

BAPTIST BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

It is a distinct principle with Baptists that they acknowledge no human founder, recognize no human authority, and subscribe to no human creed. For all these things, Baptists of every name and order go back to the New Testament. And while no competent Baptist historian assumes to be able to trace a succession of Baptist churches through the ages, most of them are of one accord in believing that, if we could secure the records, there would be found heroic groups of believers in every age who upheld with their testimonies and, in many cases, with their lives, the great outstanding and distinctive principles of the Baptist churches of to-day.

As soon as the Reformation gave men opportunity to interpret the teachings of the Scriptures for themselves, and to embody their convictions in speech and act, persons holding Baptist doctrines immediately began to appear. In the first quarter of the sixteenth century, they were found in Germany and Switzerland, and were called Anabaptists (Re-baptizers), because they insisted that persons baptized in infancy must, upon profession of conversion, and in order to gain admission into church fellowship, be baptized again, although they do not appear to have insisted always on immersion. These early Anabaptists were in the main of high character, though in some instances they held doctrines which led to fanatical outbreaks which aroused no little prejudice against them.

Gradually, in spite of severe persecution, the Anabaptists grew in numbers. Some of them, driven from Germany, found refuge in the Low Countries and these were gathered, under the lead of Menno Simons, into the groups of Mennonites¹ who passed over into England, and doubtless played an important part in giving currency to Baptist principles. To their influence, in all probability, the English Baptists owe their first churches, established in Amsterdam in 1608 and in London in 1611. Glimpses of them appear in the days preceding the Commonwealth, and during the Cromwellian period they became more prominent. It was due to this Mennonite influence that the early Baptist churches in England were Arminian rather than Calvinistic in type, and were termed General Baptists, indicating belief in a universal atonement, in distinction from Particular Baptists, indicating a limited atonement. The first Calvinistic or Particular Baptist church was formed in London in 1638, its members seceding peaceably from an older Separatist congregation. In 1641 a further secession from the same Separatist church occurred, and the new group became convinced from study of the New Testament that the apostolic baptism was immersion. They sent one of their number to Holland, where he was immersed by a minister of the Collegiate church at Rhynsburg, where the practice of immersion had been introduced, and on his return the rest of the church were immersed. Gradually this practice was adopted by all the Baptist churches and became in the popular mind their distinguishing feature. The General and Particular Baptists were united in 1891.

The first Baptist church in America was probably established by Roger Williams, the "Apostle of Religious Liberty," in Providence, R. I., in 1639, although this honor is disputed by the First Baptist Church of Newport, R. I., organized, it is claimed, with John Clarke as its pastor, the same year or shortly after.

¹ See Mennonite Bodies, p. 842.

Roger Williams was a Separatist² minister who came to the Massachusetts Colony in 1631, and was banished from that colony because "he broached and divulged new and dangerous opinions against the authority of magistrates." Having established himself at Providence, he adopted essentially Baptist views and soon gathered a number of converts to this faith. As there was no Baptist church in existence in America at that time, he baptized Ezekiel Holliman, who thereupon baptized him. Williams then baptized 10 others, and this company of Baptist believers organized themselves into a church. John Clarke came from New Hampshire to Newport about the same time, and, apparently without any connection with the work of Williams, established a Baptist church in that town.

These early American Baptist churches belonged to the Particular, or Calvinistic, branch. Later, Arminian views became widely spread for a time, but ultimately the Calvinistic view of the atonement was generally accepted by the main body of Baptists in the Colonies. The divisions which now exist began to make their appearance at a relatively early date. In 1652 the church at Providence divided, one party organizing a church which marked the beginning of the General Six Principle Baptists. The Seventh Day Baptist body organized its first church at Newport in 1671. Arminianism practically disappeared from the Baptist churches of New England about the middle of the eighteenth century, but General Baptists were found in Virginia before 1714, and this branch gained a permanent foothold in the South. As a result of the revival movement, generally known as the New Light movement, which followed George Whitefield's visit to New England in 1740, the Separate Baptists came into existence and at one time were very numerous. The Free Baptists,³ in 1779, once more gave a general and widely accepted expression in New England to the Arminian view of the atonement.

