

# ADVENTIST BODIES

## GENERAL STATEMENT

What is known as the "Advent movement" originated with William Miller, who was born at Pittsfield, Mass., February 15, 1782, and died in Low Hampton, N. Y., December 20, 1849. He bore a good reputation as a farmer and citizen, served as a captain in the War of 1812, and was a diligent student and a great reader, although he had only a common-school education. For some years he was an avowed deist, but, as he said, "found no spiritual rest" until, in 1816, he was converted and united with the Baptists. After his conversion, as objections to the authenticity and inspiration of the Scriptures were pressed upon him in the same way that he had formerly pressed them upon others, he determined to devote himself to a careful study of the Bible, laying aside commentaries and using the marginal references and Cruden's Concordance as his only helps. As a result of this study he became satisfied that the Bible is its own interpreter, and that it is "a system of revealed truths, so clearly and simply given that the 'wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err therein.'"

At that time very little was heard from pulpit or press respecting the second coming of Christ, the general impression being that it must be preceded by the conversion of the world and the millennium, a long period of universal holiness and peace. As Mr. Miller studied the prophetic portions of the Bible, he became convinced that the doctrine of the world's conversion was unscriptural; that not only the parable of the wheat and the tares, as explained by Christ in Matthew xiii, 24-30, 36-43, but many other passages, teach the coexistence of Christianity and anti-Christianity while the gospel age lasts. As the period of a thousand years, during which Satan is bound, mentioned in Revelation xx, and from which the conception of the millennium is derived, lies between the first resurrection (Rev. xx, 4-6), which he understood to include all of the redeemed, and that of "the rest of the dead" (Rev. xx, 5), his conclusion was that the coming of Christ in person, power, and glory must be premillennial. He believed that at this coming there would be a resurrection of all the dead in Christ, who, together with all the redeemed then alive, would be "caught up to meet the Lord in the air"; that the wicked would then be judged, and the present heavens and earth dissolved by fire, to be followed by their regeneration as the inheritance of the redeemed, involving the glorious, immortal, and personal reign of Christ and all His saints.

As to the time when the Advent might be expected, Mr. Miller's conclusion was as follows:

In examining the prophecies \* \* \* I found that only four universal monarchies are predicted in the Bible to precede the setting up of God's everlasting kingdom; that three of those had passed away—Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Grecia—and that the fourth, Rome, had already passed into its last state. \* \* \*. And finding all the signs of the times, and the present condition of the world, to compare harmoniously with the prophetic description of the last days, I was compelled to believe that the world had about reached the limits of the period allotted for its continuance.

Moreover, as a result of his study of prophetic chronology, he believed not only that the Advent was at hand, but that its date might be fixed with some definiteness. Taking the more or less generally accepted view that the "days" of prophecy symbolize years, he was led to the conclusion that the 2,300 days

referred to in Daniel viii, 13, 14, the beginning of which he dated from the commandment to restore Jerusalem, given in 457 B. C. (Daniel ix, 25), and the 1,335 days of the same prophet (xii, 12), which he took to constitute the latter part of the 2,300 days, would end coincidentally in or about the year 1843. The cleansing of the sanctuary, which was to take place at the close of the 2,300 days (Daniel viii, 14), he understood to mean the cleansing of the earth at the second coming of Christ, which, as a result of his computations, he confidently expected would occur some time between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844, the period corresponding to the Jewish year.

The public labors of Mr. Miller, according to the best evidence to be obtained, date from the autumn of 1831, when he accepted an invitation to go to Dresden, N. Y., to speak on the subject of the Lord's return. He gave several addresses, with the result that many persons were "hopefully converted." Other invitations quickly followed, and thus began a work which in a few years, though not without opposition, spread far and wide, ministers and members of various evangelical denominations uniting in the expectation of the speedy, personal, and premillennial coming of Christ. The first general gathering of those interested in this subject was held in Boston in October, 1840. The call for this gathering simply invited Christians of all denominations to come together to compare views and to confer as to the best means of promulgating this important truth. The Advent movement was further assisted by the appearance of a number of papers, such as the *Midnight Cry*, the *Signs of the Times*, and the *Trumpet of Alarm*, emphasizing these views.

As the time approached when the coming of Christ was expected there was widespread interest and elaborate preparation. When the period originally indicated by Mr. Miller had passed without bringing the event, there was much disappointment. Later, however, some of the Adventists put forth a theory fixing October 22, 1844, as the date of the Advent. Mr. Miller ultimately accepted this view, and announced that if this prediction too should fail, he would suffer twice as much disappointment as he had experienced before. The passing of this date also without the occurrence of the expected event was a source of great disappointment both to Mr. Miller and to his followers. He did not, however, to the end of his life, change his views with regard to the premillennial character of the Advent itself, or his belief that "the day of the Lord is near, even at the door," although he acknowledged his error in fixing the date.

