

## EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS

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### 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								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>257</b>	<b>15,763</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>\$1,821,043</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>\$378,034</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>11,839</b>
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								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>207</b>	<b>13,933</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>854,435</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>265,167</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>10,067</b>
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								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>179</b>	<b>10,842</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>532,185</b>			<b>136</b>	<b>7,615</b>
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

# CHURCH OF GOD AS ORGANIZED BY CHRIST

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of God as Organized by Christ 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 Church of God as Organized by Christ comprises only regular communicants of the local churches.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD AS ORGANIZED BY CHRIST**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PERCENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	19	5	14		
Members.....	375	76	299	20.3	79.7
Average per church.....	20	15	21		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	177	36	141	20.3	79.7
Female.....	198	40	158	20.2	79.8
Males per 100 females <sup>3</sup> .....	89.4		89.2		
Membership by age:					
13 years and over.....	19	19			
Age not reported.....	356	57	299	16.0	84.0
Church edifices:					
Number.....	2		2		
Value—Churches reporting.....	2		2		
Amount reported.....	\$1,400		\$1,400		100.0
Average per church.....	\$700		\$700		

<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 19 active organizations of the Church of God as Organized by Christ, with 375 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 19 churches, and the classification by age was reported by only 2 churches, neither of which reported any members under 13 years of age. None of the organizations reported debt on church edifices in 1926; no parsonages or Sunday schools were reported and no report of expenditures during 1926 was given.

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

**TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: CHURCH OF GOD AS ORGANIZED BY CHRIST**

ITEM	1926	1916
Churches (local organizations).....	19	17
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	2	
Per cent <sup>1</sup> .....		
Members.....	375	227
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	148	
Per cent.....	65.2	
Average membership per church.....	20	13
Church edifices:		
Number.....	2	3
Value—Churches reporting.....	2	3
Amount reported.....	\$1,400	\$1,500
Average per church.....	\$700	\$500

<sup>1</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

**State tables.**—Tables 3 and 4 present the statistics for the Church of God as Organized by Christ, 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 censuses of 1926 and 1916, together with the membership for 1926 classified as 13 years of age and over, so far as reported.

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

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.....	19	5	14	375	76	299	177	198	89.4
Middle Atlantic:									
Pennsylvania.....	3	2	1	75	45	30	34	41	
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	4		4	60		60	26	34	
Indiana.....	5	2	3	99	19	80	51	48	
Michigan.....	1		1	65		65	30	35	
Wisconsin.....	1		1	12		12	6	6	
West North Central:									
South Dakota.....	1		1	6		6	3	3	
South Atlantic:									
Maryland.....	1		1	30		30	14	16	
Florida.....	1		1	8		8	4	4	
Pacific:									
Oregon.....	1		1	8		8	4	4	
California.....	1	1		12	12		5	7	

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

**TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1926 AND 1916, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CHURCH OF GOD AS ORGANIZED BY CHRIST**

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES		NUMBER OF MEMBERS		MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926	
	1926	1916	1926	1916	13 years and over	Age not reported
United States.....	19	17	375	227	19	356
Pennsylvania.....	3	3	75	25		75
Ohio.....	4	2	60	16		60
Indiana.....	5	6	99	98	19	80
Michigan.....	1	4	65	66		65
Other States.....	6	2	76	22		76

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

In 1886 a circuit preacher, Rev. P. J. Kaufman, belonging to the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, with some other members, became impressed with the ecclesiasticism of different denominations and the lack of Bible authority for their organization. They accordingly withdrew and associated themselves together in what became afterwards the "Church of God as Organized by Christ," the principal basis of which is the belief that membership in the church is not dependent upon human choice, but that all Christians, of any and all sects, who lead honest, true, and Christian lives, and are true to all the gospel light they have, have equal rights with all in the services and are members of His church. They hold to the oneness of God's people, and that it is this Spirit birth that constitutes membership in the true church. Hence, there is no joining of the church among them, nor is there definite ordination to the service of the church, inasmuch as Christ ordains all officials. Things that can not be explained or proved with the words of Christ are set aside with the belief that every man "should be fully persuaded in his own mind." They teach repentance and restitution so far as restitution is possible; nonresistance, and full obedience to Christ's commands; observe the sacraments of baptism and the communion, and foot washing, but have no binding form for their observance.

They believe strictly in the American school, are opposed to all church schools and church colleges, holding that the State should control all secular education. Missionary labor they believe in confining to those near at hand, inasmuch as the "heathen will be judged according to their own conscience," and accordingly the labors of others are not necessary to their salvation.

The headquarters of the church are in Wakarusa, Ind., where the "Gospel Teacher" is published as the organ of the church.

<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. P. J. Kaufman, editor of the Gospel Teacher, Wakarusa, Ind., and approved by him in its present form.