for mission 2001



NCP Group Visits Ellburgen Presbytery Kenya 2003



Meeting House joins Community Coalition for Haiti on mission trip for first time 2003



Meeting House sponsors Children of Chernobyl program 1996-2004



Mission Fair 1997-2000
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, to support mission trips to West Virginia and Mexico 1998-Present



Congregation member Nicholas Dahmann, works with Faith Ministries in Reynosa, Mexico Summers 2002-2003

1995

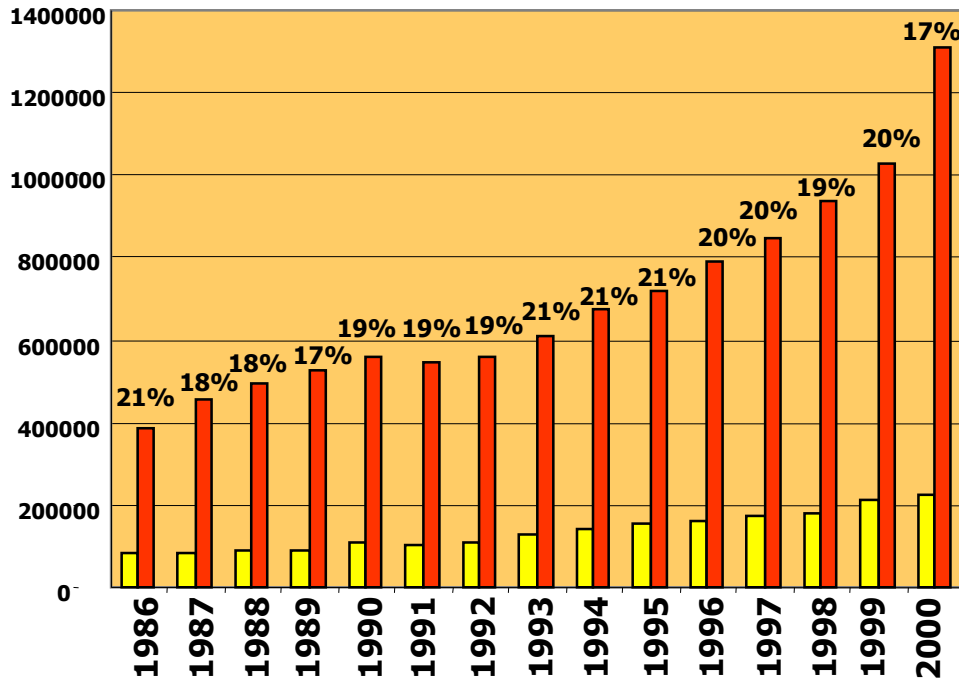
1997

2000

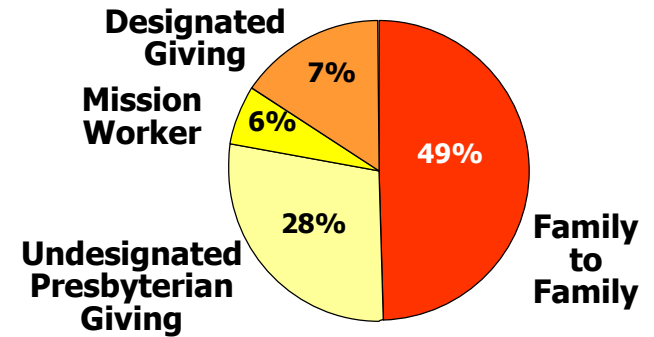
2004

Mission Support 1986-2000

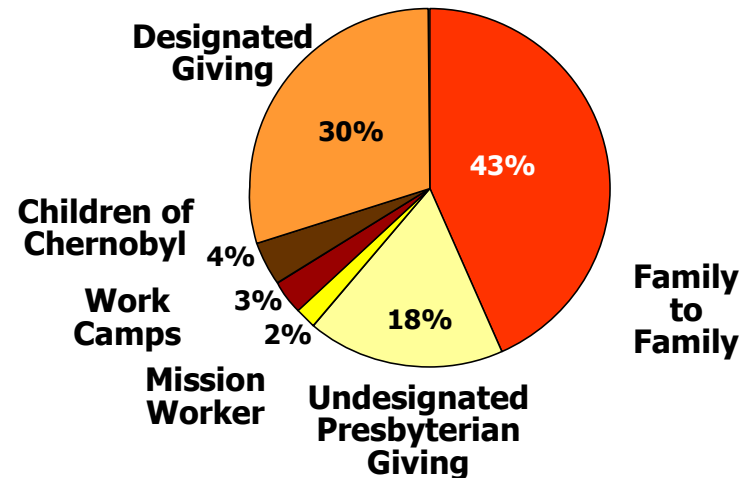
- Continued commitment to mission
- Most funds go to Family to Family
- Shift to designated giving
- Beginning of work camp support



