

EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Under this head are included various associations of churches which are more or less completely organized and have one general characteristic, namely, the conduct of evangelistic or missionary work.

In a few cases they are practically denominations, but for the most part, while distinct from other religious bodies, they are dominated by the evangelistic conception rather than by doctrinal or ecclesiastical distinctions. None of them is large, and some are very small and local in their character.

Since 1916 there have been some changes. The Church of God (Apostolic) has been added but the Lumber River Mission is now known as the Holiness Methodist Church and listed with the Methodist bodies. The Church Transcendent and the Voluntary Missionary Society in America have ceased to exist, and no report was received from the Peniel Missions. Two bodies are listed under new names—Apostolic Faith Mission, reported in 1916 and 1906 as Apostolic Faith Movement, and Missionary Bands of the World, formerly reported as Pentecost Bands of the World.

The bodies grouped under the head "Evangelistic Associations" in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed as follows, with the principal statistics as reported for the three censuses.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS, 1926, 1916,
AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	257	15,763	141	\$1,821,043	198	\$378,034	188	11,839
Apostolic Christian Church.....	53	5,709	48	476,800	49	36,072	48	2,581
Apostolic Faith Mission.....	14	2,119	4	273,500	11	60,622	7	578
Christian Congregation.....	2	150	1	1,000	1	250	2	165
Church of Daniel's Band.....	4	129	3	4,500	4	667	2	78
Church of God as Organized by Christ.....	19	375	2	1,400				
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association.....	14	495	9	18,500	10	5,363	10	414
Metropolitan Church Association.....	40	1,113	4	201,650	34	107,580	33	1,618
Missionary Church Association.....	34	2,498	30	262,343	33	105,326	29	3,822
Missionary Bands of the World.....	11	241	9	20,000	10	6,588	8	248
Pillar of Fire.....	48	2,442	23	537,000	32	50,080	36	1,994
Church of God (Apostolic).....	18	492	8	24,350	14	5,486	13	341
1916								
Total for the group	207	13,933	134	854,435	170	265,167	145	10,067
Apostolic Church.....	2	112	2	6,400	2	650	1	60
Apostolic Christian Church.....	54	4,766	49	265,325	51	29,893	47	3,068
Apostolic Faith Movement.....	24	2,196	8	40,950	22	38,380	16	711
Christian Congregation.....	7	645	5	11,500	5	1,650	5	376
Church of Daniel's Band.....	6	303	4	7,800	4	895	1	22
Church of God as Organized by Christ.....	17	227	3	1,500	1	50		
Church Transcendent.....	3	91	1	4,500	1	700	3	84
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association.....	12	352	11	21,100	12	3,887	12	502
Lumber River Mission.....	6	434	6	6,425	4	323	6	358
Metropolitan Church Association.....	7	704	1	100,000	4	80,635	3	423
Missionary Church Association.....	25	1,554	20	84,700	21	37,930	21	3,022
Peniel Missions.....	9	257	2	111,600	8	5,765	4	66
Pentecost Bands of the World.....	10	218	10	18,500	10	4,420	10	430
Pillar of Fire.....	21	1,129	8	171,555	21	57,790	12	559
Voluntary Missionary Society in America.....	4	855	4	2,580	4	2,199	4	386
1906								
Total for the group	179	10,842	115	532,185			136	7,615
Apostolic Christian Church.....	41	4,558	38	141,550			31	1,932
Apostolic Faith Movement.....	6	538	1	450			5	245
Christian Congregation.....	9	395	5	7,200			7	332
Gospel Mission.....	8	195	4	3,100			7	245
Church of Daniel's Band.....	4	92	2	2,400			1	50
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association.....	10	293	9	11,300			9	402
Lumber River Mission.....	5	265	5	3,000			5	256
Metropolitan Church Association.....	6	466	4	118,300			4	360
Missionary Church Association.....	30	1,256	19	33,135			28	1,916
Peniel Missions.....	11	703	1	40,250			7	308
Pentecost Bands of the World.....	16	487	15	69,550			13	477
Pentecostal Union Church.....	3	230	3	90,600			2	175
Voluntary Missionary Society in America (Colored).....	3	425	2	2,400			3	390
Heavenly Recruit Church.....	27	938	7	8,950			14	527

PILLAR OF FIRE

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Pillar of Fire 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 Pillar of Fire includes those persons who have made profession of faith and have assented to the doctrines and practices of the church. It is made up of four classes—probationary members, regular members, full members, and associate members.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: PILLAR OF FIRE

