

## CHRONOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

### A. B. Simpson and the Christian & Missionary Alliance By Dr. Harold Shelly

#### I. FORMULATION 1873-1881

##### A. Foundation Years 1843-1873

- 1775 Aug The Wm Simpson family (Covenanter Presbyterians) arrive on Prince Edward Island from Morayshire, Scotland. A.B. Simpson's grand-father, James, is five yrs old.
- 1843 Dec 15 A.B. Simpson born to James & Jane Clark Simpson at Bayview, Prince Edward Island, Canada.
- 1844 Baptized and dedicated (to missions) by missionary, Rev. John Geddie.
- 1846 Evangelical Alliance emerges in London; will later have a great affect on Simpson
- 1847 The James Simpson family moves to Chatham, Ontario
- 1852 Simpson reads Rev. John William's missionary biography; consecrates life to God's work.
- 1858 Simpson suffers from broken health & exhaustion
- Christ Our Savior**: Simpson believes in Jesus as his Savior, is convinced he must preach the Gospel
- 1859 Simpson teaches at a public school upon graduation
- 1861 Begins college and theological studies at Knox College, Toronto. Begins preaching career
- 1861 Jan 19 Simpson writes a "Covenant of Consecration"
- 1862 Simpson writes prize essay defending infant baptism
- 1863 Sept 1 Simpson reconsecrates his life
- 1863-4 **Christ Our Coming King**: Simpson writes prize essay, "Second Coming"
- 1864 Prize for proficiency in the classics
- 1865 Apr Graduation from Knox College with high honors
- 1865 June Simpson is licensed with the Presbyterian Church
- 1865 Sept 11-Pastors Knox Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario till 1873, Dec 1; 750 new members of the church
- 1865 Sept 12 Ordination
- 1865 Sept 13 Marriage to Margaret Henry

- 1870 First trip to England
- 1873 Oct Simpson attends New York City Evangelical Alliance convention; organizes a Hamilton branch

## **B. The Louisville Experience 1873-1879**

- 1873 Dec Simpson pastors Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY (age 30) till 1879 Dec
- 1874 **Christ Our Sanctifier**: Simpson is filled with the Spirit; crisis of full surrender
- 1875 Feb, Mar The Whittle/Bliss city-wide evangelistic campaign radically alters Simpson's view of the Christian ministry; evangelism now his priority
- 1875-6 Simpson continues Sunday evening services in public halls
- 1876 Dream of China's needs
- 1878 Apr Consecration renewal, Louisville

## **C. The New York Pastorate 1879-1881**

- 1879 Nov 23 Pastors 13th Street Presbyterian Church, NYC, till Nov 7, 1881
- 1880 Feb Inaugurates a monthly missionary periodical, The Gospel in All Lands
- 1881 Summer **Christ Our Healer**: Simpson is miraculously healed of heart disorders during vacation at Old Orchard Beach, Maine
- 1881 Oct Simpson is baptized by immersion in a Baptist chapel, NYC

## **II. THE MOVEMENT LAUNCHED 1881-1912**

### **A. The Gospel Tabernacle 1881-1886**

- 1881 Nov Resigns his pastorate to begin independent evangelistic ministry in New York City  
Relinquishes Gospel in All Lands to Methodist, Eugene R. Smith
- 1882-7 Begins independent ministry in New York City; it expands beyond his original purpose
- 1882 Conducts evangelistic meetings in several public halls
- 1882 Jan First issue of The Word, the Work & the World, forerunner of The Alliance Witness
- 1882 Feb Gospel Tabernacle Church is organized; grows to 1,000 members in a few years
- 1882 May Starts Friday afternoon meetings for consecration and healing

- 1882 Begins informal missionary training Bible classes
- 1883 Jan Organizes The Missionary Union of the Evangelization of the World (not successful)
- 1883 Jan The Midnight Mission, 27th Street opened by Tabernacle ladies; the first of several rescue missions
- 1883 May 16 The first Healing Home opened at the Simpson's residence; first of the Berachah Homes
- 1883 July Gospel Tabernacle incorporated
- 1883 Oct First classes of the Missionary Training College at 446 8th Avenue (Penn. R.R. Station today)
- 1884 23rd Street Tabernacle is established
- 1884 May 5 23rd Street Berachah Home for Healing
- 1884 Sept The first fall convention for deeper Christian life and evangelism. Visitors come from several states. The forerunner of the Alliance movement.
- 1884 Nov First 5 missionaries sail for Congo (Zaire), Africa
- 1885 Rescue missions organized (13th St. and Berachah)
- 1885 June Bethshan Conference for Holiness and Healing in London, England; scene of Simpson's sermon, Himself
- 1885 Oct Gospel Tabernacle Convention

