The man used of God to lead The Christian and Missionary Alliance in its formative years was a Canadian Presbyterian pastor by the name of A. B. Simpson. Many of the struggles that shaped Simpson for this dynamic ministry took place during his pastorate in Louisville, Kentucky. Simpson moved from Canada to the Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church at the close of the Civil War.

Soon after his arrival, Major D. W. Whittle, an associate of D. L. Moody, came to Louisville at the urging of Mr. Moody for a citywide evangelistic campaign. A. B. Simpson played a leading role in organizing this rather radical endeavor in evangelism. The Spirit-filled ministry of Major Whittle left an indelible mark on Simpson. From those meetings until the end of his days,
Albert Simpson was consumed with a passion for winning the lost both at home and around the world.

The Louisville Courier-Journal carried the sermons Simpson preached to capacity crowds as he continued the approach to evangelism he had learned from Whittle. He carried his newfound methods of ministry to New York City and in the heart of Manhattan began a church that was to be international in scope and bring into being a unique missionary denomination.

With apostolic zeal Simpson broke out of the mold of the cold stereotype so typical of church life in his day to build a movement that viewed the reaching of a lost world as its first priority. The heritage this good man left The Christian and Missionary Alliance still lives today. While holding to evangelical truth without compromise the Alliance has not been afraid to break the mold in its method of ministry.

“Simpson broke out of the mold...to build a movement that viewed the reaching of a lost world as its first priority.”

—Dr. Keith Bailey

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