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	48	32	16		
Members	2,442	1,554	888	63.6	36.4
Average per church.....	51	49	56		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	930	552	378	59.4	40.6
Female.....	1,474	964	510	65.4	34.6
Sex not reported.....	38	38			
Males per 100 females.....	63.1	57.3	74.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	347	241	106	69.5	30.5
13 years and over.....	1,292	734	558	56.8	43.2
Age not reported.....	803	579	224	72.1	27.9
Per cent under 13 years ³	21.2	24.7	16.0		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	25	17	8		
Value—Churches reporting.....	23	16	7		
Amount reported.....	\$537,000	\$447,400	\$89,600	83.3	16.7
Average per church.....	\$23,348	\$27,963	\$12,800		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	17	14	3		
Amount reported.....	\$75,200	\$72,200	\$3,000	96.0	4.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	5	2	3		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	11	10	1		
Amount reported.....	\$88,000	\$78,000	\$10,000	88.6	11.4
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6	6			
Amount reported.....	\$15,000	\$15,000		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	3	2	1		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	32	21	11		
Amount reported.....	\$50,080	\$45,351	\$4,729	90.6	9.4
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$38,854	\$35,490	\$3,364	91.3	8.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$11,226	\$9,861	\$1,365	87.8	12.2
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,565	\$2,160	\$430		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	36	28	8		
Officers and teachers.....	200	144	56	72.0	28.0
Scholars.....	1,994	1,387	607	69.6	30.4

¹ 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.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 48 active Pillar of Fire churches, with 2,442 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 47 churches and the classification by age was reported by 31 churches, including 22 which reported members under 13 years of age.

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

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: PILLAR OF FIRE

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations).....	48	21	3
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	27	18	
Per cent ¹			
Members	2,442	1,129	230
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	1,313	899	
Per cent.....	116.3	390.9	
Average membership per church.....	51	54	77
Church edifices:			
Number.....	25	8	3
Value—Churches reporting.....	23	8	3
Amount reported.....	\$537,000	\$171,555	\$90,600
Average per church.....	\$23,318	\$21,444	\$30,200
Debt—Churches reporting.....	17	4	2
Amount reported.....	\$75,200	\$14,800	\$11,000
Parsonages:			
Value—Churches reporting.....	11	2	
Amount reported.....	\$38,000	\$4,295	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6		
Amount reported.....	\$15,000		
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting.....	32	21	
Amount reported.....	\$50,080	\$57,790	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$38,854	\$32,857	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$11,226	\$24,933	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,565	\$2,752	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting.....	36	12	2
Officers and teachers.....	200	80	14
Scholars.....	1,994	559	175

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Pillar of Fire 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: PILLAR OF FIRE

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			Males per 100 females (¹)
	To- tal	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	
United States.....	48	32	16	2,442	1,554	888	930	1,474	38	63.1
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	3	2	1	106	81	25	46	60		
New Jersey.....	13	6	7	715	179	536	303	412		73.5
Pennsylvania.....	12	7	5	693	437	256	248	407	38	60.9
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	3	2	1	168	143	25	51	117		43.6
Illinois.....	1	1		3	3			3		
West North Central:										
Nebraska.....	1	1		50	50		30	20		
South Atlantic:										
Maryland.....	1	1		20	20		8	12		
Florida.....	3	3		107	107		49	58		
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	1		1	20		20	6	14		
Mountain:										
Wyoming.....	1	1		40	40		10	30		
Colorado.....	7	7		474	474		161	313		51.4
Pacific:										
California.....	2	1	1	46	20	26	18	28		

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.**TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: PILLAR OF FIRE**

[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 re- ported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	48	21	3	2,442	1,129	230	347	1,292	803	21.2
New York.....	3	2		106	55		5	101		4.7
New Jersey.....	13	6	1	715	542	56	102	505	108	16.8
Pennsylvania.....	12	5		693	291		124	313	256	28.4
Ohio.....	3	1		168	50		27	141		16.1
Florida.....	3	1		107	22		32	65	10	
Colorado.....	7	1	1	474	100	163	15	50	409	
Other States.....	7	5	1	179	69	11	42	117	20	26.4

¹ 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:
PILLAR OF FIRE**

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

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	48	25	23	\$537,000	17	\$75,200	11	\$88,000	6	\$15,000
New Jersey.....	13	9	8	141,400	6	8,500	1	10,000		
Florida.....	3	3	3	41,400	2	8,000	1	15,000	1	2,000
Colorado.....	7	6	6	212,500	5	29,500	5	24,500	2	3,000
Other States.....	25	7	6	141,700	4	29,200	4	38,500	3	10,000

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
PILLAR OF FIRE**

[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.....	48	32	\$50,080	\$38,854	\$11,226	36	200	1,994
New York.....	3	3	4,034	2,584	1,450	3	13	70
New Jersey.....	13	10	13,454	12,129	1,325	6	36	294
Pennsylvania.....	12	7	6,585	4,989	1,596	11	46	546
Colorado.....	7	5	13,450	10,950	2,500	5	43	461
Other States.....	13	7	12,557	8,202	4,355	11	62	623

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Pillar of Fire Church was incorporated in the State of Colorado, in 1902, having been organized December 29, 1901, as the Pentecostal Union, under which name it continued until October 6, 1917. It is now incorporated in several States and has branches in England.

