

# ADVENTIST BODIES

## GENERAL STATEMENT

What is known as the "Advent movement" originated with William Miller, who was born at Pittsfield, Mass., February 15, 1782, and died in Low Hampton, N. Y., December 20, 1849. He bore a good reputation as a farmer and citizen, served as a captain in the War of 1812, and was a diligent student and a great reader, although he had only a common-school education. For some years he was an avowed deist, but, as he said, "found no spiritual rest" until, in 1816, he was converted and united with the Baptists. After his conversion, as objections to the authenticity and inspiration of the Scriptures were pressed upon him in the same way that he had formerly pressed them upon others, he determined to devote himself to a careful study of the Bible, laying aside commentaries and using the marginal references and Cruden's Concordance as his only helps. As a result of this study he became satisfied that the Bible is its own interpreter, and that it is "a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the 'wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.'"

At that time very little was heard from pulpit or press respecting the second coming of Christ, the general impression being that it must be preceded by the conversion of the world and the millennium, a long period of universal holiness and peace. As Mr. Miller studied the prophetic portions of the Bible, he became convinced that the doctrine of the world's conversion was unscriptural; that not only the parable of the wheat and the tares, as explained by Christ in Matthew xiii, 24-30, 36-43, but many other passages, teach the coexistence of Christianity and anti-Christianity while the gospel age lasts. As the period of a thousand years, during which Satan is bound, mentioned in Revelation xx, and from which the conception of the millennium is derived, lies between the first resurrection (Rev. xx, 4-6), which he understood to include all of the redeemed, and that of "the rest of the dead" (Rev. xx, 5), his conclusion was that the coming of Christ in person, power, and glory must be premillennial. He believed that at this coming there would be a resurrection of all the dead in Christ, who, together with all the redeemed then alive, would be "caught up to meet the Lord in the air"; that the wicked would then be judged, and the present heavens and earth dissolved by fire, to be followed by their regeneration as the inheritance of the redeemed, involving the glorious, immortal, and personal reign of Christ and all His saints.

As to the time when the Advent might be expected, Mr. Miller's conclusion was as follows:

In examining the prophecies \* \* \* I found that only four universal monarchies are predicted in the Bible to precede the setting up of God's everlasting kingdom; that three of those had passed away—Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Grecia—and that the fourth, Rome, had already passed into its last state. \* \* \*. And finding all the signs of the times, and the present condition of the world, to compare harmoniously with the prophetic description of the last days, I was compelled to believe that the world had about reached the limits of the period allotted for its continuance.

Moreover, as a result of his study of prophetic chronology, he believed not only that the Advent was at hand, but that its date might be fixed with some definiteness. Taking the more or less generally accepted view that the "days" of prophecy symbolize years, he was led to the conclusion that the 2,360 days

referred to in Daniel viii, 13, 14, the beginning of which he dated from the commandment to restore Jerusalem, given in 457 B. C. (Daniel ix, 25), and the 1,335 days of the same prophet (xii, 12), which he took to constitute the latter part of the 2,300 days, would end coincidentally in or about the year 1843. The cleansing of the sanctuary, which was to take place at the close of the 2,300 days (Daniel viii, 14), he understood to mean the cleansing of the earth at the second coming of Christ, which, as a result of his computations, he confidently expected would occur some time between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844, the period corresponding to the Jewish year.

The public labors of Mr. Miller, according to the best evidence to be obtained, date from the autumn of 1831, when he accepted an invitation to go to Dresden, N. Y., to speak on the subject of the Lord's return. He gave several addresses, with the result that many persons were "hopefully converted." Other invitations quickly followed, and thus began a work which in a few years, though not without opposition, spread far and wide, ministers and members of various evangelical denominations uniting in the expectation of the speedy, personal, and premillennial coming of Christ. The first general gathering of those interested in this subject was held in Boston in October, 1840. The call for this gathering simply invited Christians of all denominations to come together to compare views and to confer as to the best means of promulgating this important truth. The Advent movement was further assisted by the appearance of a number of papers, such as the *Midnight Cry*, the *Signs of the Times*, and the *Trumpet of Alarm*, emphasizing these views.

As the time approached when the coming of Christ was expected there was widespread interest and elaborate preparation. When the period originally indicated by Mr. Miller had passed without bringing the event, there was much disappointment. Later, however, some of the Adventists put forth a theory fixing October 22, 1844, as the date of the Advent. Mr. Miller ultimately accepted this view, and announced that if this prediction too should fail, he would suffer twice as much disappointment as he had experienced before. The passing of this date also without the occurrence of the expected event was a source of great disappointment both to Mr. Miller and to his followers. He did not, however, to the end of his life, change his views with regard to the premillennial character of the Advent itself, or his belief that "the day of the Lord is near, even at the door," although he acknowledged his error in fixing the date.

