

# THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PARENT CHURCH

(THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFORMING COVENANT)

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for The Christian Science Parent Church for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

In order to be eligible for membership in The Christian Science Parent Church, applicants must be consistent adherents of Christian Science and be free from all other denominational connections.

**TABLE 1.**—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PARENT CHURCH

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).....	29	28	1		
Members.....	582	574	8	98.6	1.4
Average per church.....	20	21	8		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	144	143	1	99.3	0.7
Female.....	438	431	7	98.4	1.6
Males per 100 females.....	32.9	33.2			
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	4	4			
13 years and over.....	578	570	8	98.6	1.4
Per cent under 13 years.....	0.7	0.7			
Church edifices:					
Number.....	1	1			
Value—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$4,000	\$4,000		100.0	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$2,100	\$2,100		100.0	
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	23	22	1		
Amount reported.....	\$50,341	\$50,143	\$198	99.6	0.4
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$38,244	\$38,184	\$60	99.8	0.2
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$9,099	\$8,961	\$138	98.5	1.5
Not classified.....	\$2,998	\$2,998		100.0	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,189	\$2,279			
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	15	14	1		
Officers and teachers.....	48	43	5		
Scholars.....	149	144	5	96.6	3.4

<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.

The report given for 1926 shows that there were 728 members of The Christian Science Parent Church at that time. The tabulated number of members of branch churches and local members of The Parent Church at headquarters, which

latter, for statistical purposes is considered a branch, is 582. This leaves 146 members of the church in various parts of the Western Hemisphere who are not members of branch churches.

The classification of membership by sex and age was reported by all of the 29 churches, including, however, only 3 which reported any members under 13 years of age. There were no parsonages reported.

No comparable data are available, as this body, though organized in 1912, was not established in the United States until 1924.

**State tables.**—Tables 2, 3, and 4 present the statistics for The Christian Science Parent Church 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 figures for the State of Texas, and combined figures for all other States, showing the number and membership of the churches for the census of 1926, together with the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 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 Table 4 is also limited to the State of Texas, the only one in which three or more churches reported 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: THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PARENT CHURCH

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.....	29	28	1	582	574	8	144	438	32.9
New England:									
Massachusetts.....	1	1		18	18		5	13	
Middle Atlantic:									
New York.....	2	2		73	73		15	58	
New Jersey.....	1	1		10	10		2	8	
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	1	1		44	44		14	30	
Indiana.....	2	2		27	27		9	18	
Illinois.....	1	1		23	23		11	12	
West North Central:									
Minnesota.....	1	1		5	5		1	4	
Iowa.....	1	1		9	9		1	8	
Missouri.....	2	2		22	22		6	16	
South Atlantic:									
District of Columbia.....	1	1		75	75		10	65	
West Virginia.....	1	1		10	10		2	8	
Georgia.....	1	1		2	2		1	1	
East South Central:									
Tennessee.....	1	1		34	34		11	23	
Alabama.....	1	1		12	12		7	5	
West South Central:									
Louisiana.....	1	1		6	6		1	5	
Texas.....	5	5		106	106		19	87	
Mountain:									
Colorado.....	1	1		20	20		10	10	
Arizona.....	2	1	1	31	23	8	4	27	
Pacific:									
Washington.....	1	1		4	4		1	3	
California.....	2	2		51	51		14	37	

<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: THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PARENT CHURCH

[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	Per cent under 13
United States.....	29	532	4	578	0.7
Texas.....	5	106		106	
Other States.....	24	476	4	472	0.8

TABLE 4.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PARENT CHURCH

[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.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	29	23	\$50,341	\$33,244	\$9,099	\$2,998	15	43	149
Texas.....	5	5	4,419	4,027	392		2	11	52
Other States.....	24	18	45,922	34,217	8,707	2,998	13	37	97

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

## HISTORY

The foundation of The Christian Science Parent Church was laid in England, by Mrs. Annie C. Bill, on December 18, 1912. The church organized at that time passed through successive stages of development until it became firmly established in London as a parent church, with branches in other parts of England.

On June 8, 1924, this church was also established in the United States, at Boston, Mass., by Mrs. Bill. Shortly afterwards a publishing society was organized to serve the entire field in Europe and America, and The Christian Science Watchman was founded as the official organ of the church. Immediately branch churches began to be formed in various parts of the United States.

Special circumstances relating to the development of the movement soon showed the advisability of removing the American headquarters to Washington, D. C., which was done on January 1, 1926.

