The Reverend Dr. Joseph Harry Haines
Chungking Rotary Club President 1946 -1947

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The Reverend Dr. Joseph Harry Haines, PhD (*Princ.*), MA (*Princ.*), BA (*Western Maryland*) (1917-2007), New Zealand native, was President 1946-1947 of the Rotary Club of Chungking (重慶扶輪社), Republic of China (中華民國), when he was the administrator of the American Methodist Mission in Chungking (重慶). He was also the District Governor's representative to supervise Rotary clubs located in Western China.

On 1 October 1946, President Haines sent his Clubs Report to Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士), District 96-97-98 Governor and formerly 2nd Vice President 1945-1946 of Rotary International:

On the day following my return to Chungking I left for Chengtu and have just returned, so please accept my apologies for not writing to you before now.

While I was in Chengtu I called a meeting of the Chengtu Rotary Club and we had a good session for some 2.5 hours, trying to straighten out their affairs. By this time you will have received from them all the data re members, board of directors, financial dues paid, etc. Please let me know if this is so.

Then I went over their problems one by one making various recommendations so as to make their Club live and vital. One thing I recommended which they are putting into operation right away is to make all meetings bi-lingual for many Chinese members have dropped out of their Club because of not having a sufficient grasp of English. Then in order to keep the Club on their toes, I suggested they enlarge their community service program so they are taking up two new projects, sponsoring an anti-T.B. association and opening a branch of the National Association for the Blind. It was a good opportunity to work out many problems and they seemed responsive and anxious to make their Club a real factor in the life of the community.

Chungking Club is still plugging away. I welcomed in three new members last meeting and we have five more proposed. Also we are taking on a new service project sponsoring the work of the Border Service Group who are doing medical and social work in Sikang. It's a long distance project but one well worth well.

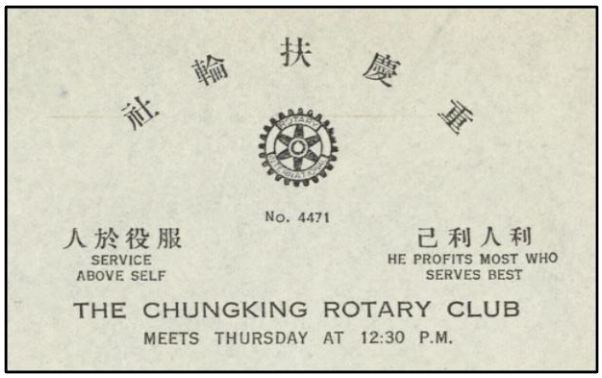
I am planning to visit Kweiyang and Kunming clubs early next month and will send you in reports as soon as I return.

My main project at the moment is to sponsor three new clubs in this area and with all the clubs working at it "making haste slowly" only deciding after careful investigation I hope we can expand Rotary in West and N. W. China.

About Changsha I have not received any definite word but expect it any day now.

On 7 October 1946, Governor Wang replied from his office in Shanghai (上海):

It is so good to get your letter of October 1st and to know how splendid you are carrying on the work of Rotary in your part of the country. I am sharing your letter with Arthur and Keats. Together we will first put all the clubs, which existed before the war but were disrupted by it, on their feet again, and then exert our best efforts to get new clubs organized. I mentioned the challenge of the Chungking Club to Shanghai in my Monthly Letter for October.



Widely known as Rev. J. Harry Haines, he was a prominent New Zealand-born Methodist missionary, author, and relief agency executive. He dedicated 38 years to global ministry, notably serving as the longtime director of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) from 1966 to 1983, where he earned the moniker "Mr. United Methodist Relief" for his relentless advocacy for refugees, disaster victims, and the impoverished.

Early Life and Education

Born in New Zealand, Haines pursued his higher education in the United States, earning his Bachelor of Arts from Western Maryland College (renamed McDaniel College in 2002).

He went on to complete his theological training at Wesley Theological Seminary and later obtained his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from Princeton University. In 1944, he married Loma Housley, with whom he shared four sons.

Missionary Career

Haines' extensive missionary work began in the 1940s in western China. He later transferred to the British Federated Malay States (today Malaysia), where he served from 1950 to 1959 with a heavy focus on ministries at Ipoh Wesley and Kuala Lumpur. Following his time in Asia, he joined the World Council of Churches, working in the division of interchurch aid, refugees, and world service.

