

## 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	196	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 CHURCH ASSOCIATION

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Missionary Church Association 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 Church Association is made up of those persons who have been baptized upon profession of faith and accepted as members by action of the local church bodies.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	34	12	22		
<b>Members</b> .....	2,498	896	1,602	35.9	64.1
Average per church.....	73	75	73		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	1,065	352	713	33.1	66.9
Female.....	1,433	544	889	38.0	62.0
Males per 100 females.....	74.3	64.7	80.2		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	67	34	33		
13 years and over.....	2,311	862	1,449	37.3	62.7
Age not reported.....	120		120		100.0
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	2.8	3.8	2.2		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	31	11	20		
Value—Churches reporting.....	30	10	20		
Amount reported.....	\$262,343	\$161,000	\$101,343	61.4	38.6
Average per church.....	\$8,745	\$16,100	\$5,067		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	11	7	4		
Amount reported.....	\$35,958	\$35,308	\$650	98.2	1.8
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	16	1	15		
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	4	6		
Amount reported.....	\$37,800	\$19,000	\$18,800	50.3	49.7
Debt—Churches reporting.....	4	2	2		
Amount reported.....	\$5,254	\$4,304	\$950	81.9	18.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	4		4		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	33	12	21		
Amount reported.....	\$105,326	\$58,731	\$46,595	55.8	44.2
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$73,652	\$49,099	\$24,553	66.7	33.3
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$31,674	\$9,632	\$22,042	30.4	69.6
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,192	\$4,894	\$2,219		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	29	12	17		
Officers and teachers.....	423	182	241	43.0	57.0
Scholars.....	3,822	1,777	2,045	46.5	53.5

<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> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 34 active organizations of the Missionary Church Association, with 2,498 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all 34 churches and the classification by age was reported by 33 churches, including, however, only 16 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.

**TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION**

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	34	25	30
<b>Increase<sup>1</sup> over preceding census:</b>			
Number.....	9	-5	.....
Per cent <sup>2</sup> .....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Members</b> .....	2,498	1,554	1,256
<b>Increase over preceding census:</b>			
Number.....	944	298	.....
Per cent.....	60.7	23.7	.....
Average membership per church.....	73	62	42
<b>Church edifices:</b>			
Number.....	31	21	19
Value—Churches reporting.....	30	20	19
Amount reported.....	\$262,343	\$84,700	\$33,135
Average per church.....	\$8,745	\$4,235	\$1,744
Debt—Churches reporting.....	11	2	4
Amount reported.....	\$35,958	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>Parsonages:</b>			
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	8	1
Amount reported.....	\$37,800	\$6,000	\$1,000
Debt—Churches reporting.....	4	.....	.....
Amount reported.....	\$5,254	.....	.....
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>			
Churches reporting.....	33	21	.....
Amount reported.....	\$105,326	\$37,930	.....
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$73,652	\$24,555	.....
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$31,674	\$13,375	.....
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,192	\$1,806	.....
<b>Sunday schools:</b>			
Churches reporting.....	29	21	28
Officers and teachers.....	423	321	271
Scholars.....	3,822	3,022	1,916

<sup>1</sup> A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

<sup>2</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Missionary Church Association 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.

**TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION**

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.....	34	12	22	2,498	896	1,602	1,065	1,433	74.3
Middle Atlantic:									
Pennsylvania.....	1	1		31	31		14	17	
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	8	4	4	501	168	333	196	305	64.3
Indiana.....	5	1	4	780	284	496	338	442	76.5
Illinois.....	2	1	1	239	135	104	89	150	59.3
Michigan.....	3	2	1	182	127	55	79	103	76.7
West North Central:									
Nebraska.....	1		1	20		20	10	10	
Kansas.....	5		5	163		163	77	86	
East South Central:									
Tennessee.....	4		4	207		207	100	107	93.5
Mountain:									
Arizona.....	1	1		111	111		44	67	
Pacific:									
California.....	4	2	2	264	40	224	118	146	80.8

<sup>1</sup> 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: MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION**