Soon after the Revolutionary War, the question of the evangelization of the Negro race assumed importance, and a Colored Baptist church was organized in 1788. With the general revival movement at the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, to which the Free Baptists owed no small part of their growth, there developed, especially in the mountain sections of the Middle West and in the Southern States, a reaction toward a sterner Calvinism, which, combined with the natural Baptist emphasis upon individualism, produced a number of associations strictly, even rigidly, Calvinistic, some of them going to the extent of dualism, as in the doctrine of the Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists.

About the same time, as missionary work became organized into societies, many of these associations opposed, not so much mission work itself, as its organization, through fear of a developing ecclesiasticism. These were variously termed "Old School," "Anti-Mission," "Hard Shell," and "Primitive" Baptists; but gradually the term "Primitive" became the most widely known and adopted. In contradistinction to these, the associations, or churches, which approved of missionary societies, came to be designated Missionary Baptists, though there was no definite denominational organization under that name.

The denominations mentioned, however, do not represent all who hold Baptist views, for during the revival period just referred to, the Disciples of Christ, or Churches of Christ, arose, who in practice are essentially Baptists, although they differ from the other bodies in some interpretations. With them also may be classed the Adventists, the Brethren (Dunker, Plymouth, and River), Mennonites, and certain other bodies. The Armenian and Eastern Orthodox Churches practice baptism by immersion, but do not limit it to those of mature years.

² See Congregational Churches, p. 453.

³ In 1926 the Free Baptist churches are included with those of the Northern Baptist Convention.

It thus appears that a survey of Baptist bodies should include not only those which make the term an integral part of their title, but some which are not ordinarily classed with them. It is also evident that among those who accept the name Baptists there are many differences, some of great importance. Seventh Day Baptists agree with other Baptists bodies except in regard to the Sabbath, but the distinction between Primitive Baptists and Free Will Baptists is much more marked than between Baptists and Disciples. Any presentation of the strength of Baptist denominations must take into account these divergencies.

By far the largest body of Baptists, not only in the United States but in the world, is that popularly known as "Baptist," though frequently referred to, and listed in the census of 1890, as "Regular Baptists." Other Baptist bodies prefix some descriptive adjective, such as "Primitive," "United," "General," "Free Will," etc., but this, which is virtually the parent body, commonly has no such qualification. Its churches, however, are ordinarily spoken of as "Northern," "Southern," and "Colored." This does not imply any divergence in doctrine or ecclesiastical order. All are one in these respects. It is rather a distinction adopted for administrative purposes, and based upon certain local or racial characteristics and conditions, the recognition of which implies no lack of fellowship or unanimity of purpose. Should these distinctions cease to exist, there is nothing whatever to prevent the same unity in matters of administration which now exists in belief, fellowship, and ecclesiastical practice.

STATISTICS

The denominations grouped as Baptists in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR BAPTIST BODIES, 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.....	60,192	3,440,922	52,281	\$469,827,795	54,145	\$98,045,096	47,889	4,654,241
Baptists:								
Northern Baptist Convention.....	7,611	1,289,966	7,297	185,370,576	7,380	34,318,486	6,999	1,052,794
Southern Baptist Convention.....	23,374	3,524,378	21,128	173,456,965	22,338	42,904,563	19,882	2,345,630
Negro Baptists.....	22,081	3,196,623	19,833	103,465,759	20,209	19,475,981	18,755	1,121,362
General Six Principle Baptists.....	6	293	6	20,500	5	3,046	5	229
Seventh Day Baptists.....	67	7,264	58	668,200	65	132,068	57	4,033
Free Will Baptists.....	1,024	79,592	765	1,156,743	872	252,613	643	38,199
United American Free Will Baptists (Colored).....	166	13,396	142	308,425	158	67,773	144	5,077
Free Will Baptists (Bullockites).....	2	36	1	1,500	1	100	1	15
General Baptists.....	465	31,501	353	706,325	440	113,825	295	18,797
Separate Baptists.....	65	4,803	43	63,650	41	9,292	37	1,782
Regular Baptists.....	349	23,091	233	647,550	223	55,610	65	4,690
United Baptists.....	221	18,903	139	144,665	147	15,094	30	2,005
Duck River and Kindred Associations of Baptists (Baptist Church of Christ).....	98	7,340	75	51,175	46	5,262	14	795
Primitive Baptists.....	2,267	81,374	1,037	1,730,348	776	166,847	5	181
Colored Primitive Baptists.....	925	43,978	87	171,518	111	39,419	24	2,278
Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists.....	27	304	24	19,350	20	473		
Independent Baptist Church of America.....	13	222	6	12,000	10	2,499	6	146
American Baptist Association.....	1,431	117,858	1,054	1,832,546	1,303	482,045	918	56,228

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR BAPTIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Contd.

