

APOSTOLIC OVERCOMING HOLY CHURCH OF GOD

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God 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 this denomination consists of all persons admitted to the local churches upon confession of faith and baptism.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	16	8	8		
Members.....	1,047	581	466	55.5	44.5
Average per church.....	65	73	58		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	352	187	165	53.1	46.9
Female.....	695	394	301	56.7	43.3
Males per 100 females.....	50.6	47.5	54.8		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	10	6	4		
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	6	4		
Amount reported.....	\$16,950	\$12,100	\$4,850	71.4	28.6
Average per church.....	\$1,695	\$2,017	\$1,213		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	5	2	3		
Amount reported.....	\$1,975	\$1,600	\$375	81.0	19.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	5	4	1		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$3,000	\$3,000		100.0	
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	16	8	8		
Amount reported.....	\$17,198	\$11,187	\$6,011	65.0	35.0
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$15,010	\$9,935	\$5,075	66.2	33.8
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$2,188	\$1,252	\$936	57.2	42.8
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,075	\$1,398	\$751		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	15	7	8		
Officers and teachers.....	67	38	29		
Scholars.....	1,068	583	485	54.6	45.4

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.

The data given for 1926 represent 16 active organizations of the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God, with 1,047 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by all of the 16 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age. There was no debt on the one parsonage reported.

This denomination has been organized since the 1916 census of religious bodies and no comparative data are available.

State tables.—Tables 2, 3, and 4, present the statistics for the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God 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 shows the value of church edifices and the debt on such property. 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 Tables 3 and 4 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.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 5 presents, for each ministerial council in this denomination, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

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

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	To- tal	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Fe- male	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States.....	16	8	8	1,047	581	466	352	695	50.6
East North Central:									
Illinois.....	1	1		138	138		53	85	
East South Central:									
Kentucky.....	1	1		18	18		4	14	
Alabama.....	13	5	8	847	381	466	277	570	48.6
West South Central:									
Texas.....	1	1		44	44		18	26	

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

TABLE 3.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: APOSTOLIC OVERCOMING HOLY CHURCH OF GOD

[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	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	16	10	10	\$16,950	5	\$1,975
Alabama.....	13	8	8	14,150	4	1,175
Other States.....	3	2	2	2,800	1	800

TABLE 4.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
APOSTOLIC OVERCOMING HOLY CHURCH OF GOD

[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.....	16	16	\$17,198	\$15,010	\$2,188	15	67	1,068
Alabama.....	13	13	13,243	11,325	1,918	13	57	853
Other States.....	3	3	3,955	3,685	270	2	10	215

TABLE 5.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY MINISTERIAL COUNCILS, 1926: APOSTOLIC OVERCOMING HOLY CHURCH OF GOD

MINISTERIAL COUNCIL	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total.....	16	1,047	10	\$16,950	5	\$1,975	16	\$17,198	15	1,068
North.....	8	567	6	9,200	3	1,650	8	8,542	8	554
South.....	8	480	4	7,750	2	325	8	8,656	7	514

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

This denomination, reported for the first time in 1926, was incorporated in 1916 under the laws of the State of Alabama as the Ethiopian Overcoming Holy Church of God. At the annual meeting in June, 1927, by a majority vote, the word "Apostolic" was substituted for "Ethiopian," and the denomination has since been called Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God.

The churches are nearly all in three States of the South, but there is one organization in Illinois. The headquarters of the denomination are in Mobile, Ala.

The National Convention, which meets annually, is divided into districts called ministerial councils. The presiding officer of the general body is a bishop, and the church has also elders and teachers. Its general purpose is evangelistic, supported by the payment of tithes from all the members.

¹ This statement was furnished by Rev. W. T. Phillips, bishop, Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God, and approved by him in its present form.