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Agency: GCOM

Title: Report of The Advance for Christ and His Church to the 2004 General Conference

Financial Implications: None

Report No. 16

Petition Number:

REPORT OF THE ADVANCE FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH TO THE 2004 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Hebrews 11 speaks to the “stick-to-it-ness” of the faithful who preceded us centuries ago in difficult times.

The Advance video premiered at the 2000 General Conference was entitled “So Great a Cloud of Witnesses.” This title is from the larger passage of Hebrews 12:1-2: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

This millennium likewise challenges the perseverance of the faithful. We experience economic “dis-ease.” We experience the destruction of the World Trade Center, Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Afghanistan, Iraq, homeland security and other issues and events affecting people who are urban and rural, rich and poor, male and female, young and old.

Yet, warmhearted United Methodists continue to go “the second mile” in mission and ministry through The Advance for Christ and his Church. Mission Personnel, an Advance priority, includes many creative ways people answer God’s call to “go...and make disciples of all nations...”(Matthew 27:19). Young Adult Missioners, US-2’s (recent college graduates), Missioners of Hope, Mission Interns, Global Mission Partners, Hispanic Plan Missionaries, 10-10-10 Missionaries, Korean-American Mission Pastors, Deaconesses, International Persons in Mission, Church and Community Workers, and missionaries serving inside and outside the United States share the word of God, in many languages, in more than 60 countries.

**General Advance Quadrennial 2001-2004 Report
General Advance Income to Mission Personnel by Regions
January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002**

Ministries	2001 Income	2002 Income	Total 2001-2002
Africa	\$1,865,769	\$1,980,705	\$3,846,474
Europe	\$806,226	\$922,176	\$1,728,402
Middle East	\$74,603	\$100,334	\$174,937
Asia/Pacific	\$1,161,290	\$1,176,713	\$2,338,003
Latin American/Caribbean	\$1,220,830	\$1,464,851	\$2,685,681
United States	\$1,389,800	\$1,641,905	\$3,031,705
Interregional/Interdenominational	\$717,593	\$866,498	\$1,584,091
TOTAL MISSION PERSONNEL:	<u>\$7,236,111</u>	<u>\$8,153,182</u>	<u>\$15,389,293</u>

Through the Advance, love and care is provided to our children and youth in more than 120 community centers and residences. Sanctuaries and church buildings are constructed to appropriately reflect people's unique geographical environments and cultures. On all continents, through face-to-face evangelism, people who have never heard the gospel are educated and nurtured into United Methodism.

In an age when rapid social and economic change destabilizes communities, towns and cities, our local congregations and annual conferences have united their gifts and their presence to provide ministries of health, wholeness, leadership and economic development, justice, and literacy.

With the cooperation of the General Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Communications, The Advance for Christ and His Church produces print, audio, and web resources in English, Spanish and Korean languages.

General Advance Quadrennial 2001-2004 Report
General Advance Income to Regions
January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002

Ministries	2001 Income	2002 Income	Total 2001-2002
Africa	\$2,175,815	\$2,538,694	\$4,714,509
Europe	\$1,719,426	\$1,741,828	\$3,461,254
Middle East	\$60,343	\$122,657	\$183,000
Asia/Pacific	\$659,089	\$741,763	\$1,400,852
Latin American/Caribbean	\$842,617	\$889,586	\$1,723,203
United States	\$2,868,235	\$3,012,108	\$5,880,343
Interregional/Interdenominational	\$399,214	\$607,454	\$1,006,668
TOTAL MISSION PERSONNEL:	<u>\$8,724,739</u>	<u>\$9,654,090</u>	<u>\$18,378,829</u>

Even as economic uncertainty and catastrophic events define the mass media's daily message, United Methodists are undaunted in their ministries of compassion. We assist people rebuilding their lives in the countries that were once the Soviet Union. We provide shelter to people made homeless by floods, earthquakes, drought, and war. We comfort and heal people victimized by land mines or ravaged by disease. We feed the hungry. We clothe the naked. We live the gospel.

Whether terror strikes within our own borders or on any other continent, United Methodists join with other peace seekers in offering healing and reconciliation to persons hurting emotionally and physically, regardless of their religion or country of origin.

**General Advance Quadrennial 2001-2004 Report
United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR)
General Advance Income
January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002**

	2001 Income	2002 Income	Total 2001-2002
USA Disasters	\$1,491,461	\$887,277	\$2,378,738
International Disaster Response	\$617,725	\$552,478	\$1,170,203
Hope for the Children of Africa	\$1,060,478	\$1,674,789	\$2,735,267
Live in the Midst of Tragedy	\$17,526,046	\$3,011,851	\$20,537,897
World Hunger/Poverty	\$1,133,959	\$1,057,475	\$2,191,434
Refugee Programs	\$76,118	\$29,882	\$106,000
Justice for our Neighbors	\$11,134	\$75,513	\$86,647
Undesignated	\$2,737,482	\$2,379,950	\$5,117,432
All Other UMCOR Ministries:	<u>\$8543,687</u>	<u>\$6,761,958</u>	<u>\$15,305,645</u>
TOTAL UMCOR:	<u>\$33,198,090</u>	<u>\$16,431,173</u>	<u>\$49,629,263</u>

**General Advance Quadrennial 2001-2004 Report
General Advance Income Summary
January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002**

Ministries	2001 Income	2002 Income	Total 2001-2002
Missionaries	\$7,236,111	\$8,157,182	\$15,393,293
Programs	\$8,724,739	\$9,654,090	\$18,378,829
UMCOR	\$33,198,090	\$16,431,173	\$49,629,263
TOTAL GENERAL ADVANCE INCOME:	<u>\$49,158,940</u>	<u>\$34,242,445</u>	<u>\$83,401,385</u>

From 1948 through June 31, 2003, second-mile giving through The Advance for Christ and His Church totaled \$961,453,006. It is possible that United Methodists will have given \$1 billion through the Advance by the end of 2004.

On behalf of our partners in mission in the United States and around the world - thank you!
"Every gift makes a difference!"

Signed _____
Bishop Edward W. Paup, President

Signed _____
Daniel K. Church, General Secretary