## **B. The Two Alliances 1886-1890**

- 1886 Aug First Simpson convention at Old Orchard, Maine; similar to NYC fall convention. Simpson allows W.E. Blackstone to give an unscheduled missionary message and a movement is born
- The assembly calls for an Alliance for missionary work
- 1886 Aug First Young Ladies Christian Alliance organized
- 1886 Berachah Orphanage established
- 1887 Jan-Jun Rough draft of constitution (for the Christian Alliance and the Evangelical Missionary Alliance) for consideration
- 1887 German branch C&MA organized
- 1887 Aug The assembly at Old Orchard votes to form two societies, The Christian Alliance and The Evangelical Missionary Alliance
- 1887 Sept Linwood Grove convention in Ohio; the first district branch of the Christian Alliance is formed
- 1887 Oct The Board of Directors Missionary Alliance appoints Helen Dawlly as the first missionary of the

EMA (India)

Wm. Cassidy appointed to China; first missionary casualty

1887 New headquarters established in NYC; will serve until 1974

1888-90 Thousands of Christians in the USA and Canada join the Christian Alliance. About 20 missionaries sent overseas

1889 Eleventh Avenue Mission organized

The Word, the Work and the World becomes The Christian Alliance and Missionary Weekly

1889 Jan 12 Cornerstone Gospel Tabernacle

1889 Feb Hamilton Convention; the Dominion Auxiliary Branch of the Christian Alliance is organized

1889 June 23 Opening Eleventh Avenue Mission Organization

1889 Oct 29 Incorporation of International Missionary Alliance

1889 Nov Evangelical Missionary Alliance renamed International Missionary Alliance (IMA). IMA incorporated

1889 Nov - 1890 Aug The Alliance sends no new missionaries

1890 Mar Gospel Tabernacle (8<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 44<sup>th</sup> Street), and EMA, Berachah Home and College home are dedicated

1890 May Simpson begins a series on prayer; becomes The Life of Prayer

1890 Aug Simpson calls for a Prayer Alliance to accomplish the purpose of the Missionary Alliance. Prayer pledge cards distributed and returned to Headquarters

Incorporation of Christian Alliance

### **C. The Missionary Explosion 1891-1897**

1891 Young Men's Crusade organized. Jr. Missionary Alliance organized. Door of Hope Mission (for girls) organized. Hymns of the Christian Life published. South Street Mission organized. The Colby Mission, Brooklyn organized

1891 Jul Ignited at Methodist campground in Round Lake, New York, State Convention

1891 Oct Support pledged for one hundred missionaries; goal increased to send 200 missionaries

1891 First missionary pledge offering taken

1893 180 missionaries at 40 stations in 12 fields

1893 Jan Simpson tours mission fields

1895 Almost 300 missionaries

1896 Oct 19 The Home School opens in NYC to train much-needed workers for work in U.S. & Canada

#### **D. Changes, Crises & Convictions 1897-1912**

1897 About 350 missionaries sent overseas; more than 50 die or withdraw

1897 Apr 2 The two Alliance organizations amalgamate to form the C&MA

1897 Sept The Missionary Training Institute & Berachah Home move to Nyack, NY

1898-1911 Period of revival, stabilization, maturity and growth both overseas and in North America. Missionary forces remain between 250 and 280 persons

1899 Eighth Avenue Mission organized

1900 Eighteen Alliance Swedish missionaries and 13 children murdered during Boxer rebellion

1902 July 1 Published Living Truth monthly

1906 Pentecostal movement enters Alliance branches and conventions

1906 Special Conference on Truth and Testimony called: result is Pardington's The Crisis of the Deeper Life

1906-11 The Revival movement strengthens the Alliance; also during these years the Alliance loses some members and leaders to the Pentecostal movement

1910 Jan Simpson takes second missionary tour

1911 3 mos. Simpson's last tour to Great Britain

### III. REDIRECTION

#### A. Question of Succession 1912-1919

- 1912 May C&MA adopts new constitution at Boone, Iowa. New departments and offices created; property reversion clause adopted.
- Simpson sells Christian Alliance Publishing Company to the Board of Managers
- Home School becomes part of the Missionary Training Institute
- 1913-17 Consolidation of the work under the new departments. Independent congregations join the Alliance, but not reckoned as Alliance churches.
- Number of missionaries remain about the same
- 1918-19 The Alliance supervised directly by the Board of Managers
- 1918 Feb Simpson suffers a stroke; gives up all business affairs
- Simpson donates the Alliance Press to the Board (printing company)
- 1919 Mar/Apr Board debates the nomination of Paul Rader to be the Vice President nominee
- 1919 May Council elects Paul Rader Vice President
- 1919 Oct 29 Death of Dr. Simpson

#### B. Troubled Transition 1919-1926

- 1919 Oct Vice President Paul Rader becomes the President of the C&MA.
- 1920 May 21 Simpson reburied at Nyack, New York
- 1920-3 Growth overseas, especially in the Near East and French Indo-China
- Increase of public awareness of the Alliance in North America via city wide evangelistic campaigns and Rader sponsored tabernacle movement
- Dissent within the Board over Rader's activities and organizations outside the Alliance
- 1924 Jan 1 Mr. Rader's resignation effective, Vice President F. H. Senft assumes the presidency
- Mrs. A. B. Simpson and her husband's biographer, A.E. Thompson, die at Nyack, New York
- 1925 Nov Vice President, H.M. Shuman, installed as President upon the death of F.H. Senft. Dr. Shuman served as President 29 years, to 1954

#### C. Mixed Signals 1926-1936

- 1926-54 A quiet inevitable transition from a "movement" toward a denomination. Growth can be

measured by the increase of missionaries from 487 to 720; branches and churches from about 360 to 1,027.