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
1916								
Total for the group	57,828	7,153,313	50,716	\$198,364,747	51,797	\$40,027,119	46,168	3,946,886
Baptists:								
Northern Baptist Convention.....	8,148	1,232,135	7,748	94,644,133	7,848	16,082,462	7,517	1,028,952
Southern Baptist Convention.....	23,580	2,708,870	19,268	58,348,373	21,078	15,063,743	17,555	1,665,996
National Baptist Convention.....	21,071	2,938,579	20,117	41,184,920	19,988	8,361,919	19,909	1,181,270
General Six Principle Baptists.....	10	456	10	25,850	6	2,483	6	278
Seventh Day Baptists.....	68	7,980	59	307,600	64	67,095	66	5,005
Free Baptists.....	171	12,570	159	670,720	153	123,363	141	11,642
Free Will Baptists.....	750	54,833	656	517,240	612	75,835	390	22,421
Colored Free Will Baptists.....	169	13,362	164	178,385	168	36,647	87	4,168
Free Will Baptists (Bullockites).....	12	184	6	3,450	3	275	1	12
General Baptists.....	517	33,466	390	421,837	424	64,698	305	18,545
Separate Baptists.....	46	4,254	40	47,565	33	9,468	30	1,711
Regular Baptists.....	401	21,521	189	141,480	143	11,855	50	2,587
United Baptists.....	254	22,097	82	52,147	69	4,837	16	701
Duck River and Kindred Associations of Baptists (Baptist Church of Christ).....	105	6,872	49	40,600	67	2,518	8	399
Primitive Baptists.....	2,142	80,311	1,580	1,601,807	964	96,270	-----	-----
Colored Primitive Baptists.....	336	15,144	164	154,690	170	22,881	87	3,201
Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists.....	48	679	35	23,950	7	170	-----	-----
1906								
Total for the group	54,707	5,662,234	49,329	139,842,656	-----	-----	41,165	2,898,914
Baptists:								
Northern Baptist Convention.....	8,247	1,052,105	7,795	74,620,025	-----	-----	7,346	851,269
Southern Baptist Convention.....	21,075	2,009,471	18,672	34,723,882	-----	-----	14,371	1,014,690
National Baptist Convention.....	18,492	2,261,607	17,890	24,437,272	-----	-----	17,478	924,665
General Six Principle Baptists.....	16	685	13	19,450	-----	-----	9	414
Seventh Day Baptists.....	76	8,381	68	292,250	-----	-----	67	5,117
Free Baptists.....	1,338	81,359	1,092	2,974,130	-----	-----	1,059	65,101
Free Will Baptists.....	608	40,280	554	296,585	-----	-----	263	12,720
Free Will Baptists (Bullockites).....	15	298	8	6,900	-----	-----	1	25
General Baptists.....	518	30,097	380	252,019	-----	-----	230	11,658
Separate Baptists.....	73	5,180	59	66,980	-----	-----	45	1,962
United Baptists.....	190	13,698	75	36,715	-----	-----	21	1,360
Duck River and Kindred Associations of Baptists (Baptist Church of Christ).....	92	6,416	86	44,321	-----	-----	9	402
Primitive Baptists.....	2,878	102,311	1,953	1,674,810	-----	-----	-----	-----
Colored Primitive Baptists in America.....	787	35,076	501	296,539	-----	-----	166	6,224
Two-Seed-in-the-Spirit Predestinarian Baptists.....	55	781	32	21,500	-----	-----	-----	-----
United American Free Will Baptists (Colored).....	247	14,489	151	79,278	-----	-----	100	3,307

Certain changes are to be noted. Under the "Negro Baptists," in 1926, are included the former National Baptist Convention, now the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., and the National Baptist Convention of America; the Lott Carey Missionary Baptists; and the colored Baptist churches that were formerly reported with the Northern Baptist Convention. The Free Baptists of 1916 are now a part of the Northern Convention. A new body has recently completed its organization, under the name Independent Baptist Church of America, and a new denomination has come out of the Southern Baptist Convention, called the American Baptist Association.