In its beginning the Adventist movement was wholly within the existing churches and there was no attempt to establish a separate denomination. Mr. Miller himself during the greater part of his work was a Baptist licentiate. In June, 1843, however, the Maine Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church passed resolutions condemning the movement, and from that time considerable opposition was manifested. In some cases Adventists were forced to leave the churches of which they were members; in others they withdrew voluntarily, basing their action, in part, on the command to "come out of Babylon" (Rev. xviii, 4), including under the term "Babylon" not only the Roman Catholic Church, but the Protestant churches. Mr. Miller and other leaders earnestly deprecated this interpretation, yet it influenced some to leave the old communions.

The Adventists who, for either of the causes mentioned, withdrew from the existing churches generally formed organizations of their own, although in some places they omitted any formal organization, considering either that the time was too short or that organization was sinful. No definite move was made, however, toward the general organization of the adherents of the Adventist doctrines until 1845. In that year, according to an estimate made by Mr. Miller, there were Advent congregations in "nearly a thousand places, numbering \* \* \* some fifty thousand believers." A conference was called at Albany, N. Y., in

April, 1845, for the purpose of defining their position, and was largely attended, Mr. Miller being present. A declaration of principles was adopted, embodying the views of Mr. Miller respecting the personal and premillennial character of the Second Advent of Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and the renewal of the earth as the abode of the redeemed, together with cognate points of doctrine, which have been summarized as follows:

1. The present heavens and earth are to be dissolved by fire, and new heavens and a new earth are to be created whose dominion is to be given to "the people of the saints of the Most High."

2. There are but two Advents of the Saviour, both of which are personal and visible. The first includes the period of His life from His birth to the Ascension; the second begins with His descent from Heaven at the sounding of the last trump.

3. The second coming is indicated to be near at hand, even at the doors; and this truth should be preached to saints that they may rejoice, knowing that their redemption draws nigh; and to sinners that they may be warned to flee from the wrath to come.

4. The condition of salvation is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who have repentance and faith will live soberly and righteously and godly in this world, looking for the Lord's appearing.

5. There will be a resurrection of the bodies of all the dead, both of the just and the unjust. Those who are Christ's will be raised at His coming; the rest of the dead, not until a thousand years later.

6. The only millennium taught in the Word of God is the thousand years intervening between the first resurrection and that of the rest of the dead.

7. There is no difference under the gospel dispensation between Jew and Gentile, but God will render to every man according to his deeds. The only restoration of Israel is in the restoration of the saints to the regenerated earth.

8. There is no promise of this world's conversion. The children of the kingdom and of the wicked one will continue together until the end of the world.

9. Departed saints do not enter their inheritance at death, that inheritance being reserved in heaven ready to be revealed at the second coming, when they will be equal to the angels, being the children of God and of the resurrection; but in soul and spirit they enter the paradise of God, to await in rest and comfort the final blessedness of the everlasting kingdom.

The somewhat loosely organized body formed at the general conference of Adventists held at Albany, N. Y., in April, 1845, continued for a decade to include practically all the Adventists except those who held to the observance of the seventh, rather than the first, day of the week as the Sabbath. In 1855 the discussions, in which Jonathan Cummings had so prominent a part, resulted in the withdrawal of some members and the subsequent organization of the Advent Christian Church. The Adventists who continued their adherence to the original body were for the most part those who believed in the doctrine of the conscious state of the dead and the eternal suffering of the wicked, claiming on these points to be in accord with the personal views of Mr. Miller. They, however, felt the need of closer association, and in 1858 organized at Boston, Mass., the American Millennial Association, partly for the purpose of publishing material in support of their belief and partly as a basis of fellowship. Some years later the members of this society adopted the term "Evangelical Adventists" as a denominational name, with a view to distinguishing themselves from other bodies with which they differed on doctrinal points.

For some years the association published a periodical bearing at different periods the names, Signs of the Times, Advent Herald, Messiah's Herald, and Herald of the Coming One. It contributed to the support of the China Inland

Mission and of laborers and missions in other fields, but as the older members died many of the younger families joined other evangelical denominations, and the number of churches and members diminished rapidly. In 1906 they reported 18 organizations with 481 members, 16 church edifices, church property valued at \$27,050, 9 Sunday schools with 57 officers and teachers and 264 scholars, and 8 ministers. When the inquiries for the census of 1916 were made, it appeared that all the churches, except a few in Pennsylvania, had disbanded or discontinued all services, and from those in Pennsylvania no information could be obtained. The denomination as an ecclesiastical body has, therefore, been dropped from this report.

Discussions in regard to the nature of the Advent, and particularly in regard to the future life, resulted in the formation of other bodies independent in organization but agreeing in the belief that the Advent is to be personal and premillennial and is near at hand and in their recognition of the influence of Mr. Miller and those immediately associated with him.

