

## TEMPLE SOCIETY IN AMERICA

[FORMERLY TEMPLE SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES (FRIENDS OF THE TEMPLE)]

### STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Temple Society in America for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Temple Society in America consists of those persons connected with the local societies who are in sympathy with the objects of the organization.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: TEMPLE SOCIETY IN AMERICA**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	2	1	1		
<b>Members</b> .....	164	138	26	84.1	15.9
Average per church.....	82	138	26		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	64	50	14		
Female.....	100	88	12	88.0	12.0
Males per 100 females <sup>3</sup> .....	64.0				
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	10		10		
13 years and over.....	154	138	16	89.6	10.4
Per cent under 13 years <sup>2</sup> .....	6.1				
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	2	1	1		
Value—Churches reporting.....	2	1	1		
Amount reported.....	\$13,200	\$12,000	\$1,200	90.9	9.1
Average per church.....	\$6,600				
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	1		1		
Amount reported.....	\$600		\$600		100.0
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	2	1	1		
Amount reported.....	\$1,940	\$1,708	\$232	88.0	12.0
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,742	\$1,640	\$102	94.1	5.9
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$198	\$68	\$130	34.3	65.7
Average expenditure per church.....	\$970				
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	2	1	1		
Officers and teachers.....	20	9	11		
Scholars.....	106	50	56	47.2	52.8

<sup>1</sup> Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

<sup>2</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

<sup>3</sup> Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent two active organizations of the Temple Society in America, with 164 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by both of the churches, only one of them reporting any members under 13 years of age. There was no debt on either of the church edifices or the one parsonage reported.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: TEMPLE SOCIETY IN AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	2	2	3	4
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....		-1	-1	
Per cent <sup>1</sup> .....				
<b>Members</b> .....	164	260	376	340
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	-96	-116	36	
Per cent.....	-36.9	-30.9	10.6	
Average membership per church.....	82	130	125	85
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	2	2	3	5
Value—Churches reporting.....	2	2	3	
Amount reported.....	\$13,200	\$10,500	\$11,000	\$15,300
Average per church.....	\$6,600	\$5,250	\$3,667	
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....	1	1	1	
Amount reported.....	\$600	\$300	\$1,000	
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	2	2		
Amount reported.....	\$1,940	\$1,610		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,742	\$1,389		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$198	\$221		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$970	\$805		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	2	2	3	
Officers and teachers.....	20	18	21	
Scholars.....	106	140	168	

<sup>1</sup> A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.      <sup>1</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State table.—Table 3 presents the statistics for the Temple Society in America, by States, giving for the States of New York and Kansas the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: TEMPLE SOCIETY IN AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females <sup>(1)</sup>
United States.....	2	1	1	164	138	26	64	100	64.0
Middle Atlantic:									
New York.....	1	1		138	138		50	88	
West North Central:									
Kansas.....	1		1	26		26	14	12	

<sup>1</sup> Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

**HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup>**

The Temple Society, also known as "Friends of the Temple," was founded in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1853, by the Rev. Christopher Hoffmann. Adherents of the society emigrated to America a few years later, and within 10 years an organization was effected. At present there are 2 local congregations, while a number of sympathizers, mostly members of other churches, are scattered over the country.

The Temple Society has no ecclesiastical forms or doctrines which are binding upon its members. It holds that the sum and substance of the New Testament is the teaching of the Kingdom of God, the essence of which is contained in the words of Jesus, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, \* \* \* and thy neighbor as thyself," and emphasizes the spiritual development of the kingdom.

Accepting in full the prophecies of the Old Testament in regard to the future of the Holy Land, one great aim of the organization is the establishment of Christian colonies in the Holy Land, and the results of its efforts are manifest in eight colonies in Palestine, which have achieved a measure of success.

The Society in Jerusalem is regarded as the chief organization, and its president exercises general supervision over the branches in Germany and America. In the American branch, a general committee, with a presiding elder, keeps up the connection with Jerusalem. The individual churches have preachers and elders, and hold Sunday preaching services and Sunday schools.

As it is numerically a small society, it has no missions apart from the colonization work in Palestine and the establishment of schools in that country. The World War and its aftermath inflicted heavy losses on these colonies, but the settlers have eagerly resumed their activities, encouraged by the friendly attitude of the British authorities. In the United States it has no educational or charitable institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. Fred C. Fink, Presiding Elder, General Committee in America, and approved by him in its present form.