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Free Will Baptists 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 Free Will Baptist churches consists of those persons who have been received into the local churches upon evidence of a change of heart, profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, immersion by a proper administrator, and acceptance of the church covenant.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: FREE WILL BAPTISTS

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	1,024	41	983	4.0	96.0
Members.....	79,592	4,042	75,550	5.1	94.9
Average per church.....	78	99	77		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	31,910	1,965	30,245	5.2	94.8
Female.....	46,790	2,377	44,413	5.1	94.9
Sex not reported.....	892		892		100.0
Males per 100 females.....	68.2	70.0	68.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	1,190	182	1,008	15.3	84.7
13 years and over.....	65,786	3,490	62,296	5.3	94.7
Age not reported.....	12,616	370	12,246	2.9	97.1
Per cent under 13 years ³	1.8	5.0	1.6		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	770	34	736	4.4	95.6
Value—Churches reporting.....	765	34	731	4.4	95.6
Amount reported.....	\$1,156,743	\$114,800	\$1,041,943	9.9	90.1
Average per church.....	\$1,512	\$3,376	\$1,425		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	69	13	56		
Amount reported.....	\$32,564	\$11,956	\$20,608	36.7	63.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifices.....	555	14	541	2.5	97.5
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	9	3	6		
Amount reported.....	\$18,400	\$9,000	\$9,400	48.9	51.1
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2	1	1		
Amount reported.....	\$2,800	\$1,200	\$1,600	42.9	57.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	5	2	3		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	872	39	833	4.5	96.5
Amount reported.....	\$252,613	\$33,810	\$218,803	13.4	86.6
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$179,730	\$26,600	\$153,070	14.8	85.2
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$66,557	\$6,953	\$59,604	10.4	89.6
Not classified.....	\$6,326	\$197	\$6,129	3.1	96.9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$290	\$867	\$263		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	643	32	611	5.0	95.0
Officers and teachers.....	4,202	257	3,945	6.1	93.9
Scholars.....	38,199	2,838	35,361	7.4	92.6

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 1,024 active Free Will Baptist churches, with 79,592 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 1,017 churches and the classification by age was reported by 840 churches, including, however, only 226 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: FREE WILL BAPTISTS

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	1,024	750	608	167
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	274	142	441	
Per cent.....	36.5	23.4	264.1	
Members	79,592	54,833	40,280	11,864
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	24,759	14,553	28,416	
Per cent.....	45.2	36.1	239.5	
Average membership per church.....	78	73	66	71
Church edifices:				
Number.....	770	656	556	125
Value—Churches reporting.....	765	656	554	
Amount reported.....	\$1,156,743	\$517,240	\$296,585	\$57,005
Average per church.....	\$1,512	\$788	\$535	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	69	42	37	
Amount reported.....	\$32,564	\$6,260	\$3,536	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	9	14	8	
Amount reported.....	\$18,400	\$9,630	\$3,400	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2			
Amount reported.....	\$2,800			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	872	612		
Amount reported.....	\$252,613	\$75,835		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$179,730	\$64,182		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$66,557	\$11,653		
Not classified.....	\$6,326			
Average expenditure per church.....	\$290	\$124		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	643	390	263	
Officers and teachers.....	4,202	2,547	1,440	
Scholars.....	38,199	22,421	12,720	

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Free Will Baptists 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.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each association of the Free Will Baptists, 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 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: FREE WILL BAPTISTS

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females (1)
United States.....	1,024	41	983	79,592	4,042	75,550	31,910	46,790	892	68.2
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	39	1	38	2,014	19	1,995	904	1,110	—	81.4
Indiana.....	1	—	1	75	—	75	30	45	—	—
Illinois.....	1	—	1	38	—	38	15	23	—	—
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	1	—	1	26	—	26	12	14	—	—
Missouri.....	87	2	85	5,261	173	5,088	1,998	3,006	257	66.5
Kansas.....	3	—	3	83	—	83	34	49	—	—
South Atlantic:										
Virginia.....	13	—	13	465	—	465	176	289	—	60.9
West Virginia.....	14	—	14	456	—	456	198	258	—	76.7
North Carolina.....	308	12	296	31,256	1,499	29,757	12,547	18,709	—	67.1
South Carolina.....	49	2	47	3,594	212	3,382	1,406	2,188	—	64.3
Georgia.....	88	5	83	6,317	312	6,005	2,577	3,740	—	68.9
Florida.....	30	2	28	2,761	82	2,679	1,129	1,632	—	69.2
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	10	—	10	1,077	—	1,077	290	370	417	78.4
Tennessee.....	82	5	77	6,608	815	5,793	2,586	3,898	124	66.3
Alabama.....	91	3	88	8,136	345	7,791	3,372	4,670	94	72.2
Mississippi.....	7	1	6	595	37	558	255	340	—	75.0
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	103	—	103	5,270	—	5,270	2,191	3,079	—	71.2
Oklahoma.....	96	7	89	5,469	457	5,012	2,153	3,316	—	64.9
Texas.....	1	1	—	91	91	—	37	54	—	—

