

OUR HISTORY: MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

1725—50: On May 21, 1738, Charles Wesley has a transforming experience; his brother John's Aldersgate experience is three days later. John visits Moravians in Germany. The first Methodist conference convenes in London.

1776—99: Missions reach the Channel Islands, France and Spain. The Methodist Episcopal Church begins in Baltimore, the Free African Society and the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in New York. Thomas Coke leads Britain's first "overseas mission" in the West Indies.

1826—50: The Methodist Protestant Church, The Wesleyan Methodist Church and The Methodist Episcopal Church, South are founded. Methodist missions are in Argentina, Brazil, China, Dehomey (Benin), Fiji, Germany, Ghana, Samoa, Sweden, Switzerland and Togo. Melville Cox embarks on the first American Methodist foreign mission to Liberia.

1725

1750

1775

1800

1825

1850

1751—75: Philip William Otterbein, Francis Asbury, Philip and Margaret Embury, and Paul and Barbara Heck come to America. New York's Wesley Chapel (John Street Church) opens. The first American conference stirs Philadelphia. William Watters becomes the first native-born American itinerant preacher.

1800—25: Otterbein and Martin Boehm found The United Brethren in Christ, and Daniel Coker organizes a Methodist Society for freed slaves en route to Liberia. Missionaries travel to Australia, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Haiti, India, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tonga.

1851—75: The Freedmen's Aid Society and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church are organized. The Methodist Episcopal Society is organized in Denmark, and the Free Methodist Church of North America begins in New York. The Methodist Protestant Church ordains a woman deacon, Helenor M. Davison. Methodism reaches Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar (Burma), New Guinea, Norway, Portugal and Uruguay.



1876—1900: Bishop William Taylor works in Angola, Bolivia, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru. Bishop James M. Thoburn pioneers ministries in Malaysia and the Philippines. Isabella Thoburn founds the first Christian women's college in Asia (India). Methodist missions cover Costa Rica, Cuba, Hungary, Korea, Mozambique, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Russia.

1926—50: The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South and The Methodist Protestant Church become The Methodist Church (USA). The Evangelical Church and The Church of the United Brethren in Christ merge to form The Evangelical United Brethren Church (USA). Missions extend into Burundi and Rwanda. The North Africa Provisional Conference is established.

1976—2000: Marjorie Matthews becomes the first woman bishop. Leontine T.C. Kelly becomes the first female African-American bishop. Africa University opens in Zimbabwe, where the first African bishop, Abel T. Muzorewa, becomes prime minister. Churches emerge in Colombia, El Salvador and Vietnam. Bishop Heinrich Bolleter and the United Methodist Committee on Relief aid Kosovo.

1875

1900

1925

1950

1975

2000

1901—25: Methodism reaches Albania, Belgium, Borneo, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Java, Latvia, Lithuania, Manchuria, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Serbia and Sumatra. The Primitive Evangelical Methodist Church of Guatemala forms. Bishop Joseph Hartzell launches missions in Algeria and Tunisia.

1951—75: The Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches merge into The United Methodist Church. Congregations flourish in Taiwan and Zambia. The European Methodist Council, the Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches of Latin America and the Burundi Conference begin.

2001—Present: The Protestant Methodist Church of Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Africa, joins The United Methodist Church. The 2008 General Conference enters into full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which approves the agreement the following year. United Methodists respond to earthquakes in Haiti and Japan and to other disasters. The 2012 General Conference participates in "An Act of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples," enters into communion with several historically black pan-Methodist denominations, makes United Methodist Women an autonomous organization and creates a national ministry plan for Pacific Islanders.

*“My mission statement:
‘To encourage all people with the love –
of Jesus to rise to their highest potential.’
Be encouraged.”*

– Bishop Julius Trimble, Iowa Episcopal Area

