
MBM 100-YEAR TIMELINE

Before 1896

1882 John F. Funk organizes Mennonite Evangelizing Committee-first formal mission effort of the Mennonite Church

1892 Mennonite Evangelizing Committee becomes Mennonite Evangelizing Board of America, an expanded churchwide effort

1893 First city mission of the Mennonite Church launched in Chicago; M.S. Steiner superintendent

1896 Churchwide mission agency and churchwide service agency merge to become Mennonite Evangelizing and Benevolent Board, Mennonite Orphans Home founded in Smithville, Ohio

1899 Mennonite Church sends first overseas missionaries to India: J. A. Resser, W. B. and Alice Page

1901 First Mennonite Church sponsored old people's home, Rittman, Ohio

1906 Mennonite Board of Mission and Charities formed, G. L. Bender, treasurer, first person to remuneration for mission administration

1908 Sanitarium for tuberculosis patients dedicated, La Junta, Colorado

1917 Second overseas mission "field" opened, J. W. and Emma Shank and T. K. and Mae Hershey sent to central Argentina

1932 Maude Buckingham Douglass and spouse John begin mission work in Arkansas Ozarks

1932 Chicago mission workers begin conducting services in Spanish for immigrants

1937 Mission to Spanish speaking persons begins in South Texas (Tuleta)

1940 S. Jay and Ida Hostetler open new mission field in Bihar, India

1941 First Mennonite Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp open in Grottoes, Virginia

1943 First missionaries sent to Chaco region of Argentina, to work with indigenous peoples

1944 J. D. Graber become MBMC general secretary; challenges every Mennonite Church congregation to establish a mission outpost

1947 Five missionaries sent to China

1949 First missionaries to Japan

1950 First missionaries to Belgium

1952 First missionaries to Alaska and to England

1953 Mennonite Crusaders, forerunner of Media Ministries, enters cooperative relationship with MBCM; first missionaries to France and to Israel

1954 First missionaries to Brazil and to Uruguay

1956 Nelson Kauffman becomes MBCM secretary for home mission and evangelism

1957 First missionaries to Ghana and to Nepal

1958 Student Services (later Student and Young Adult) begins when Princeton University students ask MBMC to help organize a fellowship

1959 Ed and Irene Weaver sent to Nigeria, beginning of Mennonite Church work with African Indigenous Churches

1969 Urban Racial Council (later named Minority Ministries Council) organized with John Powell as secretary; Hiroshi and Chieko Kaneko sent to Ecuador; Out-Spokin' bicycle ministry begins

1971 MBCM renamed Mennonite Board of Missions

1976 Deaf Ministries begins with Eli Savanick as director

1979 Annual James and Rowena Lark Home Ministries Award established, to honor pioneer home missionaries

1981 MBM Health and Welfare Committee disbands to transfer ownership management of institutions to local organizations.

1982 MBM completes reorganization of administrative structure for North American ministries (illustrate with specifics); Paul M. Gingrich becomes MBM president

1994 Stanley Green becomes MBM president

(Lisa Beachy for MBM)

Used for MBM's Joint Board Report, Mennonite Church General Assembly, Orlando '97.