<sup>1</sup> This statement was furnished by Miss Mabel Kelly, clerk of The Christian Science Parent Church, and has been approved by her in its present form.

### DOCTRINE

The doctrine of the church is expressed in its "Foundational Statement," as follows: "This church is founded on Christian Science as contained in the Bible, and in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, and on the demonstration of Christian Science through higher discernment of the Science and Truth therein contained, and further unfolded in the writings of Annie C. Bill." This "further unfoldment" is the exposition of a universal law evolved in a sevenfold progressive order, as illustrated in the symbolic account of spiritual creation in the first chapter of Genesis, and it leads to the acceptance of the doctrine of immortality. The "unfoldment" includes further the principles that immortality can be brought about only in accordance with the Covenant plan inaugurated by the people of Israel, and that the English-speaking people are the present-day representatives of that people. It also shows that embodied in the Church Manual, written by Mrs. Eddy, and especially in the statement that Christian Science "restores the lost Israel," is the implication that obedience to the Covenant is essential for this purpose because of the Covenant's unchanging scientific basis. The "further unfoldment" also expresses the belief that Science and Religion, when both are understood and correctly demonstrated, work unitedly to bring to human perception the new heaven and the new earth foretold in Bible prophecy.

### ORGANIZATION

In organization, the European and American headquarters are of equal rank. Each has a board of directors, president, clerk, treasurer, and two readers. The business jurisdiction of the one is the Eastern Hemisphere; that of the other is the Western Hemisphere. There is one Leader, who, assisted by a Deputy Leader, gives unremitting care and attention to whatever best promotes the welfare of the entire movement.

Uniform Sunday Lessons are furnished to the whole field, consisting of selections from the Bible, from Science and Health, and from Science, Evolution, and Immortality, the last-named a book written by Annie C. Bill. These lessons are studied during the week by the members and are read at the Sunday services by the two readers in each of the 29 churches. Sunday schools are maintained by the individual churches. Provision is also made for holding testimony meetings on one or more Thursday evenings of each month.

It is specified that "no sanatoriums, hospitals, homes for the aged, or similar institutions for Christian Science treatment of physical disease shall be established by members of this church." True mental healing demands that discordant physical conditions shall be treated individually and not collectively.

The church maintains, both in Europe and in America, an educational department, called "The Central School of The Christian Science Parent Church," in which instruction is given. Reading rooms are maintained for the use of the public by the individual churches, and provision is also made for public lectures.

### WORK

The work of the church is to demonstrate its doctrine. It recognizes the need of healing physical disease, but it holds that a greater and far more important work is the prevention of disease, and this the church is doing by the healing of sin on the unseen mental plane, before it becomes manifest as disease, war, or pestilence.

Furthermore, the moral law is, step by step, to meet the need of the hour, worked out on a higher plane of thought made possible by the spiritual discovery which occurred, as it always must, in the seventh or rest day following the six days of labor. The discovery of this spiritual truth identifies the discoverer and determines the center of the new church, while the adherents of the truth form its circumference. This center and circumference constitute the scientific "system of government" described in Mrs. Eddy's Manual and rediscovered by Mrs. Bill. Organized effort is made, therefore, during the six stages or "days" of labor, by demonstrating and publishing, until dominion over the new idea has been gained, when the seventh or rest day recurs, and the common desire for life impels the discovery of the next spiritual fact of life.

In this era the new spiritual discovery is the universal design followed in the law of mental formation, impelling scientific unfoldment; and the specific error or sin to be overcome is the denial of the specific good discovered. This idea is thoroughly expounded in the book written by Mrs. Bill called "The Universal Design of Life."

That this spiritual evolution by conscious direct intent closes the door to mortality and opens it wide to immortality is explained as follows:

"Material history inevitably closes when the scientific formula given to the world by Mrs. Eddy, and further unfolded in the living church, provides the proof that material resistance is practically dissolved by spiritual power organized in conformity with the universal design of Life."

The active part taken by this church in the issues of the day is indicated by its appeal to the public for the abolition of age limits, "that the moral might of State laws shall not be utilized to legalize official limitations of man's normal existence," and a strong public stand against prohibition.

Annual business meetings are held simultaneously at the European and American headquarters.

The publishing of the good news, the gospel, of the facts of Life, discovery of which is periodically impelled by the Manual (Covenant) system of government, must go on eternally. This phase of the work of The Christian Science Parent Church is emphasized by its subtitle, "The Church of the Transforming Covenant."