Missionary contributions increase from \$578,072 to \$2,651,630.

#### **IV. ACCELERATION 1937-1987**

##### **A. The Crucible of Conflict 1937-1954**

1939-1945 WWII interrupts some missionary activity; 10 missionaries killed or die during internment or following internment

Overseas work grows some;  
 Missionaries increase from 469 to 522  
 Churches from 632 to 690  
 Baptized members from 57,294 to 58,016.

##### **B. Converging Lines 1955-1975**

1954-9 H.L. Turner succeeds H.M. Shuman as President

Similar growth continues.  
 Missionaries increase to 824.  
 Overseas churches to 1,466  
 Baptized members to 131,843.  
 In North America branches and churches totaled 1,151 and membership 67,641.

Missionary contributions to 1959 climbed to \$3,511,691.17

1960 Discussion of merger with the Missionary Church Association

1960-77 Nathan Bailey serves as President

1965 Statement of Faith adopted (ratified 1966 & '74)

1967 Alliance Youth Corps organized

1967 Nov Leadership conference on Evangelism, Atlanta, GA

1973 Alliance Key '73 launched for aggressive evangelism

1974 New constitution ratified by Council; the Alliance becomes a denomination

1974 Headquarters moves to Nyack, New York

##### **C. This One Thing 1975-1987**

1975 Indo-china fields closed by communist take-over of the governments

Statistical losses of Indo-China from the total were 21% of baptized church members and 17% of organized churches

1976 Alliance World Fellowship established

1977 Missions

Missionaries:

890



Overseas churches:	4,453	
Baptized church members:	332,443	
Inclusive membership <sup>1</sup> :		952,000
Missionary contributions:	\$12,331,273	

#### North America

Churches	1,561
Baptized church members:	112,867
Inclusive membership:	192,336

1978-87 Louis L. King, President

1978 Council votes a goal of doubling Alliance membership world-wide by Council 1987.

#### 1985 Missions

Missionaries:	1,134
Overseas organized churches:	10,649
Baptized church members:	569,743
Inclusive members:	1,836,277
Net membership gain since 1978:	883,834

#### United States

Churches:	1,646
Baptized church members:	123,602
Inclusive membership:	227,846
Missionary receipts:	\$21,085,770
Missionary specials:	\$2,000,000 plus

Since the doubling goal set in 1978, the net gain in churches is 394.

1987 Louis L. King retires; The Centennial Council elects David Rambo President

### **D. The Second Century 1988-**

1989	Headquarters moves to Colorado Springs
1990	General Council, Washington D.C.
1991	General Council, Denver, CO
1992	General Council, Lexington, KY
1993	General Council, Anaheim, CA, Council offering for mission to Russia
1994	General Council, Cleveland, OH
1995	General Council, Pittsburgh, PA

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<sup>1</sup> Includes members and adherents/inquirers.

- 1996 Paul Bubna elected president of the C&MA
- 1998 Bubna dies of a heart attack; Peter Nanfelt elected president

## AN OVERVIEW OF ALLIANCE MISSIONARY/OVERSEAS WORK

<u>Country/Area</u>	<u>Date Entered by Alliance</u>
<b><u>1887-1912</u></b>	
Zaire	1884
India	1887
Middle East	1890
Japan	1891
Venezuela	1895 (closed shortly after)
Argentina, Chile, Ecuador	1897
Shanghai	1900
Philippines, Brazil	1902 (Brazil soon closed)
French Indo-China	1911
<b><u>1913-1937</u></b>	
Guinea	1919
Mali, Upper Volta, Columbia	1923
Peru	1925
Indonesia, Thailand	1929
Ivory Coast	1930
Hong Kong	1933
Gabon	1934
<b><u>1938-1962</u></b>	
Irian Jaya	1939
Taiwan	1952
Netherlands	1953
Mexico	1954
Uruguay	1960
Brazil, France	1962
<b><u>1963-1987</u></b>	
Paraguay	1966
Australia, Dominican Rep., Guatemala	1969
New Zealand, Venezuela	1972
Costa Rica, Germany, Great Britain	1975
Spain	1978
Surinam	1979
South Korea	1980
Nigeria	1983
<b><u>1988-1999</u></b>	
Russia, Poland, Congo Republic	1993
Hungary	1994
Bosnia	
Macedonia	