The history of the Pillar of Fire is to be found, mainly, in the life of its founder, Mrs. Alma White. Early in her life as the wife of a Methodist minister, despite the fact that the Methodist Church at that time gave no official recognition to woman's ministry, Mrs. White occupied her husband's pulpit occasionally and devoted much of her time to revival work. It was not long before she proved to be a powerful preacher. Such success attended her efforts that she soon aroused not only great interest, but also some opposition from the Methodist bishops and presiding elders.

¹ This statement, which differs somewhat from that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been prepared from information furnished by Rev. Ray B. White, A. M., president of Bellevue College, and approved by him in its present form.

But notwithstanding this she continued to preach. In time she began to establish missions of an independent character and soon acquired a considerable following, organizing a regular society in 1901, which was incorporated in 1902, in order to hold property. Her original plan was that the organization should be a missionary society for the conversion of sinners and the spread of Scriptural holiness, similar to the societies which John Wesley organized. But as Methodism, when it was raised up, had a special mission to perform, and finally became a church in itself, distinct from the Church of England, so the Pillar of Fire in its turn became a church distinct from the Methodist Church. It was found that complete separation and independence from other denominations alone could give the Pillar of Fire, with women as well as men in the pulpit, freedom to pursue its course as an evangelizing and reforming force.

The organization has grown rapidly and has acquired valuable property, and in 1908 it established its headquarters at Zarephath, N. J., about 30 miles from New York City. Here, and at Bound Brook, over 800 acres were acquired and large buildings for schools and printing plants erected.

DOCTRINE

The doctrinal beliefs include the fundamental doctrines of other orthodox denominations; they are, in fact, Methodistic, any difference which exists coming from a closer adherence to primitive standards, guarding against modern liberalism and heresies; another difference is the extension of full ministerial orders to women. Doctrinal points emphasized are: (1) Belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures as the only sufficient rule of faith and practice; (2) repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; (3) justification by faith, evidenced by holy living; (4) Christian perfection or entire sanctification, which is interpreted as a cleansing of the believer's heart from inbred sin or spiritual defilement, so that the whole spirit, as well as the body, may be preserved blameless until the coming of Christ—perfection or sanctification here not implying freedom from mistakes or infirmities, but that Christian perfection which is purity of heart and a perfect attitude toward God; (5) the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body; (6) judgments as taught in the Scriptures; (7) water baptism, which is a sign of regeneration, the mode being optional; (8) the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; (9) marriage is a divine institution; (10) divine healing for the body; (11) the premillennial coming of the Lord, and the restoration of the Jews; (12) eternal punishment for the wicked and life everlasting for the righteous.

ORGANIZATION

The Pillar of Fire Church is episcopal in that, like the Methodist Church, its discipline provides for bishops, presiding elders, etc. Its orders include regularly ordained ministers (both men and women), regularly ordained deacons and deaconesses, consecrated deaconesses, licensed preachers, and missionaries.

Of the four classes of members, probationary, regular, full, and associate, only the second and third classes are qualified to vote; regular members, consisting of persons who have passed the probationary period, are qualified to vote on matters of ecclesiastical administration; while persons in full membership, consisting largely of regular members who are in active service as missionaries, teachers, ministers, etc., have power to vote also on matters pertaining to the financial administration.

WORK

Shortly after its incorporation the organization erected a training school at Denver, Colo., and later a printing plant was established, from which were issued the Pillar of Fire and numerous tracts and pamphlets. Upon the opening of the larger buildings at Zarephath, N. J., the publication work in Denver ceased for a short time, but was later resumed, the paper issued there taking the name Rocky Mountain Pillar of Fire.

At Zarephath three schools have been established, Zarephath Bible Institute, Alma Preparatory School, and Alma College, the latter being authorized by the State of New Jersey to grant degrees in arts and sciences. There is also a large printery, where four papers are published, the Eastern Pillar of Fire, the Good Citizen, Woman's Chains, and Pillar of Fire, Junior, besides numerous books and pamphlets.

In 1919 the organization came into possession of Westminster College, near Denver, Colo., once operated by the Presbyterians. They have also erected a large auditorium at Denver, known as Alma Temple. In Los Angeles they conduct a Bible school and other schools and publish the Occidental Pillar of Fire. Near Cincinnati, Ohio, they conduct a school; and at Jacksonville, Fla., there is a school and missionary headquarters.

In 1909 the Pillar of Fire opened missionary headquarters in London, England, and a publishing department, from which are issued the British Sentinel and the London Pillar of Fire. New and enlarged quarters were secured, in 1925, and it is the purpose to make this branch—known as Alma Institute—a center and headquarters for general foreign missionary work.

A very important feature of the Pillar of Fire's activities is its missionary and colporteur work in large cities of the United States, another is the opportunity which it affords for the training and education, at little or no expense to themselves, of worthy young people.

The total valuation of church property is placed at \$1,600,000, and school property at \$900,000. Money expended for educational work during 1926 amounted to \$75,000; nearly \$5,000 was appropriated for charity, in addition to the assistance of students and others; and \$5,000 was sent to the foreign fields. Students in Pillar of Fire schools numbered about 300.