The denominations grouped under the name Adventist in 1926, in 1916, and in 1906 are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Two bodies listed in 1906 are not included in the table for 1916. The omission of the Evangelical Adventists is explained above, and that of the Churches of God (Adventist), Unattached Congregations, is noted in the statement (see p. 33) of the Church of God (Adventist).

**SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE ADVENTIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906**

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of mem- bers	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Num- ber of schol- ars
<b>1926</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,576</b>	<b>146,177</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>\$11,069,449</b>	<b>2,336</b>	<b>\$7,610,863</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>102,779</b>
Advent Christian Church.....	444	29,430	385	2,310,000	379	536,192	304	18,806
Seventh-day Adventist Denom- ination.....	1,981	110,998	1,363	8,477,999	1,849	6,998,988	1,383	81,067
Church of God, Adventist.....	58	1,686	12	25,850	39	13,887	23	685
Life and Advent Union.....	7	535	7	91,000	6	19,861	7	344
Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	86	3,528	52	164,600	63	41,935	42	1,877
<b>1916</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,667</b>	<b>114,915</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>3,885,235</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,186,588</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>98,802</b>
Advent Christian Church.....	534	30,597	417	1,188,070	423	274,446	379	21,007
Seventh-day Adventist Denom- ination.....	2,011	79,355	1,231	2,568,495	1,737	1,887,772	1,803	74,863
Church of God (Adventist).....	22	848	8	8,200	10	2,358	-----	-----
Life and Advent Union.....	13	658	8	41,600	11	8,996	9	439
Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	87	3,457	52	78,870	59	13,016	55	2,493
<b>1906</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,537</b>	<b>92,735</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>2,425,209</b>	-----	-----	<b>2,078</b>	<b>69,110</b>
Evangelical Adventists.....	18	481	15	27,050	-----	-----	9	264
Advent Christian Church.....	541	26,799	428	864,323	-----	-----	362	16,941
Seventh-day Adventist Denom- ination.....	1,884	62,211	981	1,454,087	-----	-----	1,656	50,225
Church of God (Adventist).....	10	354	3	4,000	-----	-----	9	326
Churches of God (Adventist), Unattached Congregations.....	10	257	2	2,300	-----	-----	5	200
Life and Advent Union.....	12	509	6	29,799	-----	-----	7	259
Churches of God in Christ Jesus.....	62	2,124	36	53,650	-----	-----	30	895

# ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Advent Christian Church 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 Advent Christian Church consists of those persons who have been admitted to the local churches, by vote of the members, upon profession of faith and baptism by immersion.

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

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> .....	444	127	317	28.6	71.4
<b>Members</b> .....	29,430	12,572	16,858	42.7	57.3
Average per church.....	66	99	53		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	11,378	4,887	6,491	43.0	57.0
Female.....	16,717	7,625	9,092	45.6	54.4
Sex not reported.....	1,335	60	1,275	4.5	95.5
Males per 100 females.....	68.1	64.1	71.4		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	779	446	333	57.3	42.7
13 years and over.....	25,927	11,855	14,072	45.7	54.3
Age not reported.....	2,724	271	2,453	9.9	90.1
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	2.9	3.6	2.3		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	410	125	285	30.5	69.5
Value—Churches reporting.....	385	119	266	30.9	69.1
Amount reported.....	\$2,310,000	\$1,632,600	\$677,400	70.7	29.3
Average per church.....	\$6,000	\$13,719	\$2,547		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	54	37	17		
Amount reported.....	\$121,667	\$114,026	\$7,641	93.7	6.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	296	76	220	25.7	74.3
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	111	50	61	45.0	55.0
Amount reported.....	\$395,150	\$259,009	\$136,150	65.5	34.5
Debt—Churches reporting.....	28	16	12		
Amount reported.....	\$30,607	\$21,882	\$8,725	71.5	28.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	73	32	41		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	370	123	256	32.5	67.5
Amount reported.....	\$536,192	\$373,651	\$162,541	69.7	30.3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$409,241	\$287,273	\$121,968	70.2	29.8
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$112,292	74,378	\$37,914	66.2	33.8
Not classified.....	\$14,659	\$12,000	\$2,659	81.9	18.1
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,415	\$3,058	\$635		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	304	116	188	38.2	61.8
Officers and teachers.....	2,773	1,386	1,387	50.0	50.0
Scholars.....	18,806	9,760	9,046	51.9	48.1

