

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 administer of the American Methodist Mission in Chungking (重慶).

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 inter-church aid, refugees, and world service.

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. He 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. He passed away at the age of 89 on 29 March 2007 in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A.



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.

