

# CHURCHES OF GOD, HOLINESS

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Churches of God, Holiness, 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, Holiness, consists of persons who are baptized by immersion on profession of belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ and of adherence to New Testament teachings.

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

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).....	29	24	5		
Members.....	2, 278	1, 929	349	84. 7	15. 3
Average per church.....	79	80	70		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	830	710	120	85. 5	14. 5
Female.....	1, 410	1, 181	229	83. 8	16. 2
Sex not reported.....	38	38			
Males per 100 females.....	58. 9	60. 1	52. 4		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	400	331	69	82. 8	17. 2
13 years and over.....	1, 865	1, 585	280	85. 0	15. 0
Age not reported.....	13	13			
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	17. 7	17. 3	19. 8		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	16	11	5		
Value—Churches reporting.....	16	11	5		
Amount reported.....	\$159, 700	\$152, 500	\$7, 200	95. 5	4. 5
Average per church.....	\$9, 981	\$13, 864	\$1, 440		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	7	6	1		
Amount reported.....	\$71, 375	\$71, 350	\$25	100. 0	( <sup>4</sup> )
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	7	5	2		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	2	1	1		
Amount reported.....	\$16, 700	\$15, 000	\$1, 700	89. 8	10. 2
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$10, 000	\$10, 000		100. 0	
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	26	21	5		
Amount reported.....	\$35, 878	\$34, 693	\$1, 185	96. 7	3. 3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$27, 878	\$26, 769	\$1, 109	96. 0	4. 0
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$8, 000	\$7, 924	\$76	99. 1	0. 9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1, 380	\$1, 652	\$237		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	27	22	5		
Officers and teachers.....	174	148	26	85. 1	14. 9
Scholars.....	1, 246	1, 066	180	85. 6	14. 4

<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.

<sup>4</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The data given for 1926 represent 29 active organizations of the Churches of God, Holiness, with 2,278 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 27 churches and the classification by age was reported by 28 churches, including 20 which reported members under 13 years of age.

This denomination was not organized until after the census of religious bodies of 1916, and no comparative data are available.

**State tables.**—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Churches of God, Holiness 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 for selected States 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 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property. Table 5 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 4 and 5 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 2.

**TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCHES OF GOD, HOLINESS**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females ( <sup>1</sup> )
<b>United States.....</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>58.9</b>
<b>Middle Atlantic:</b>										
New York.....	2	2		142	142		52	90		
Pennsylvania.....	2	2		111	111		30	81		
<b>East North Central:</b>										
Ohio.....	2	2		65	65		12	28	25	
Illinois.....	1	1		87	87		36	51		
Michigan.....	1	1		13	13				13	
<b>South Atlantic:</b>										
District of Colum- bia.....	1	1		60	60		25	35		
Virginia.....	2	2		95	95		35	60		
North Carolina.....	4	2	2	135	69	66	43	92		
South Carolina.....	7	4	3	631	348	283	227	404		56.2
Georgia.....	3	3		749	749		318	431		73.8
<b>East South Central:</b>										
Tennessee.....	2	2		135	135		37	98		
<b>West South Central:</b>										
Louisiana.....	1	1		15	15		5	10		
Texas.....	1	1		40	40		10	30		

<sup>1</sup> 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: CHURCHES OF GOD, HOLINESS

[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 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	29	2, 278	400	1, 865	13	17. 7
North Carolina.....	4	135	10	125	-----	7. 4
South Carolina.....	7	631	157	474	-----	24. 9
Georgia.....	3	749	128	621	-----	17. 1
Other States.....	15	763	105	645	13	14. 0

<sup>1</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCHES OF GOD, HOLINESS

[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 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.....	29	16	16	\$159, 700	7	\$71, 375	2	\$16, 700	1	\$10, 000
North Carolina.....	4	3	3	4, 500	1	850	-----	-----	-----	-----
South Carolina.....	7	5	5	10, 200	3	1, 525	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other States.....	18	8	8	145, 000	3	69, 000	2	16, 700	1	10, 000

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCHES OF GOD, HOLINESS

[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.....	29	26	\$35, 878	\$27, 878	\$8, 000	27	174	1, 246
North Carolina.....	4	4	3, 214	2, 892	322	4	20	90
South Carolina.....	7	7	4, 528	3, 983	545	7	44	315
Georgia.....	3	3	11, 750	8, 100	3, 650	3	30	430
Other States.....	15	12	16, 386	12, 903	3, 483	13	80	411

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

The organization known as Churches of God, Holiness, dates back to the year 1914, when Rev. K. H. Burruss began preaching the gospel of entire sanctification to a little group of eight people at Atlanta, Ga. It was not until July, 1916, however, that the denomination was organized at Atlanta, by Rev. Burruss, at which time large churches were established both at Atlanta and at Norfolk, Va., as the result of great revivals held in those cities. The denomination continued to prosper until by the year 1922 thirty-five churches had been established. These churches were located in 11 States and in Cuba, the Canal Zone, and British West Indies. In the year 1922 the churches were brought into a national organization, which is now known as the National Convention of the Churches of God, Holiness.

The headquarters of this denomination are at Atlanta, Ga.

**DOCTRINE**

This denomination believes not only in the inspiration of the Scriptures but that the New Testament is the standard by which all doctrine must be tested, and that all rules of government for the churches are to be found therein. Furthermore, it holds that the New Testament "gives safe and clearly applied instructions on all methods of labor, sacred and secular, and all conduct of life even to the innermost thoughts of the heart and impulses of the soul." It acknowledges belief in the Trinity, in justification, sanctification, and regeneration, and it holds that the gift of the Holy Ghost is an act subsequent to conversion. It teaches both present and ultimate perfection. A belief in the possibility of divine healing is a necessary qualification for membership. However, it is clearly stated in the discipline of the denomination that physicians and medicines are not denounced in the Bible, but are approved for those who desire them.

The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. The form of baptism is "burial in water and rising again." Although the washing of feet is a practice which this denomination approves, "as obeying the Lord," it is not a regularly observed ordinance of the church.

**ORGANIZATION**

The highest ecclesiastical body of this denomination, called the National Convention, is a delegated body whose province it is to elect the national president. The State convention is next in rank and is held annually. A State overseer, whose duty it is "to see that all churches under his jurisdiction shall be disciplined according to the New Testament Scriptures," is appointed by the national president or bishop, who also assigns all pastors to the local churches. The deacons are assistants to the pastor and hold office as long as their conduct justifies it. There are five auxiliaries to the National Convention, the Christian Womens' Willing Workers, the Young People's Union, the Sunday school, the Purity Club, and the Gospel Spreading Committee.

The official church paper is the Bethlehem Star.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement was furnished by Rev. K. H. Burruss, president, Convention of Churches of God, Holiness, and approved by him in its present form.