

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	196	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

CHURCH OF GOD (APOSTOLIC)

STATISTICS

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

The membership includes all baptized believers enrolled, but those under 18 years of age are not considered communicants nor are they eligible for official position.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (APOSTOLIC)

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	18	9	9		
Members.....	492	231	261	47.0	53.0
Average per church.....	27	26	29		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	183	71	112	38.8	61.2
Female.....	309	160	149	51.8	48.2
Males per 100 females.....	59.2	44.4	75.2		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	21	19	2		
13 years and over.....	364	157	207	43.1	56.9
Age not reported.....	107	55	52	51.4	48.6
Per cent under 13 years ³	5.5	10.8	1.0		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	8	5	3		
Value—Churches reporting.....	8	5	3		
Amount reported.....	\$24,350	\$18,850	\$5,500	77.4	22.6
Average per church.....	\$3,044	\$3,770	\$1,833		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	4	2	2		
Amount reported.....	\$3,328	\$2,900	\$428	87.1	12.9
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	2	1	1		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	14	6	8		
Amount reported.....	\$5,486	\$2,370	\$3,116	43.2	56.8
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,590	\$1,695	\$2,895	36.9	63.1
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$896	\$675	\$221	75.3	24.7
Average expenditure per church.....	\$392	\$395	\$390		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	13	6	7		
Officers and teachers.....	70	31	39		
Scholars.....	341	137	204	40.2	59.8

¹Urban 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.

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

³Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 18 active organizations of the Church of God (Apostolic), with 492 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 18 churches, and the classification by age was reported

by 13 churches, including, however, only 6 which reported any members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported by these churches.

Although it had a prior existence, this body was reported for the first time in 1926.

State tables.—Tables 2, 3, and 4 present the statistics for the Church of God (Apostolic) by States. Table 2 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 3 gives figures for West Virginia and combined figures for other States, showing the number and membership of the churches, together with the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 presents the church expenditures for 1926, 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 Table 4, also, is limited to West Virginia, the only State in which as many as three churches reported 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 2.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (APOSTOLIC)

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 ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	13	9	9	492	231	261	183	309	59.2
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	1	1		7	7		2	5	
South Atlantic:									
Virginia.....	2	1	1	50	23	27	16	34	
West Virginia.....	10	4	6	288	125	163	115	173	66.5
North Carolina.....	2	1	1	21	15	6	7	14	
East South Central:									
Kentucky.....	2	2		61	61		15	46	
West South Central:									
Oklahoma.....	1		1	65		65	28	37	

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (APOSTOLIC)

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

STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE			
			Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	18	492	21	364	107	5.5
West Virginia.....	10	288	18	218	52	7.6
Other States.....	8	204	3	146	55	2.0

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

**TABLE 4.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
CHURCH OF GOD (APOSTOLIC)**

[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.....	18	14	\$5,486	\$4,590	\$896	13	70	341
West Virginia.....	10	8	2,747	2,153	594	8	49	172
Other States.....	8	6	2,739	2,437	302	5	21	169

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Church of God (Apostolic) was organized at Danville, Ky., in 1897, by Elder Thomas J. Cox. At that time it was called the Christian Faith Band Church, under which name it was later incorporated (1901). At the General Assembly held at Freeman, W. Va., August 15, 1915, the general overseer held a council with the elders concerning the name. The desire was expressed for a more scriptural name, and the report of the council recommending that the name of the church be changed to "The Church of God (Apostolic)" was adopted by a more than two-thirds vote of the Assembly; the latter, however, seeing that a number desired to hold the old name, did not press the matter, and the church was not incorporated under the new name until 1919, at Paris, Ky.

DOCTRINE

Admission to the church depends upon repentance for sin, confession of faith, and baptism by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The members believe in holiness and sanctification, practice the washing of feet, and celebrate the communion, or Lord's Supper, with unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread.

ORGANIZATION

The governing body is the General Assembly, and the officers are the apostle, or general overseer, the assistant overseer, district elders, pastors, evangelists, and local preachers. The church field is divided into districts, each of which holds a ministerial council once a year. The various churches have local names, the headquarters church being known as Zion Hill Church of God (Apostolic).

WORK

The organizations of the church, besides the Women's Circle, include missionary societies and the maintenance of sick and burial funds. The Sunday school also occupies a prominent place in the work of the church, in order that the young and the old as well may acquire a religious education. It is recruited by a revival held once a year and indorsed by the church. The church is also preparing ministerial courses for its preachers, which work will start in the near future, together with the publication of a religious periodical.

¹This statement was furnished by Rev. T. J. Cox, of Bluefield, W. Va., apostle and general overseer of the Church of God (Apostolic).