In its beginning the Adventist movement was wholly within the existing churches and there was no attempt to establish a separate denomination. Mr. Miller himself during the greater part of his work was a Baptist licentiate. In June, 1843, however, the Maine Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church passed resolutions condemning the movement, and from that time considerable opposition was manifested. In some cases Adventists were forced to leave the churches of which they were members; in others they withdrew voluntarily, basing their action, in part, on the command to "come out of Babylon" (Rev. xviii, 4), including under the term "Babylon" not only the Roman Catholic Church, but the Protestant churches. Mr. Miller and other leaders earnestly deprecated this interpretation, yet it influenced some to leave the old communions.

The Adventists who, for either of the causes mentioned, withdrew from the existing churches generally formed organizations of their own, although in some places they omitted any formal organization, considering either that the time was too short or that organization was sinful. No definite move was made, however, toward the general organization of the adherents of the Adventist doctrines until 1845. In that year, according to an estimate made by Mr. Miller, there were Advent congregations in "nearly a thousand places, numbering \* \* \* some fifty thousand believers." A conference was called at Albany, N. Y., in

April, 1845, for the purpose of defining their position, and was largely attended, Mr. Miller being present. A declaration of principles was adopted, embodying the views of Mr. Miller respecting the personal and premillennial character of the Second Advent of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the renewal of the earth as the abode of the redeemed, together with cognate points of doctrine, which have been summarized as follows:

1. The present heavens and earth are to be dissolved by fire, and new heavens and a new earth are to be created whose dominion is to be given to "the people of the saints of the Most High."

2. There are but two Advents of the Saviour, both of which are personal and visible. The first includes the period of His life from His birth to the Ascension; the second begins with His descent from Heaven at the sounding of the last trump.

3. The second coming is indicated to be near at hand, even at the doors; and this truth should be preached to saints that they may rejoice, knowing that their redemption draws nigh; and to sinners that they may be warned to flee from the wrath to come.

4. The condition of salvation is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who have repentance and faith will live soberly and righteously and godly in this world, looking for the Lord's appearing.

5. There will be a resurrection of the bodies of all the dead, both of the just and the unjust. Those who are Christ's will be raised at His coming; the rest of the dead, not until a thousand years later.

6. The only millennium taught in the Word of God is the thousand years intervening between the first resurrection and that of the rest of the dead.

7. There is no difference under the gospel dispensation between Jew and Gentile, but God will render to every man according to his deeds. The only restoration of Israel is in the restoration of the saints to the regenerated earth.

8. There is no promise of this world's conversion. The children of the kingdom and of the wicked one will continue together until the end of the world.

9. Departed saints do not enter their inheritance at death, that inheritance being reserved in heaven ready to be revealed at the second coming, when they will be equal to the angels, being the children of God and of the resurrection; but in soul and spirit they enter the paradise of God, to await in rest and comfort the final blessedness of the everlasting kingdom.

The somewhat loosely organized body formed at the general conference of Adventists held at Albany, N. Y., in April, 1845, continued for a decade to include practically all the Adventists except those who held to the observance of the seventh, rather than the first, day of the week as the Sabbath. In 1855 the discussions, in which Jonathan Cummings had so prominent a part, resulted in the withdrawal of some members and the subsequent organization of the Advent Christian Church. The Adventists who continued their adherence to the original body were for the most part those who believed in the doctrine of the conscious state of the dead and the eternal suffering of the wicked, claiming on these points to be in accord with the personal views of Mr. Miller. They, however, felt the need of closer association, and in 1858 organized at Boston, Mass., the American Millennial Association, partly for the purpose of publishing material in support of their belief and partly as a basis of fellowship. Some years later the members of this society adopted the term "Evangelical Adventists" as a denominational name, with a view to distinguishing themselves from other bodies with which they differed on doctrinal points.

For some years the association published a periodical bearing at different periods the names, Signs of the Times, Advent Herald, Messiah's Herald, and Herald of the Coming One. It contributed to the support of the China Inland

Mission and of laborers and missions in other fields, but as the older members died many of the younger families joined other evangelical denominations, and the number of churches and members diminished rapidly. In 1906 they reported 18 organizations with 481 members, 16 church edifices, church property valued at \$27,050, 9 Sunday schools with 57 officers and teachers and 264 scholars, and 8 ministers. When the inquiries for the census of 1916 were made, it appeared that all the churches, except a few in Pennsylvania, had disbanded or discontinued all services, and from those in Pennsylvania no information could be obtained. The denomination as an ecclesiastical body has, therefore, been dropped from this report.