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: FREE WILL BAPTISTS

[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 reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	1,024	750	608	79,592	54,833	40,280	1,190	65,786	12,616	11.8
Ohio.....	39	1	30	2,014	30	1,425	30	1,795	189	1.6
Missouri.....	87	68	—	5,261	4,868	—	123	4,446	692	2.7
Nebraska.....	—	11	—	—	581	—	—	—	—	—
Kansas.....	3	6	—	83	373	—	—	63	20	—
Virginia.....	13	—	1	465	—	64	7	396	62	1.7
West Virginia.....	14	7	7	456	296	198	1	346	109	0.3
North Carolina.....	308	253	284	31,256	22,914	22,518	461	25,182	5,613	1.8
South Carolina.....	49	31	41	3,594	2,281	2,649	42	3,115	437	1.3
Georgia.....	88	95	77	6,317	6,152	4,500	114	5,610	593	2.0
Florida.....	30	26	26	2,761	1,424	1,424	66	2,668	27	2.4
Kentucky.....	10	4	—	1,077	344	—	—	1,077	—	—
Tennessee.....	82	51	49	6,608	4,681	3,093	90	5,780	738	1.5
Alabama.....	91	82	42	8,136	5,854	2,213	83	7,171	882	1.1
Mississippi.....	7	18	1	595	921	35	—	534	61	—
Arkansas.....	103	62	10	5,270	2,926	371	27	4,152	1,091	0.6
Oklahoma.....	96	22	29	5,469	680	1,288	116	3,277	2,076	3.4
Texas.....	1	12	11	91	468	507	22	69	—	—
Other States.....	3	1	—	139	50	—	8	105	26	7.1

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:
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

[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	1,024	770	765	\$1,156,743	69	\$32,564	9	\$18,400	2	\$2,800
Ohio.....	39	28	28	34,975	1	182				
Missouri.....	87	67	67	96,805	4	790	(1)			
Virginia.....	13	8	8	10,700	1	35				
West Virginia.....	14	8	8	11,700	1	300				
North Carolina.....	308	290	289	550,625	30	18,063	5	13,000	2	2,800
South Carolina.....	49	42	42	51,875	7	1,520				
Georgia.....	88	76	76	99,225	3	718				
Florida.....	30	23	23	23,205	1	125				
Kentucky.....	10	6	6	17,250	2	4,080				
Tennessee.....	82	67	66	94,568	4	1,268				
Alabama.....	91	75	75	72,765	3	1,305	(1)			
Mississippi.....	7	5	5	7,800						
Arkansas.....	103	43	40	38,600	3	455				
Oklahoma.....	96	27	27	36,150	8	2,580	(1)			
Other States ²	7	5	5	10,500	1	543	4	5,400		

¹ Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for value of parsonages include data for 3 churches in Missouri, Alabama, and Oklahoma.

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

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

STATE	Total number of churches	Churches reporting	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR			SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
			Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	1,024	872	\$252,613	\$179,730	\$66,557	\$6,326	643	4,202	38,199
Ohio.....	39	32	5,555	4,527	481	547	35	239	1,558
Missouri.....	87	71	12,440	7,982	3,753	705	53	351	2,472
Virginia.....	13	10	1,712	235	977	500	3	15	210
West Virginia.....	14	14	3,420	2,252	1,168		11	64	497
North Carolina.....	308	289	139,716	101,147	36,261	2,308	227	1,585	16,051
South Carolina.....	49	42	11,074	7,481	3,543	50	40	247	2,172
Georgia.....	88	81	19,561	14,745	4,435	381	40	215	1,868
Florida.....	30	26	5,249	3,668	1,381	200	13	56	516
Kentucky.....	10	6	2,095	1,590	255	250	4	22	210
Tennessee.....	82	66	13,299	9,592	3,217	490	52	345	2,971
Alabama.....	91	83	12,842	8,698	3,869	275	43	256	2,461
Mississippi.....	7	7	1,969	1,767	202		2	8	57
Arkansas.....	103	74	8,452	6,105	2,134	213	54	321	2,799
Oklahoma.....	96	66	14,041	8,913	4,721	407	63	454	4,197
Other States.....	7	5	1,188	1,028	160		3	24	160