<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 444 active Advent Christian churches, with 29,430 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 407 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 376 churches, including, however, only 124 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: ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	444	534	541	580
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	-90	-7	-39	
Per cent.....	-16.9	-1.3	-6.7	
<b>Members</b> .....	29,430	30,897	26,799	25,816
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	-1,167	3,798	983	
Per cent.....	-3.8	14.2	3.8	
Average membership per church.....	66	57	50	45
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	410	418	428	294
Value—Churches reporting.....	385	417	428	
Amount reported.....	\$2,310,000	\$1,188,070	\$854,323	\$465,605
Average per church.....	\$6,000	\$2,849	\$1,996	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	54	63	57	
Amount reported.....	\$121,667	\$95,970	\$78,828	
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....	111	77	44	
Amount reported.....	\$395,150	\$143,050	\$72,675	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	28			
Amount reported.....	\$30,607			
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	379	423		
Amount reported.....	\$536,192	\$274,446		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$409,241	\$233,618		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$112,292	\$40,828		
Not classified.....	\$14,659			
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,415	\$649		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	304	379	362	
Officers and teachers.....	2,773	3,134	2,876	
Scholars.....	18,806	21,007	16,941	

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

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Advent Christian Church 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 conference in the Advent Christian Church, 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: ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>United States</b> .....	444	127	317	29,430	12,572	16,858	11,378	16,717	1,335	68.1
<b>New England:</b>										
Maine.....	45	7	38	2,132	792	1,340	789	1,320	23	59.8
New Hampshire.....	24	8	16	1,361	629	732	519	842		61.6
Vermont.....	15	4	11	738	221	517	280	458		61.1
Massachusetts.....	32	27	5	2,548	2,387	161	1,008	1,540		65.5
Rhode Island.....	7	1	6	661	312	349	222	439		50.6
Connecticut.....	14	10	4	1,297	1,154	143	477	820		58.2
<b>Middle Atlantic:</b>										
New York.....	13	5	8	625	304	321	245	360	20	68.1
Pennsylvania.....	6	1	5	175	16	159	60	115		52.2
<b>East North Central:</b>										
Ohio.....	15	1	14	747	55	692	314	433		72.5
Indiana.....	4	2	2	271	238	33	122	149		81.9
Illinois.....	9	6	3	1,162	680	482	489	673		72.7
Michigan.....	5	2	3	242	169	73	87	155		56.1
Wisconsin.....	13	2	11	645	209	436	234	411		56.9
<b>West North Central:</b>										
Minnesota.....	4	1	3	252	138	114	108	144		75.0
Iowa.....	5		5	257		257	89	168		53.0
Missouri.....	5	1	4	318	60	258	92	138	88	66.7
Nebraska.....	1	1		27	27		11	16		
Kansas.....	5	1	4	239	115	124	111	128		86.7
<b>South Atlantic:</b>										
Virginia.....	10	1	9	481	16	465	231	250		92.4
West Virginia.....	51	3	48	2,765	736	2,029	823	945	997	87.1
North Carolina.....	43	10	33	4,165	1,214	2,951	1,692	2,422	51	69.9
South Carolina.....	7		7	755		755	334	385	36	86.8
Georgia.....	18	3	15	1,522	381	1,141	621	901		68.9
Florida.....	27	8	19	2,323	1,069	1,254	950	1,253	120	75.8
<b>East South Central:</b>										
Kentucky.....	3		3	80		80	35	45		
Tennessee.....	3	1	2	98	22	76	52	46		
Alabama.....	4		4	227		227	102	125		81.6
Mississippi.....	7		7	278		278	118	160		73.8
<b>West South Central:</b>										
Arkansas.....	1		1	20		20	10	10		
Louisiana.....	2		2	161		161	51	110		46.4
Oklahoma.....	8	1	7	334	34	300	126	208		60.6
Texas.....	10	1	9	623	64	559	247	376		65.7
<b>Mountain:</b>										
Idaho.....	1	1		30	30		10	20		
New Mexico.....	1	1		75	75		25	50		
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington.....	7	2	5	514	301	213	208	306		68.0
Oregon.....	5	3	2	230	188	42	88	142		62.0
California.....	14	12	2	1,052	936	116	398	654		60.9