Discussions in regard to the nature of the Advent, and particularly in regard to the future life, resulted in the formation of other bodies independent in organization but agreeing in the belief that the Advent is to be personal and premillennial and is near at hand and in their recognition of the influence of Mr. Miller and those immediately associated with him.

The denominations grouped under the name Adventist in 1926, in 1916, and in 1906 are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Two bodies listed in 1906 are not included in the table for 1916. The omission of the Evangelical Adventists is explained above, and that of the Churches of God (Adventist), Unattached Congregations, is noted in the statement (see p. 33) of the Church of God (Adventist).

**SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE ADVENTIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906**

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of mem- bers	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Num- ber of schol- ars
<b>1926</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,576</b>	<b>146,177</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>\$11,069,449</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>\$7,610,863</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>102,779</b>
Advent Christian Church.....	444	29,430	385	2,310,000	379	536,192	304	18,806
Seventh-day Adventist Denom- ination.....	1,981	110,998	1,363	8,477,999	1,849	6,998,988	1,383	81,067
Church of God, Adventist.....	58	1,686	12	25,850	39	13,887	23	685
Life and Advent Union.....	7	535	7	91,000	6	19,861	7	344
Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	86	3,528	52	164,600	63	41,935	42	1,877
<b>1916</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,667</b>	<b>114,915</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>3,885,235</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,186,588</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>98,802</b>
Advent Christian Church.....	534	30,597	417	1,188,070	423	274,446	379	21,007
Seventh-day Adventist Denom- ination.....	2,011	79,355	1,231	2,568,495	1,737	1,887,772	1,803	74,863
Church of God (Adventist).....	22	848	8	8,200	10	2,358	-----	-----
Life and Advent Union.....	13	658	8	41,600	11	8,996	9	439
Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	87	3,457	52	78,870	59	13,016	55	2,493
<b>1906</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,537</b>	<b>92,735</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>2,425,209</b>	-----	-----	<b>2,078</b>	<b>69,110</b>
Evangelical Adventists.....	18	481	15	27,050	-----	-----	9	264
Advent Christian Church.....	541	26,799	428	864,323	-----	-----	362	16,941
Seventh-day Adventist Denom- ination.....	1,884	62,211	981	1,454,087	-----	-----	1,656	50,225
Church of God (Adventist).....	10	354	3	4,000	-----	-----	9	326
Churches of God (Adventist), Unattached Congregations.....	10	257	2	2,300	-----	-----	5	200
Life and Advent Union.....	12	509	6	29,799	-----	-----	7	259
Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	62	2,124	36	53,650	-----	-----	30	895

# CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

## STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Churches of God in Christ Jesus 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 Churches of God in Christ Jesus comprises those persons who have been admitted to the churches upon profession of faith and baptism by immersion.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	86	33	53		
Members.....	3,528	1,303	2,225	36.9	63.1
Average per church.....	41	39	42		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	1,339	499	840	37.3	62.7
Female.....	1,989	804	1,185	40.4	59.6
Sex not reported.....	200		200		100.0
Males per 100 females.....	67.3	62.1	70.9		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	47	21	26		
13 years and over.....	2,980	1,136	1,844	38.1	61.9
Age not reported.....	501	147	354	29.3	70.7
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	1.6	1.8	1.4		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	54	18	36		
Value—Churches reporting.....	52	18	34		
Amount reported.....	\$164,000	\$98,700	\$65,900	60.0	40.0
Average per church.....	\$3,165	\$5,483	\$1,938		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6	6			
Amount reported.....	\$13,709	\$13,700		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	35	9	26		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	2	1	1		
Amount reported.....	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$1,500	76.9	23.1
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	63	26	37		
Amount reported.....	\$41,935	\$24,851	\$17,084	59.3	40.7
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$33,587	\$21,488	\$12,099	64.0	36.0
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$8,348	\$3,363	\$4,985	40.3	59.7
Average expenditure per church.....	\$666	\$956	\$462		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	42	16	26		
Officers and teachers.....	295	112	183	38.0	62.0
Scholars.....	1,877	732	1,145	39.0	61.0

<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> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 86 active Churches of God in Christ Jesus, with 3,528 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 85 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 73 churches, including, however, only 13 which reported any members under 13 years of age. The 2 churches reporting the value of parsonages reported no debt on such parsonages.

