

## 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

# MISSIONARY BANDS OF THE WORLD

(FORMERLY PENTECOST BANDS OF THE WORLD)

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Missionary Bands of the World 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 Missionary Bands of the World comprises those persons who have been accepted and enrolled by the local societies, upon public profession of faith and the pledge to conform to the rules of the society.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: MISSIONARY BANDS OF THE WORLD**

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).....	11	5	6		
Members.....	241	170	71	70.5	29.5
Average per church.....	22	34	12		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	80	55	25		
Female.....	161	115	46	71.4	28.6
Males per 100 females.....	49.7	47.8	( <sup>3</sup> )		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	19	11	8		
13 years and over.....	222	159	63	71.6	28.4
Per cent under 13 years <sup>2</sup> .....	7.9	6.5			
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	9	4	5		
Value—Churches reporting.....	9	4	5		
Amount reported.....	\$20,000	\$11,000	\$9,000	55.0	45.0
Average per church.....	\$2,222	\$2,750	\$1,800		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	3	2	1		
Amount reported.....	\$966	\$700	\$266	72.5	27.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	6	2	4		
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	6	4	2		
Amount reported.....	\$10,000	\$9,200	\$800	92.0	8.0
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2	2			
Amount reported.....	\$3,000	\$3,000		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	4	2	2		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	10	5	5		
Amount reported.....	\$6,588	\$5,497	\$1,091	83.4	16.6
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,738	\$3,883	\$855	82.0	18.0
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,850	\$1,614	\$236	87.2	12.8
Average expenditure per church.....	\$659	\$1,099	\$218		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	8	4	4		
Officers and teachers.....	52	24	28		
Scholars.....	248	150	98	60.5	39.5

<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, the number of females being less than 100.

The data given for 1926 represent 11 active organizations of the Missionary Bands of the World, with 241 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by 9 churches, including, however, only 4 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

**Comparative data, 1906-1926.**—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, and 1906. At the two earlier censuses this body was reported under the name Pentecost Bands of the World.

**TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: MISSIONARY BANDS OF THE WORLD**

ITEM	1926	1916 <sup>1</sup>	1906 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	11	10	16
Increase <sup>2</sup> over preceding census:			
Number.....	1	-6	
Per cent <sup>3</sup> .....			
<b>Members</b> .....	241	218	487
Increase <sup>2</sup> over preceding census:			
Number.....	23	-269	
Per cent.....	10.6	-55.2	
Average membership per church.....	22	22	30
<b>Church edifices:</b>			
Number.....	9	10	16
Value—Churches reporting.....			
Amount reported.....	\$20,000	\$18,500	\$69,550
Average per church.....	\$2,222	\$1,850	\$4,637
Debt—Churches reporting.....			
Amount reported.....	\$966	\$7,900	\$6,625
<b>Parsonages:</b>			
Value—Churches reporting.....			
Amount reported.....	\$10,000	\$9,500	\$19,500
Debt—Churches reporting.....			
Amount reported.....	\$3,000		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>			
Churches reporting.....	10	10	
Amount reported.....	\$6,588	\$4,420	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,738	\$3,005	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,850	\$1,415	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$659	\$442	
<b>Sunday schools:</b>			
Churches reporting.....	8	10	13
Officers and teachers.....	52	77	83
Scholars.....	248	430	477

<sup>1</sup> Figures are for Pentecost Bands of the World, name changed in 1925 to Missionary Bands of the World.

<sup>2</sup> A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

<sup>3</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

**State tables.**—Tables 3 and 4 present the statistics for the Missionary Bands of the World 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 the State of Indiana, and for other States in combination, 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. Separate presentation, by States, of the value of church property and the debt on such property, and also of church expenditures for the year 1926, is omitted in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church, Indiana being the only State in which these items were reported by more than one church.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: MISSIONARY BANDS OF THE WORLD

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.....	11	5	6	241	170	71	80	161	49.7
East North Central:									
Indiana.....	9	5	4	223	170	53	73	150	48.7
Illinois.....	1		1	( <sup>2</sup> )					
Michigan.....	1		1	18		18	7	11	

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

<sup>2</sup> Not reported.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: MISSIONARY BANDS OF THE WORLD

[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	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	11	10	16	241	218	487	19	222	7.9
Indiana.....	9	8	12	223	158	427	16	207	7.2
Other States.....	2	2	4	18	60	60	3	15	

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

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

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

In 1885 a missionary society of young people was formed in the Free Methodist Church by the Rev. Vivian A. Dake. Gradually, as the members of the bands came into closer fellowship, they united in distinct organizations and in 1898 became a separate body, adopting the name "Pentecost Bands of the World," with headquarters at Indianapolis, Ind. While primarily a home and foreign missionary movement, it is practically a denomination. The doctrine corresponds in general to that of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The bands have a regular membership, church edifices, and pastors, besides evangelistic and mission work of a general character. The name of the organization was changed to Missionary Bands of the World by the annual conference of 1925.

<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. F. B. Whisler, president of the Missionary Bands of the World and approved by him in its present form.

## WORK

The various churches in America also conduct a mission work in which about 50 licensed ministers were engaged in 1926, including pastors, home mission workers, and evangelists. The foreign mission work is carried on in India, Japan, Jamaica, and Sweden, with property valued at about \$25,000 and congregations numbering about 600. Thirteen missionaries and about 42 native workers carried on this work in 1926. The entire work is unsalaried, being supported by freewill offerings only.