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

## CENSUS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES: 1926

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

[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.....	444	534	541	29,430	30,597	26,799	779	25,927	2,724	2.9
Maine.....	45	57	37	2,132	2,575	1,610	19	1,785	328	1.1
New Hampshire.....	24	33	40	1,361	1,570	1,608	15	1,327	19	1.1
Vermont.....	15	19	23	738	1,040	1,082	9	705	24	1.3
Massachusetts.....	32	33	41	2,548	2,780	3,053	52	2,496	.....	2.0
Rhode Island.....	7	8	7	661	772	761	5	656	.....	0.8
Connecticut.....	14	19	22	1,297	1,550	1,645	18	1,279	.....	1.4
New York.....	13	24	24	625	1,024	1,145	5	484	136	1.0
Pennsylvania.....	6	11	11	175	350	330	.....	85	90	.....
Ohio.....	15	17	20	747	1,135	782	15	664	68	2.2
Indiana.....	4	7	10	271	618	669	17	254	.....	6.3
Illinois.....	9	14	17	1,162	1,023	1,054	56	1,106	.....	4.8
Michigan.....	5	12	14	242	325	451	11	231	.....	4.5
Wisconsin.....	13	18	17	645	846	651	29	562	54	4.9
Minnesota.....	4	4	5	252	296	349	5	247	.....	2.0
Iowa.....	5	10	14	257	502	608	4	249	4	1.6
Missouri.....	5	5	9	318	358	323	11	307	.....	3.5
Nebraska.....	1	3	6	27	125	305	.....	27	.....	.....
Kansas.....	5	7	4	239	341	247	5	97	137	4.9
Virginia.....	10	12	12	481	593	507	14	209	258	6.3
West Virginia.....	51	63	36	2,765	2,629	1,476	129	1,778	858	6.8
North Carolina.....	43	23	23	4,165	1,960	1,388	164	3,790	211	4.1
South Carolina.....	7	7	7	755	789	509	9	600	146	1.5
Georgia.....	18	22	14	1,522	1,429	917	29	1,437	56	2.0
Florida.....	27	25	29	2,323	1,954	1,801	41	2,111	171	1.9
Kentucky.....	3	4	.....	80	130	.....	.....	80	.....	.....
Tennessee.....	3	8	11	98	274	351	6	81	11	.....
Alabama.....	4	7	10	227	296	413	9	218	.....	4.0
Mississippi.....	7	7	5	278	313	189	2	178	.....	1.1
Arkansas.....	1	3	3	20	84	120	.....	20	.....	.....
Oklahoma.....	8	4	18	334	215	502	2	311	21	0.6
Texas.....	10	11	13	623	651	411	17	606	.....	2.7
Washington.....	7	8	9	514	466	410	22	492	.....	4.3
Oregon.....	5	12	10	230	323	302	1	215	14	0.5
California.....	14	13	15	1,052	980	675	38	1,014	.....	3.6
Other States.....	4	4	5	266	281	155	20	246	.....	7.5

<sup>1</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup>

## DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The disappointment felt by the Adventists at the passing of the date (1844) fixed for the Second Advent of Christ resulted in much discussion as to the accuracy of the calculations. In 1852 Jonathan Cummings, one of Mr. Miller's associates in the earlier years of the movement, began to teach that there had been a mistake in the earlier calculations which had fixed a time limit, and claimed that the 1,335 days of Daniel (xii, 12) would end in 1854, when the resurrection would occur. This aroused considerable criticism on the part of other Adventists,

<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 George A. Osman, formerly general director, Advent Christian General Conference, and approved by him in its present form.



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

[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.....	444	410	385	\$2,310,000	54	\$121,667	111	\$395,150	28	\$30,607
Maine.....	45	44	39	172,200	7	8,920	11	28,050	7	7,720
New Hampshire.....	24	23	22	119,700	2	3,300	12	38,000	3	3,525
Vermont.....	15	14	14	60,700	1	4,000	7	14,900	1	200
Massachusetts.....	32	32	30	406,500	9	23,067	9	49,500	3	3,931
Rhode Island.....	7	7	6	47,600	1	1,385	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Connecticut.....	14	15	14	214,000	3	6,633	6	25,500	4	5,900
New York.....	13	13	12	89,500	1	3,000	7	23,500	1	950
Pennsylvania.....	6	6	6	16,900	1	85	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Ohio.....	15	14	13	41,000	1	5,800	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Indiana.....	4	6	4	18,700	2	4,548	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Illinois.....	9	9	9	128,500	1	5,000	6	25,500	1	1,000
Michigan.....	5	5	5	28,500	1	5,000	4	12,500	2	1,480
Wisconsin.....	13	13	11	32,000	1	900	6	24,000	2	1,500
Minnesota.....	4	5	4	49,500	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Iowa.....	5	5	5	9,150	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	3	8,200	1	1,825
Missouri.....	5	4	4	6,400	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Kansas.....	5	4	4	15,450	1	1,000	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Virginia.....	10	6	6	17,100	1	17	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
West Virginia.....	51	48	48	170,900	4	14,100	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
North Carolina.....	43	42	41	176,500	6	9,970	3	7,000	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
South Carolina.....	7	6	6	11,000	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Georgia.....	18	12	11	39,350	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Florida.....	27	26	24	130,900	3	4,793	8	37,600	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Alabama.....	4	4	4	2,600	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Mississippi.....	7	5	4	1,950	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Oklahoma.....	8	4	4	5,200	3	629	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Texas.....	10	8	7	24,950	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Washington.....	7	6	6	63,000	1	12,000	4	8,900	1	376
Oregon.....	5	5	5	17,000	1	400	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
California.....	14	11	11	185,000	2	7,000	8	36,500	2	2,200
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	12	8	6	8,250	1	120	17	55,500	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )

<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 value of parsonages include data for 16 churches in Rhode Island, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Kansas, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Oregon.

and those who accepted Mr. Cummings's views began to draw apart. When 1854 also passed they frankly admitted their mistake as to the date of the Advent, and it was hoped that they would rejoin the original body.