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY ASSOCIATIONS, 1926: FREE WILL BAPTISTS

ASSOCIATION	Total number 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	1,024	79,592	765	\$1,156,743	69	\$32,564	872	\$252,613	643	38,199
Alabama:										
Cahaba River.....	10	589	7	\$3,550	1	\$5	9	\$1,513	3	202
Jasper.....	19	1,490	15	12,100			17	2,708	10	496
Morning Star.....	4	220	4	1,560			3	193	1	17
Mount Moriah.....	15	1,796	14	16,855			15	2,313	11	613
Mount Pleasant.....	2	169		(¹)				(¹)	1	168
Muscle Shoals, State Line.....	10	778	8	13,350	1	800	10	2,341	7	375
State Line of Florida.....	11	1,530	10	9,450			10	1,285	7	454
Tennessee River.....	9	592	5	3,850	1	500	6	360	2	85
Vernon.....	13	1,059	11	10,250			13	1,853	2	111
Arkansas:										
Antioch.....	16	758	5	3,600	1	280	13	1,004	6	334
Arkansas.....	10	680		(¹)			10	970	9	378
Big Springs.....	6	257		(¹)			3	90	2	71
Cave Springs.....	1	40		(¹)				(¹)	1	35
Mount Grove.....	3	65		(¹)				(¹)		
New Hope.....	10	399	8	5,900			7	570	7	387
Old Mount Zion.....	9	509		(¹)			6	126	4	125
Polk Bayou.....	12	631	7	4,750			11	2,910	3	208
Saline.....	9	712	4	3,300			6	1,120	5	244
Social Band.....	19	813	8	10,700	2	175	12	1,456	13	808
Zion Hope.....	8	406	3	2,550			4	154	4	209
Florida:										
Blountstown.....	5	274	3	3,500			4	930	2	81
Liberty.....	1	100		(¹)				(¹)	1	30
Salem.....	10	1,009	8	9,005			8	1,586	3	160
South Georgia.....	3	227		(¹)			3	1,245		
State Line.....	2	407		(¹)				(¹)	1	50
West Florida-Liberty.....	9	744	7	4,900			8	1,063	6	205
Georgia (white):										
Chattahoochee.....	2	85		(¹)				(¹)	1	55
Georgia, Eastern.....	1	50		(¹)				(¹)	1	20
Georgia, Union.....	16	964	11	8,300			14	1,970	7	366
Little River.....	14	707	13	15,075	1	50	13	892	2	104
Martin United.....	16	1,101	15	23,700	1	518	15	4,620	3	131
Midway.....	17	1,704	15	21,000	1	150	15	4,262	12	654
Mount Hosea.....	1	79		(¹)				(¹)	1	30
Ogeechee.....	1	102		(¹)				(¹)	1	25
South Georgia.....	19	1,418	16	22,500			18	5,407	11	440
Southern Union.....	1	107		(¹)				(¹)	1	43
Illinois:										
Cairo (Quarterly Meeting).....	1	38		(¹)				(¹)		
Indiana:										
Noble-La Grange Quarterly Meeting.....	1	75		(¹)					1	65
Iowa:										
North East-Missouri.....	1	26		(¹)				(¹)		
Kansas:										
Indian Creek.....	1	15		(¹)				(¹)		
South West Missouri and South East Kansas.....	2	68						(¹)	1	55
Kentucky:										
Cumberland.....	1	48		(¹)				(¹)	1	50
Johnson County.....	8	987	5	16,500	2	4,080	5	2,005	3	160
Mingo County.....	1	42								
Mississippi:										
Jasper.....	2	93						(¹)		
Tennessee River.....	1	102		(¹)				(¹)	1	50
Vernon.....	4	400	4	7,000			4	1,621	1	7
Missouri:										
Cave Springs.....	12	359	7	12,400			8	575	5	183
Central West Missouri and South East Kansas.....	4	257	4	3,800			4	397	2	110
Indian Creek.....	3	223	3	3,700			3	437	3	90
Laclede County.....	7	644	5	5,000	1	200	5	1,345	3	114