Haines was a passionate advocate for addressing systemic structural inequalities. He frequently spoke on the expanding economic divide between the global North and South, urging religious institutions to champion the economic self-development of marginalized populations

Leadership and Legacy

As the head of UMCOR for nearly two decades, Haines spearheaded major international relief initiatives responding to wars, natural disasters, and structural poverty.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the dedicated humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church (UMC). Established in 1940 (originally as the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief), UMCOR operates as a non-profit organization focused on alleviating human suffering, providing international and domestic disaster response, supporting refugees and migrants, and promoting sustainable development globally:

- Disaster Response & Recovery: UMCOR maintains a vital network of early response teams, disaster case managers, and trained response specialists. They offer immediate emergency relief during natural or human-made crises (such as wildfires, hurricanes, and floods) as well as long-term recovery grants to help communities rebuild.
- Relief Supplies: The organization coordinates the assembly and distribution of crucial relief supply kits, including cleaning, hygiene, and menstrual hygiene kits. These are distributed via a network of supply depots, such as Depot West in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Global Migration & Sustainable Development: Beyond disaster zones, UMCOR combats global poverty and hunger, invests in agricultural development, and offers dedicated integration and humanitarian support for displaced individuals, migrants, and refugees.
- Community Resilience: Through new initiatives like the UMC Solar and Battery Pilot Program, the agency actively funds structural grants (up to US$100,000) to help churches in vulnerable communities install resilient energy solutions.

Haines authored seven books published by Abingdon Press, focusing on socioeconomic self-development in developing countries and educating congregations on political oppression. A member of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference, Haines spent his later years in Oregon.

Rotarian Reverend Dr. Joseph Harry Haines passed away at the age of 89 on 29 March 2007 in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A. He is remembered within global Methodism as a compassionate pragmatist who successfully blended localized missionary devotion with institutional humanitarian leadership.

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J. Harry Haines (1917-2007)
Missionary and Relief Agency Director

The Rev. J. Harry Haines, 1917-2007, was Director of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) from 1966 to 1983 and a missionary for 21 years prior to that.

At his passing, Haines was described as "a saint, a model of Christian commitment, hard work, and inspiration" by the Rev. R. Randy Day, chief executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, U.S.A., the parent organization of UMCOR. "For years he was Mr. United Methodist Relief, rallying the church to aid people affected by natural disasters, wars and poverty."

Haines was a missionary in China in the 1940s and later in Malaysia. He then worked in the division of interchurch aid, refugees and world service of the World Council of Churches. At UMCOR, he was an advocate for service to those in need and for education about the impact of poverty and political oppression on millions of people. "He was a man of great energy and contagious hope," Day said. "He wrote widely on the themes of mission and humanitarian assistance and their inseparable identities. He was a dynamic speaker, and loved nothing more than to visit congregations to tell them the story of how the church responds to disasters and humanitarian needs."

He wrote seven books published by Abingdon Press, a part of the United Methodist Publishing House, including an analysis of China and its 20th century political revolutions. Haines continued to be active on behalf of the mission after his retirement.

Haines was a strong supporter of economic self-development of people in poor countries and among the marginalized in more affluent regions. He was quick to observe the growing global gap between the richer North and the poor South. In 1984, shortly after his retirement, Haines made an urgent appeal to the church to "realize that we're living in a bitterly divided world (and) we have limited resources; therefore, we have to be specialists in designated areas in the least developed countries."

J. Harry Haines was born on 29 June 1917 in New Zealand. He and his wife, the former Loma Housley, the daughter of missionaries, married in 1944. The couple had four sons.

Haines received his early schooling in New Zealand, Australia and England. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree from Western Maryland University, Westminster, and his theological degree from what is today Wesley Theological Seminary. He earned the Master of Arts (M.A.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees from Princeton University, U.S.A.

He held membership in several United Methodist annual (regional) conferences during his ministry. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Oregon-Idaho Conference. Haines served for 38 years---including the 21 as a missionary---with the Board of Global Ministries and its predecessor organizations.