By this time, however, a well-marked difference of opinion had developed among the Adventists in reference to the immortality of the soul. The followers of Mr. Cummings had for the most part accepted the doctrine that man is by nature wholly mortal and is unconscious in death, and that immortality is not inherent in mankind, but is the gift of God to be bestowed in the resurrection on those only who have been true followers of Christ. The main body of Adventists, on the other hand, accepted, in general, the doctrine of the conscious state of the dead and the eternal suffering of the wicked. Owing largely to this difference, which they considered to be upon a vital point, when a general conference met at Boston, June 5, 1855, the followers of Mr. Cummings did not unite in it, but held a conference of their own on the same day. From this time the separation between the two bodies was definitely recognized. Those who had separated from the main body organized the Advent Christian Association at Worcester,

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926  
ADVENT CHRISTIAN 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.....	444	379	\$536,192	\$409,241	\$112,292	\$14,659	304	2,773	18,806
Maine.....	45	38	45,818	34,631	9,748	1,439	36	313	1,730
New Hampshire.....	24	24	41,254	31,756	9,054	444	22	224	1,153
Vermont.....	15	13	15,390	11,275	3,865	250	11	103	505
Massachusetts.....	32	31	82,389	53,430	16,959	12,000	29	311	1,961
Rhode Island.....	7	7	14,738	11,353	3,385	-----	6	65	522
Connecticut.....	14	14	53,394	41,589	11,805	-----	11	171	872
New York.....	13	13	17,481	15,451	2,030	-----	10	96	542
Pennsylvania.....	6	5	3,072	2,394	678	-----	5	36	191
Ohio.....	15	14	8,744	8,104	640	-----	14	111	627
Indiana.....	4	4	7,892	6,933	959	-----	3	25	270
Illinois.....	9	8	26,130	21,739	4,391	-----	8	118	964
Michigan.....	5	5	8,795	7,815	980	-----	5	42	286
Wisconsin.....	13	13	11,867	8,625	3,117	125	7	90	466
Minnesota.....	4	4	5,895	5,235	660	-----	2	31	296
Iowa.....	5	4	3,475	2,699	776	-----	4	34	207
Missouri.....	5	4	805	505	200	100	2	12	121
Kansas.....	5	4	840	450	390	-----	3	17	57
Virginia.....	10	6	1,241	774	467	-----	4	24	183
West Virginia.....	51	23	15,419	12,968	2,451	-----	18	113	1,256
North Carolina.....	43	39	25,033	19,306	5,488	239	28	193	2,067
South Carolina.....	7	4	2,357	1,950	407	-----	3	20	195
Georgia.....	18	15	4,001	3,250	701	50	12	72	636
Florida.....	27	26	66,114	54,496	11,618	-----	18	127	1,017
Tennessee.....	3	3	190	25	165	-----	3	15	69
Alabama.....	4	4	436	411	25	-----	2	14	76
Mississippi.....	7	6	403	181	210	12	1	4	14
Oklahoma.....	8	7	1,385	821	564	-----	4	22	150
Texas.....	10	10	5,423	4,004	1,419	-----	5	41	268
Washington.....	7	7	18,878	16,469	2,409	-----	6	81	589
Oregon.....	5	5	3,947	2,844	1,103	-----	4	37	177
California.....	14	14	41,146	26,253	14,893	-----	14	182	1,171
Other States.....	9	5	2,240	1,505	735	-----	4	29	168

Mass., November 6, 1861, and have since borne the name "Advent Christian Church." This branch of the Adventists now holds simply to the general imminence of Christ's return, but takes the position that "no man knoweth the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." They also emphasize that side of their faith which deals with the nature of man.

#### DOCTRINE

The Declaration of Principles held by this church, as unanimously approved by the Advent Christian Association and General Conference of America, in 1900, emphasizes the following points:

1. The Bible is the Word of God, containing a revelation given to man under divine supervision and providence; its historical statements are correct, and it is the only divine standard of faith and practice.

2. As revealed in the Bible, (a) there is one God, the Father, Creator of all things; (b) Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, came into the world, died for man's sins, was raised for his justification, ascended into heaven as the High Priest and Mediator, and will come again to judge the living and the dead, and

