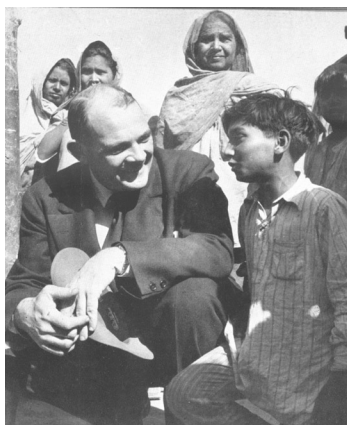


## The Beginnings of “One Great Hour of Sharing”

Following the devastation of World War II, many parts of the world faced a desperate need for relief and reconstruction. In 1949, Church World Service helped launch a coordinated ecumenical drive to raise relief funds in the United States. Both Northern and Southern Presbyterians participated in this One Great Hour campaign, tying national efforts to their own denominational relief programs. Presbyterians helped sustain One Great



Stated Clerk Eugene Carson Blake visits a refugee camp in Pakistan during his world tour for One Great Hour of Sharing, ca. December 1951.

Hour of Sharing during its early years. In late 1951, the new stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Eugene Carson Blake, embarked on a world tour to observe relief needs and report on his findings for the 1952 campaign. Accompanied by David Proffitt, president of the National Council of Presbyterian Men, Blake traveled to Europe, the Middle East, India, and Asia. Their subsequent reports drew much attention to One Great Hour of Sharing, both in local congregations and in the secular and religious press.

The Presbyterian Historical Society commemorates the beginnings of One Great Hour of Sharing on Presbyterian Heritage Sunday, a day set aside by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to celebrate and learn more about the rich history of Presbyterianism in America. Visit our web site for more information, and for additional celebration resources.



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# Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