¹ Amount included in the figures shown on the line designated "Combinations," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY ASSOCIATIONS, 1926: FREE WILL BAPTISTS—Continued

ASSOCIATION	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
Missouri—Continued.										
Niagua	7	438	5	\$5,500			6	\$1,176	5	203
North East Missouri	11	556	9	16,575	1	\$90	8	1,854	6	300
North West Missouri	5	227	5	8,200			5	931	4	120
Social Band	1	20		(1)				(1)		
South East Missouri	7	777	7	9,900	1	300	6	2,159	5	503
South West Missouri and South East Kansas	4	264	3	8,500			4	920	4	305
Union	25	1,463	18	22,880	1	200	20	2,564	16	544
Wright County	1	33						(1)		
North Carolina (white):										
Beaver Creek	1	105		(1)		(1)		(1)	1	140
Beaver Dam	1	84		(1)		(1)		(1)	1	100
Cape Fear	54	4,605	53	122,900	8	8,145	53	33,723	42	3,457
Central	52	7,809	47	99,550	6	1,419	47	30,394	36	2,669
Eastern	74	7,708	70	118,825	5	2,274	69	32,353	43	3,115
French Broad	13	1,494	12	42,300	1	3,000	12	9,329	10	691
Jacks Creek	24	1,691	23	32,900	1	60	19	2,324	18	1,070
Pee Dee	7	747	7	5,000			7	1,357	7	334
Rock Fish	4	175	4	6,300	1	30	4	865	3	180
St. Anna	4	183		(1)			3	525	4	164
Western	45	5,484	43	91,950	4	2,720	44	20,437	39	2,903
Wilmington	29	1,171	26	22,900	2	115	29	6,761	23	1,228
Ohio:										
Ohio River	39	2,014	28	34,975	1	182	32	5,555	35	1,558
Oklahoma:										
Beulah	7	515		(1)			6	987	6	332
Canadian	6	251		(1)			5	935	2	110
Center	13	365	4	7,400	2	1,600	5	1,770	6	340
Dibble	5	378		(1)			4	958	5	296
Eureka	18	1,516	7	5,650	1	57	16	3,213	17	1,538
First Oklahoma	9	796	5	10,200	2	558	7	3,597	8	565
Grand River	20	735		(1)			11	688	7	305
Hopewell	6	276		(1)		(1)	4	925	3	135
South Oklahoma	11	526	3	2,900	1	40	7	898	8	501
Southeastern	1	111						(1)	1	75
South Carolina:										
Beaver Creek	5	376	5	8,050	2	386	5	1,937	5	319
Beaver Dam	1	115		(1)		(1)		(1)	1	60
Eastern	9	555	6	5,300	1	100	7	1,830	7	413
Pee Dee	4	172	3	1,500			3	337	3	121
Rock Fish	4	91	4	9,800	1	200	4	425	4	166
St. Anne	2	41		(1)				(1)	2	50
South Carolina	24	2,244	21	21,925	2	284	20	5,682	18	1,043
Tennessee:										
Cumberland	28	2,890	24	40,115			23	5,544	17	1,066
Jack Creek	4	592	4	8,700	1	53	4	2,240	4	375
State Line	5	281	4	3,578			5	730	4	150
Stone	18	1,327	11	8,850	1	200	12	690	10	398
Tennessee River	3	130		(1)				(1)		
Union	21	1,236	19	31,750	1	900	17	3,076	15	852
Wautauga	1	65		(1)		(1)		(1)	1	70
Texas:										
Hopewell	1	91		(1)		(1)		(1)	1	40
Virginia:										
John Thomas	4	158		(1)				(1)	1	40
Sandy Valley	9	307	6	7,900	1	35	8	1,437	2	170
West Virginia:										
Mingo County	7	238	3	4,000	1	300	7	1,818	5	225
West Virginia	7	218	5	7,700			7	1,602	6	272
Combinations ¹			46	64,125	8	2,558	35	8,746		

¹ Amount included in the figures shown on the line designated "Combinations," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for value, debt, and expenditures represent data for associations in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