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CONFERENCE	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
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>444</b>	<b>29,430</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>\$2,310,000</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$121,667</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>\$536,192</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>18,806</b>
Catskills.....	4	182	4	17,000			4	2,777	2	91
Connecticut and western Massachusetts.....	18	1,825	18	291,000	3	6,633	18	65,236	16	1,254
Cumberland Valley (Kentucky).....	3	80		(1)				(1)	1	25
East Georgia and South Carolina.....	10	1,114	7	13,500			6	3,107	6	437
Eastern Michigan.....	3	176	3	23,000	1	5,000	3	7,195	3	211
Eastern North Carolina.....	21	2,476	20	73,400	2	1,445	20	13,857	14	1,136
Hoosick Valley.....	8	485	7	60,000	2	3,500	7	14,194	6	351
International.....	7	401	7	24,500	1	4,000	7	6,449	6	278
Iowa-Missouri-Nebraska.....	6	295	5	8,650			4	2,825	4	188
Louisiana.....	1	36		(1)				(1)	1	25
Maine.....	45	2,132	39	172,200	7	8,920	38	45,818	36	1,730
Massachusetts.....	26	1,915	24	317,000	8	22,567	25	69,050	23	1,554
Michigan.....	1	29		(1)				(1)	1	45
Middle Georgia.....	6	625	5	2,650			6	472	2	90
Minnesota.....	4	252	4	49,500			4	5,895	2	296
Mississippi.....	6	268	4	1,950			6	403	1	14
Missouri-Kansas.....	9	486	7	19,850	1	1,000	7	1,245	4	147
New Hampshire.....	24	1,361	22	119,700	2	3,300	24	41,254	22	1,153
New York.....	5	221	5	48,000			5	7,711	4	263
Northern Alabama.....	6	293	5	3,000			4	436	3	118
Northern California.....	7	359	5	52,500	1	5,000	7	12,683	7	397
Northern Illinois.....	7	1,007	7	119,500	1	5,000	6	22,730	7	864
Northern Indiana and southern Michigan.....	2	106		(1)				(1)	1	30
Northwestern Pennsylvania.....	6	175	6	16,900	1	85	5	3,072	5	191
Ohio.....	15	747	13	41,000	1	5,800	14	8,744	14	627
Oklahoma.....	8	334	4	5,200	3	629	7	1,385	4	150
Ontario and northeastern New York.....	1	20						(1)	1	25
Piedmont, North Carolina.....	22	1,689	21	103,100	4	8,525	19	11,176	14	931
Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut.....	8	686	7	50,100	1	1,385	8	15,540	6	522
Southern California.....	7	693	6	132,500	1	2,000	7	28,463	7	774
Southern Georgia and Florida.....	34	2,795	28	164,700	3	4,793	33	68,893	24	1,279
Southern Illinois.....	2	155		(1)				(1)	1	100
Southern Indiana.....	3	202	3	14,700	1	2,000	3	7,089	3	270
Vermont.....	4	134	4	10,700			3	2,231	3	64
Virginia.....	10	481	6	17,100	1	17	6	1,241	4	183
Western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and eastern Arkansas.....	5	128		(1)			3	190	3	69
West Texas.....	12	823	8	25,950	1	120	12	6,178	6	335
West Virginia.....	51	2,765	48	170,900	4	14,100	23	15,419	18	1,256
Western Washington and British Columbia.....	4	420	4	59,000	1	12,000	4	16,152	4	483
Willamette Valley.....	9	354	8	23,000	1	400	9	7,473	7	331
Wisconsin.....	14	705	12	34,500	1	900	14	12,917	8	516
Combinations <sup>2</sup> .....			9	23,750	1	2,548	8	6,692		

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for value, debt, and expenditures represent data for churches in Cumberland Valley, Louisiana, Michigan, northern Indiana and southern Michigan, Ontario and northeastern New York, southern Illinois, and the western Tennessee, northern Mississippi, and eastern Arkansas conferences.

reign forever and ever; (c) the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, sent from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, sanctifies man and seals him unto the day of redemption.

3. Man was created for immortality, but through sin has forfeited his divine birthright, and only through faith in Christ can become partaker of the divine nature and live forever.

4. Death is, to all persons, righteous and wicked, a condition of unconsciousness, to remain unchanged until the resurrection at Christ's second coming, when the righteous will receive everlasting life, while the wicked will be "punished with everlasting destruction," suffering complete extinction of being.

5. Salvation is free to all who in this life and age accept the conditions, all hope of future probation or universal salvation being excluded.

6. Jesus Christ, according to His promise, will, "in like manner" as He went into heaven, come again to this earth to reign forever, and this coming is the hope of the Church, inasmuch as upon it depend the reward of the righteous, the abolition of sin, and the renewal of the earth to become the eternal home of the redeemed.

7. Bible prophecy indicates the approximate time of Christ's return, and the great duty of the hour is the proclamation of this soon-coming redemption.

8. The Church, an institution of divine origin, includes all Christians of whatever name, but the local organization should be independent of outside control, subject to no dictation of priest, bishop, or pope, although recognizing true fellowship and unity of action.

The only ordinances recognized are baptism and the Lord's Supper, immersion being considered the only true baptism. Admission to the church is by vote of the majority after baptism and profession of faith. Open communion is practiced and the invitation to the Lord's Supper is general, participation being left to the individual. The first day of the week, set apart by the early Church in commemoration of the resurrection, is held to be the proper Christian Sabbath, to be observed as a day of rest and religious worship.