[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 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	34	25	30	2,498	1,554	1,256	67	2,311	120	2.8
Ohio.....	8	6	8	501	387	339	9	492		1.8
Indiana.....	5	5	5	780	517	362	26	634	120	3.9
Michigan.....	3	2	4	182	86	100	5	177		2.7
Kansas.....	5	4	2	163	153	63	13	150		8.0
Tennessee.....	4	1	1	207	73	30		207		
California.....	4	1	2	264	58	44	6	258		2.3
Other States.....	5	6	8	401	280	318	8	303		2.0

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

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION**

[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.....	34	31	30	\$262,343	11	\$35,958	10	\$37,800	4	\$5,254
Ohio.....	8	5	5	29,843	1	408	—	(1)	—	(1)
Indiana.....	5	5	5	114,000	1	15,000	—	(1)	—	(1)
Michigan.....	3	3	3	40,500	1	6,700	—	(1)	—	(1)
Kansas.....	5	5	5	10,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennessee.....	4	3	3	2,000	3	250	—	—	—	—
California.....	4	5	4	26,000	3	2,200	—	(1)	—	—
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	5	5	5	40,000	2	11,400	10	37,800	4	5,254

<sup>1</sup> Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.<sup>2</sup> The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 6 churches in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and California.**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
MISSIONARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION**

[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.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	34	33	\$105,326	\$73,652	\$31,674	29	423	3,822
Ohio.....	8	8	19,610	11,638	7,972	8	115	927
Indiana.....	5	5	25,581	14,285	11,296	5	97	1,195
Michigan.....	3	3	19,855	17,586	2,269	3	49	400
Kansas.....	5	4	3,119	899	2,220	4	45	194
Tennessee.....	4	4	425	200	225	—	—	—
California.....	4	4	10,742	6,869	3,873	4	45	353
Other States.....	5	5	25,994	22,175	3,819	5	72	753

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

The Missionary Church Association was organized in 1898, at Berne, Ind., by a number of persons of different denominations who were deeply impressed with the need of better opportunities for cultivating the deeper spiritual life, for promoting the fuller teaching of the Word of God, and for engaging in more aggressive missionary work. Its present headquarters are at 3820 South Wayne Avenue, Fort Wayne, Ind.

<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. B. F. Leightner, secretary of the Missionary Church Association, and approved by him in its present form.

**DOCTRINE**

The association stands for all the great evangelical truths of Christianity, such as the Divine and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures; the Deity and virgin birth of Jesus Christ; His substitutionary death and physical resurrection; the total depravity of man by nature and his need of regeneration as a personal experience; the enduement of the Holy Spirit subsequent to the new birth to empower the believer for life and service; divine healing for the body as provided in the atonement; the personal, premillennial return of Christ and His reign on the earth; and the future resurrection of the body unto the immortality of the just and unto the endless punishment of the unjust. It urges upon its members the importance of being law-abiding citizens; but it is nonresistant in its belief, having always been opposed to the taking up of arms in war.

**ORGANIZATION**

The government of the Missionary churches is chiefly congregational; however, the general conference of the churches, made up of all ministers, missionaries, and appointed delegates, is recognized as final authority.

The general conference annually appoints a committee consisting of a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer, together with five additional members. This body examines candidates for the ministry and issues licenses to preach, acts as the committee on finance, and has charge of the general work of the association.

Each church elects its own pastor, deacons, and deaconesses. These usually constitute the church board which has charge of the general affairs of the church. New members are admitted by the vote of the church after the candidates have been examined and recommended by the board. Baptism is administered by immersion. Open communion is observed by all the churches.

**WORK**

As its name implies, the organization is missionary in character. While efforts are put forth in the home field to preach the Gospel in needy and neglected sections, the great aim is to help evangelize the heathen. Missionaries, numbering 41, have been sent to India, China, Africa, South America, and Hawaii. These are laboring under various mission boards, but most of them under the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Five new candidates have been accepted for service in the foreign field. The missionary offering for 1926 amounted to \$31,652.

The Bible Training School, Fort Wayne, Ind., is owned by this association. However, it is operated on interdenominational lines, having representatives of various religious bodies on the school board and faculty. The purpose of the institution is to prepare missionaries, pastors, evangelists, singers, etc., for Christian service. The school has an enrollment of about 120 students. The property is valued at approximately \$100,000 and is free from indebtedness.