

SOCIAL BRETHERN

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Social Brethren for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory. All of the organizations reported in 1926, 1916, and 1906 were in the State of Illinois.

The membership of this denomination includes persons admitted to the local churches, upon their profession of faith and baptism. The mode of baptism is not prescribed.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: SOCIAL BRETHERN

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	22	1	21		
Members.....	1,214	164	1,050	13.5	86.5
Average per church.....	55		50		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	431	56	375	13.0	87.0
Female.....	700	108	592	15.4	84.6
Sex not reported.....	83		83		
Males per 100 females.....	61.8	51.9	63.3		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	17		17		
13 years and over.....	1,109	164	945	14.8	85.2
Age not reported.....	88		88		
Per cent under 13 years ³	1.5		1.8		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	19	1	18		
Value—Churches reporting.....	19	1	18		
Amount reported.....	\$24,500	\$2,000	\$22,500	8.2	91.8
Average per church.....	\$1,289		\$1,250		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1		1		
Amount reported.....	\$50		\$50		
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	15	1	14		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	16	1	15		
Amount reported.....	\$4,019	\$490	\$3,529	12.2	87.8
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$3,519	\$490	\$3,029	13.9	86.1
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$300		\$300		100.0
Not classified.....	\$200		\$200		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$251		\$235		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	7	1	6		
Officers and teachers.....	42	12	30		
Scholars.....	425	150	275	35.3	64.7

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 22 active Social Brethren churches, with 1,214 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by 20 churches, including, however, only 3 which reported any members under 13 years of age. There were no parsonages reported.

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: SOCIAL BRETHERN

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	22	19	17	20
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	3	2	-3	
Per cent ²				
Members	1,214	950	1,262	913
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	264	-312	349	
Per cent.....	27.8	-24.7	38.2	
Average membership per church.....	55	50	74	46
Church edifices:				
Number.....	19	18	15	11
Value—Churches reporting.....	19	18	15	
Amount reported.....	\$24,500	\$15,000	\$13,800	\$8,700
Average per church.....	\$1,289	\$833	\$920	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1			
Amount reported.....	\$50			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	16	10		
Amount reported.....	\$4,019	\$817		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$3,519	\$782		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$500	\$35		
Not classified.....	\$200			
Average expenditure per church.....	\$261	\$82		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	7	8	6	
Officers and teachers.....	42	57	23	
Scholars.....	425	421	180	

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

This body was organized in a meeting called for the 29th day of August, 1867, by a number of persons in Illinois, as a result of disagreements over interpretation of Scripture and points of decorum, in the various denominations to which they belonged. They mutually agreed by the aid and assistance of God to unite themselves into a separate body and to formulate rules for its conduct which they believed to be in accordance with His word. A new confession of faith was adopted, consisting of 10 articles, largely in conformity with those of other evangelical churches, but stressing the following points:

The infinite power, wisdom, and goodness of God, in whom are united three persons of one substance, power, and eternity, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The authority and consistency of the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testaments.

Regeneration and sanctification through Jesus Christ;

Eternal salvation of the redeemed and eternal punishment for apostasy;

The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are only for true believers;

Baptism may be by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion;

Lay members of the church should have the right of suffrage and full speech, but ministers are called to preach the gospel and not for political speeches.

No mission work or other denominational activities were reported.

¹This statement was furnished by Mr. J. M. Rose, Delwood, Ill.