#### ORGANIZATION

In accordance with the principles outlined, the Advent Christian Church is congregational in church government, each church being absolutely independent in its own management. Local elders (not ordained) and deacons are elected annually, as are the various officials and committees. The elders have charge of the religious services when the church has no pastor, and the deacons care for the poor and serve as bearers at the communion service, which is usually held each month. Women equally with men are eligible to office.

For fellowship and the better conduct of such work as belongs to them in common, the churches are associated in annual conferences, which are grouped in four districts, while the Advent Christian General Conference represents the entire denomination. According to the constitution adopted at Boston, May 20, 1915, the object of this conference is: To advance the interests of and unify the Advent Christian people in their various branches of work; hold biennial sessions for the transaction of business and the discussion of questions of interest to the churches; devise the best methods for the conduct of the finances of the churches and the cooperating societies; cooperate with the churches in securing pastors and in utilizing the services of worthy men; act as a board of appeal; establish a bureau of statistics; publish a biennial manual; and deal with any matters affecting the welfare of the churches.

The membership of the General Conference consists of delegates chosen by the annual conferences, one for each conference and one for each 600 members of the churches which cooperate with the conference (provided, however, that each conference may send one delegate); also one delegate representing the cooperating societies.

The organization of the General Conference as of 1926 includes as officers a president, four vice presidents representing the four publication districts or regions, a secretary and treasurer, and a board of counselors for each region, the vice president of that region being chairman; also a general director who is in charge of the general office, from which office is administered the financing of the maintenance of the various institutions, as missions, education, etc. There is also one regional director for each of the four regions, who is the chief General Conference official in that district. The general director, as chairman, together with the president, secretary, treasurer, and four regional directors, constitute an executive committee who have full charge of the General Conference activities between biennial sessions. Beyond this the General Conference acts in an advisory capacity only. The General Conference headquarters are at 160 Warren Street, Boston, Mass.

There is one publication house located in each of the following cities: Boston, Mass., Mendota, Ill., Oakland, Calif., and Live Oak, Fla.

Ordination to the ministry rests with the conferences. It takes place on request of a church, after examination of the applicant by a committee, vote of the conference, and the appointment of an ordaining committee. The minister becomes a member of the conference which ordained him. In the reception of ministers from other bodies previous ordination is accepted.

#### WORK

The denominational activities of the Advent Christian Church are carried on mainly through the American Advent Mission Society, the Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society, four publication societies, and regional organizations.

The American Advent Mission Society, which does both home and foreign mission work, is incorporated and operates under the General Conference, although it is independent in its organization. Its officers are elected by delegates from the various churches and conferences, and its meetings are held annually. The Woman's Home and Foreign Mission Society is also independent of the General Conference in organization and operates similarly. This organization is made up of local societies connected with the various churches. Its officers are elected annually by delegates from the local societies. The foreign program of this society is confined to India, and its home work is chiefly in the interest of a home for students of the New England School of Theology. There is a Western Home Mission Board which does about the same work in the Middle West that the American Advent Mission Society does in the East, except that its sphere is confined to home missions. There is also a woman's society called the Helper's Union and Central Mission Branch, doing both home and foreign mission work. The number of missionaries and evangelists employed during the year was 30 and the number of churches aided 50. Contributions of more than \$75,000 were received. A large part of the home missionary and philanthropic work is done by the State conferences.

In the foreign field 7 stations are occupied, in addition to 22 outstations, in India, China, and Japan. The report for 1926 shows 21 American missionaries, with a large force of native evangelists, teachers, and colporteurs constantly employed with the missionaries at the various stations; 10 churches, with 889 members; 44 schools, with 1,900 scholars; 1 hospital, where usually a large number

of patients are treated each month; and 3 orphanages, with 180 inmates. The value of property on the foreign field is estimated at \$163,000. The amount contributed was \$41,000.

Three educational institutions, for which \$10,127, in addition to proceeds from endowment and personal gifts, were contributed in 1926, are carried on under their auspices in the United States. They include a college at Aurora, Ill., and a theological school at Boston. A Bible Correspondence Institute is connected with Aurora College. The two institutions report 150 students and property valued at \$381,761, including an endowment of over \$300,000, which it is hoped will be increased to \$500,000. The denomination maintains one orphanage in the South, and, in connection with it, a home for the aged; there is also a home for the aged in New England. The southern property, at Dowling Park, Fla., consisting of 2 new fireproof buildings and several frame buildings, is valued at \$75,000, and \$13,000 was contributed for its support in 1926. The New England property, at South Vernon, Mass., consists of a commodious building of 27 rooms and about 3 acres of land, valued at about \$10,000.

The young people of the denomination are organized in a Young People's Loyal Workers Society, which in 1926 included 160 branches, with a membership of 3,600.