One of the influential factors in early Baptist history, especially in the Middle States, was a Welsh church, organized in Wales in 1701, which emigrated the same year to Pennsylvania. Two years later it received a grant of land known as the "Welsh Tract," where the colony prospered and was able to send a number of able ministers to various sections. One of these, Elder Paul Palmer, gathered a company in North Carolina and, in 1727, organized a church at Perquimans, in Chowan County. The principal element appears to have been Arminian, in sympathy with certain communities in Virginia which had received ministerial assistance from the General Baptists of England. There was no thought, however, of organizing a separate denomination, the object being primarily to provide a church home for the community, a place for the administration of the ordinances, and for the teaching of Christian ethics.

Under the labors of Elder Palmer and other ministers whom he ordained, additional churches were organized, which grew rapidly, considering the sparsely settled country, and an organization was formed, called a yearly meeting, including, in 1752, 16 churches, 16 ministers, and probably 1,000 communicants. As the Philadelphia Association of Calvinistic Baptists increased in strength, a considerable number of these Arminian churches were won over to that confession, so that only 4 remained undivided. These, however, rallied, reorganized, and, being later reinforced by Free Will Baptists from the North, especially from Maine, regained most of the lost ground.

In the early part of their history they do not appear to have had a distinctive name. They were afterwards called "Free Will Baptists," and most of them became known later as "Original Free Will Baptists." They were so listed in the report on religious bodies, census of 1890, but have since preferred to drop the term "Original," and be called simply "Free Will Baptists."

In 1836 they were represented by delegates in a General Conference of Free Will Baptists throughout the United States, but after the Civil War they held their own conferences. In recent years they have drawn to themselves a number of churches of similar faith throughout the Southern States, and have increased greatly in strength. They hold essentially the same doctrines as the Free Baptist churches of the North, now a part of the Northern Baptist Convention, have the same form of ecclesiastical polity, and are to some degree identified with the same interests, missionary, and educational.

As the movement for the union of the Free Baptist churches with the Northern Baptist Convention developed, some who did not care to join in that movement affiliated with the Free Will Baptists.

DOCTRINE

The Free Will Baptists accept the five points of Arminianism as opposed to the five points of Calvinism, and in a confession of faith of 18 articles declare that Christ "freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man"; that "God wants all to come to repentance"; and that "all men, at one time or another, are found in such capacity as that, through the Grace of God, they may be eternally saved."

Believers' baptism is considered the only true principle, and immersion the only correct form; but no distinction is made in the invitation to the Lord's Supper, and Free Will Baptists uniformly practice open communion. They further believe in foot washing and anointing the sick with oil.

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, was furnished by Rev. E. T. Phillips, editor of The Free Will Baptist, Ayden, N. C.

ORGANIZATION

In polity the Free Will Baptists are distinctly congregational. Quarterly conferences for business purposes are held in which all members may participate. The officers of the church are the pastor, clerk, treasurer, deacons, who have charge of the preparations for the communion service and care for the poor, and elders, who care for the spiritual interests of the churches and settle controversies between brethren. The quarterly conferences are united in State bodies, variously called conferences or associations, and there is an annual conference representing the entire denomination.

WORK

The general activities of the churches are not as yet well organized, although considerable evangelistic work is done in the home field, and some of the churches contributed to the support of the foreign mission in Bengal, India, until recently under the supervision of the General Conference of the Free Baptists.² In several of the Southern States the Free Will Baptist churches have recently organized State conventions, with State mission boards, boards of education, Sunday school and philanthropic work. There is a tendency to form one strong body, or to do more general missionary and educational work through these boards of the State organizations. For several years there has been a theological seminary at Ayden, N. C., recently named Eureka College, in which young men are prepared for the ministry, and a denominational school has recently been established in Oklahoma. Through the efforts of the North Carolina State Convention, an orphanage was built at Middlesex, N. C. The report for 1926 shows 82 children in the home, with a superintendent and his wife, 2 matrons, and 4 teachers. The estimated value of the home is \$125,000. The denomination has a publishing house in Ayden, N. C., which publishes the organ of the churches, The Free Will Baptist, and also issues a large supply of Sunday school literature. A cooperative association of many of the States has been organized, which is expected in the near future to embrace the entire brotherhood.

² See Northern Baptist Convention, p. 99.