1986



2000





Children of Chernobyl 1996-2004



Mission Workers

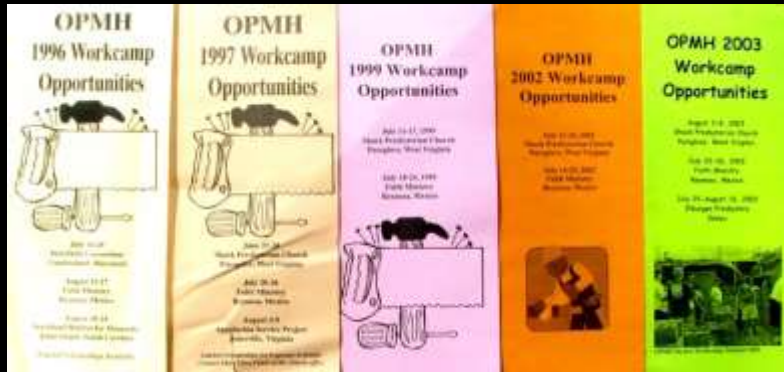


**Dr. Salvador and Irma
de la Torre
Kenya**

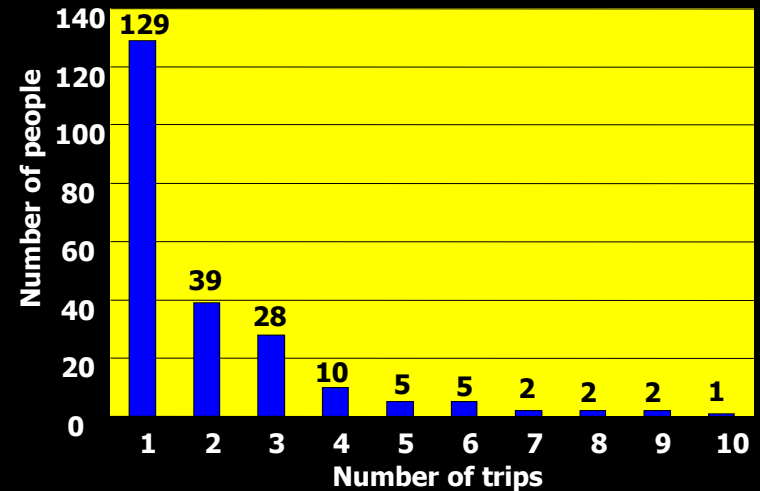


**Robert and Dahlia Baker
Albania**

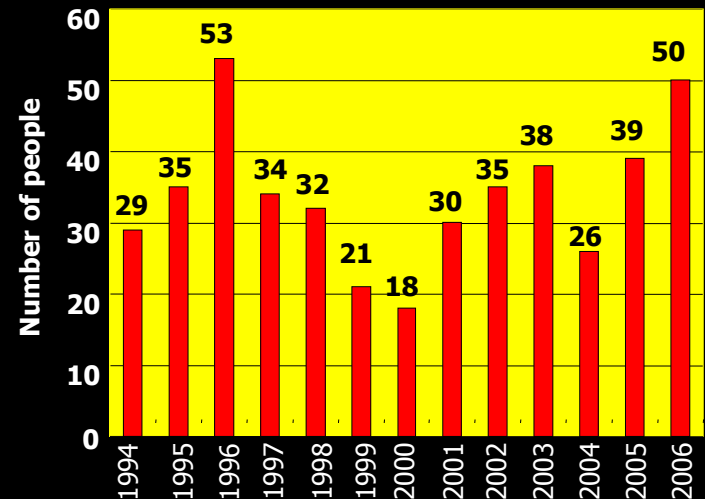
Work Camps and Mission Trips



Work Camp and Mission Trip Participation 1994-2006



- From 1994 to 2006 the Meeting House supported 37 work camp and mission trips
 - Total of 440 'participant trips'
 - 226 different people participated
 - Almost 100 people participated in more than one trip



Early Work Trips to Mexico

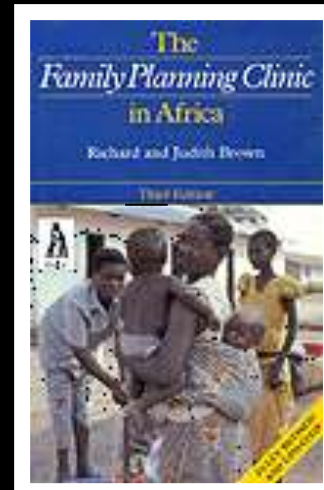




The Shack Pursglove, West Virginia



Kenya Partnership Elburgon, Kenya





Haiti 2003



Pakistan Projects



Partnerships

- This led to the adoption of a model of global mission for the Meeting House which
 - focuses on **'partnerships'**
 - centers on **personal interaction through work camps and mission trips** as core activities for relationship
 - builds mission programs around the understanding that comes from the **relationships**