**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: CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	86	87	62	95
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	-1	25	-33	.....
Per cent <sup>2</sup> .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Members</b> .....	3,528	3,457	2,124	2,872
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	71	1,333	-748	.....
Per cent.....	2.1	62.8	-26.0	.....
Average membership per church.....	41	40	34	30
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	54	52	37	30
Value—Churches reporting.....	52	52	36	.....
Amount reported.....	\$164,600	\$73,870	\$53,650	\$46,075
Average per church.....	\$3,165	\$1,517	\$1,490	.....
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6	7	.....	.....
Amount reported.....	\$13,700	\$1,290	.....	.....
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....	2	3	1	.....
Amount reported.....	\$6,500	\$4,050	\$3,000	.....
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	63	59	.....	.....
Amount reported.....	\$41,935	\$13,016	.....	.....
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$33,587	\$11,246	.....	.....
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$8,348	\$1,770	.....	.....
Average expenditure per church.....	\$666	\$221	.....	.....
<b>Sunday Schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	42	55	30	.....
Officers and teachers.....	295	358	193	.....
Scholars.....	1,877	2,493	895	.....

<sup>1</sup> A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

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

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Churches of God in Christ Jesus by States. Table 3 gives for each State 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 4 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

**TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females ( <sup>1</sup> )
United States.....	86	33	53	3,528	1,303	2,225	1,339	1,989	200	67.3
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	1	1		78	78		33	45		
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	6	3	3	510	359	151	217	293		74.1
Indiana.....	10	4	6	412	93	319	155	257		60.3
Illinois.....	11	5	6	380	116	264	131	249		52.6
Michigan.....	6	1	5	202	31	171	76	126		60.3
Wisconsin.....	1		1	38		38	17	21		
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	4	1	3	228	38	190	101	127		79.5
Iowa.....	8	3	5	144	71	73	60	84		
Missouri.....	4	1	3	120	4	116	54	66		
Nebraska.....	7	2	5	258	87	171	108	150		72.0
Kansas.....	1	1		26	26		7	19		
South Atlantic:										
Virginia.....	3		3	97		97	44	53		
North Carolina.....	3	1	2	81	34	47	35	46		
South Carolina.....	1		1	200		200			200	
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	3		3	155		155	76	79		
Louisiana.....	2		2	62		62	30	32		
Oklahoma.....	1		1	14		14	6	8		
Texas.....	4	2	2	117	47	70	47	70		
Mountain:										
Idaho.....	1	1		8	8		2	6		
Colorado.....	1	1		4		4	1	3		
Arizona.....	2	1	1	123	84	39	37	86		
Pacific:										
Washington.....	3	2	1	167	119	48	63	104		60.6
Oregon.....	1	1		27	27		12	15		
California.....	2	2		77	77		27	50		

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

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

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

With the development of church life independent of denominational organizations, many churches throughout the country were organized under various names, such as Church of the Blessed Hope, Brethren of the Abrahamic Faith, Restitutionists, Restitution Church, Church of God, and Age to Come Adventists. Some were loosely affiliated but refused to be identified with any denomination, although, in general, they were Adventist in their doctrine. In November, 1888, representatives from a number of such churches met in Philadelphia and organized the association known as "Churches of God in Christ Jesus," which is in general accord with the Adventist bodies and is classed with them, although the term "Adventist" does not appear in its title.

In August, 1921, a General Conference was organized at Waterloo, Iowa. Headquarters were located at Oregon, Ill., at which place are maintained the general offices.

<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. F. L. Austin, president of the General Conference, Churches of God in Christ Jesus, and approved by him in its present form.



**TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS**

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	86	87	62	3,528	3,457	2,124	47	2,980	501	1.6
Ohio.....	6	6	4	510	372	175	2	508		0.4
Indiana.....	10	11	13	412	663	696	9	393	10	2.2
Illinois.....	11	10	10	380	276	274		288	92	
Michigan.....	6	8	9	202	338	328	2	200		1.0
Minnesota.....	4			228			8	114	106	6.6
Iowa.....	8	9	6	144	208	145	1	140	3	0.7
Missouri.....	4	2	2	120	81	47		120		
Nebraska.....	7	8	4	258	164	96	3	255		1.2
Kansas.....	1	1	3	26	15	48		26		
Virginia.....	3	4	1	97	102	50	2	95		
North Carolina.....	3	4		81	153			81		
Arkansas.....	3	10		155	499			105	50	
Oklahoma.....	1	7	2	14	281	33		14		
Texas.....	4			117				55	62	
Washington.....	3	1	2	167	40	56		24	143	
Oregon.....	1	1	3	27	30	62			27	
Other States.....	11	5	3	590	235	114	20	562	8	3.4

<sup>1</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS**

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE ON CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	86	54	52	\$164,600	6	\$13,700	2	\$6,500
Ohio.....	6	5	5	55,400	1	9,500		
Indiana.....	10	8	7	21,300	1	150		
Illinois.....	11	7	7	19,200	2	1,800		
Michigan.....	6	5	5	14,300	1	2,000		
Minnesota.....	4	4	3	14,000	1	250		
Iowa.....	8	4	4	4,300				
Missouri.....	4	3	3	4,500				
Virginia.....	3	3	3	3,100				
North Carolina.....	3	3	3	700				
Arkansas.....	3	3	3	2,100				
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	28	9	9	25,700			2	6,500

<sup>1</sup> The figures for value of parsonages represent data for 2 churches not shown by States, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.



TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
CHURCHES OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR			SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	86	63	\$41,935	\$33,587	\$8,348	42	295	1,877
Ohio.....	6	5	7,804	7,354	450	5	43	254
Indiana.....	10	9	3,237	3,002	235	6	49	242
Illinois.....	11	8	11,363	8,513	2,850	5	39	227
Minnesota.....	4	4	2,750	2,450	300	3	25	195
Iowa.....	8	7	2,015	1,047	968	2	11	70
Missouri.....	4	4	1,010	820	190	1	4	65
Nebraska.....	7	6	3,481	1,485	1,996	3	21	103
Virginia.....	3	3	1,760	1,420	340	1	7	37
Other States.....	33	17	8,515	7,496	1,019	16	96	684

#### DOCTRINE

The churches belonging to this association have no creed but the Bible. The members, however, believe:

1. That there is one God, the supreme creator and controller of all things, who is a lovable, loving, and approachable Father, and a rewarder of all who diligently seek Him and keep His commandments.

2. That the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into existence as set forth in the Gospels and gave His life as a sacrificial offering for our sins; that those who believe in Him and obey His teachings may through Him have their sins forgiven; that Christ arose from the dead on the third day and, after meeting with His disciples on several occasions, was taken up into heaven, there to remain with God until certain things foretold by the prophets shall have been accomplished.

3. That Christ will come again personally (a) to give immortal life to those who have been faithful, raising the dead and changing the living; (b) to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, which, with its capital city at Jerusalem, will be gradually extended until all nations and races of mankind are brought under His sovereignty; and to restore to its ancient heritage and God's favor the Israelitish nation, which will then be the most favored nation in this kingdom; (c) to reward the immortal saints as joint heirs with Christ, according to their works, giving to each a position of honor and trust as joint ruler with Christ in the kingdom of God; (d) to mete out to the ungodly "the wages of sin," even the second death.

4. That obedience to the commandments of God is obligatory upon all Christians, the first act necessary being baptism for the remission of sins.

5. That those who believe the gospel message, repent of their sins, and are baptized, have entered into covenant relationship with God, their part of the covenant being that they will live useful lives of faith and good works, God's part being that if they remain faithful unto the end He will give them eternal life and positions of honor and trust in His Kingdom.

Candidates for admission into the churches are required to confess faith in God and in the promises of the gospel; to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord, Saviour, and King; and to covenant to live Christian lives. On this confession candidates are baptized by immersion.

**ORGANIZATION**

In polity the churches are congregational. For fellowship and general work they gather in State and district conferences, which however, exercise no authority over the individual churches, being wholly advisory, educational, and evangelistic in character. Each local church adapts its organization to circumstances. In some cases they have pastors, in others the services are conducted by elders or presidents. The term "minister," as understood among them, is applied to the person in spiritual charge of the congregation, or who preaches the gospel. There is no formal method of ordination. Ministers are authorized by the several State conferences, who, on application, are, after confirmation as to character, recognized by the General Conference. The general attitude toward other denominations is liberal, the invitation to the communion service being extended to all Christians, leaving each individual to be his own judge as to participation.

**WORK**

The home mission work of the churches is conducted by a number of evangelists, who are supported by voluntary contributions. A Bible Training School, is maintained at Oregon, Ill., for those who wish to qualify for the ministry or for other active church work. In addition to this, literature, quarterly and annual gatherings, and Bible classes in various centers are used as mediums for educational work. There is a young people's society, called the Bereans, which has a national organization, with affiliated State organizations and local societies. There are about 50 of these local societies with about 1,000 members. Sunday schools, ladies' aid societies, and similar educational and charitable institutions, are also conducted as a part of the general work of the churches.

In the Golden Rule Home, at Oregon, Ill., provision is made to care for aged persons and others who may need such care.

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