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CENSUS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES
1926

CONTENTS

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

STATISTICS, DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY
DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION



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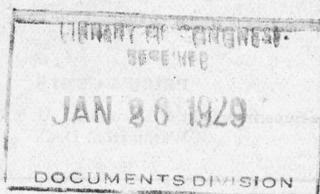
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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The census of religious bodies, as its name indicates, is a census of religious organizations rather than a census of population classified according to denominational affiliation. This census is taken once in 10 years in accordance with the provisions of the permanent census act approved March 6, 1902, and is confined to churches located in continental United States.

Reports are obtained by the Bureau of the Census from each of the congregations, churches, or other local organizations of each religious body. The census data are thus obtained directly from the local churches and are not in any sense a compilation of the statistics collected by the different denominations and published in their yearbooks. Lists of the local organizations for 1926 have been secured in most cases, however, from the denominational headquarters, and much additional assistance has been rendered by the officials of the various denominational organizations.

The statistics of expenditures relate either to the calendar year 1926 or to the church record year which closed at some time during 1926, and the figures for membership, value of property, etc., relate to the close of that year.

Number of churches.—In the reports of the Census of Religious Bodies for 1916 and 1906 the total number of churches or organizations shown for some denominations was slightly in excess of the number of churches reporting membership. Since membership figures have been obtained for all of the churches included in the reports for the current year, and for other reasons, it has seemed advisable to use for purposes of comparison with 1926 the number of churches reporting membership in 1916 and 1906. These figures are used, therefore, in the tables presenting comparative figures for earlier censuses.

Membership.—The members of a local church organization, and thus of the denomination to which the church belongs, are those persons who are recognized as constituent parts of the organization. The exact definition of membership depends upon the constitution and practice of the church or denomination under consideration. Each church was instructed to report the number of its members according to the definition of member used in that particular church or organization. In some religious bodies the term "member" is applied only to communicants, while in others it includes all baptized persons, and in still other bodies it covers all enrolled persons.

Separate figures are shown for members under 13 years of age and those 13 years of age and over. The membership 13 years of age and over usually affords a better basis for comparison between denominations reporting membership on a different basis.

Urban and rural churches.—Urban churches are those located in cities or other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more on January 1, 1920, the date of the last Federal census. Rural churches, in accordance with the census definition, are those located in territory outside such incorporated places.

Church edifices.—A church edifice is a building used mainly for religious services and owned wholly or in part by the organization so using it.

Value of church property.—The term "value of church property" has been used in the reports of the Census of Religious Bodies, at least from 1890 to 1910, inclusive, in a very restricted sense, excluding (1) the value of investment property, (2) the value of parsonages or pastors' residences, and (3) the value of school

buildings, parish halls, monasteries, and other property which, while owned and used in some way by the church organization, was used for purposes not directly connected with church services.

In this bulletin, in order to avoid any uncertainty as to what is included, the term "value of church edifices" has been substituted for the term "value of church property," which was used in the earlier reports. The figures are strictly comparable, however, the new term covering exactly the same class of property as the old.

The "value of church edifices" comprises the estimated value of the church buildings owned and used for worship by the organizations reporting, together with the value of the land on which these buildings stand and the furniture, organs, bells, and other equipment owned by the churches and actually used in connection with church services. Where parts of a church building are used for social or educational work in connection with the church, the whole value of the building and its equipment is included, as it has been found practically impossible to make a proper separation in such cases.

The value of the parsonages or pastors' residences is shown as a separate item, where the ownership of such buildings is reported by the churches.

Debt.—The debt shown in connection with the data on church edifices and parsonages is for the most part secured by real estate mortgage or other claim on the property concerned. The summary tables show not only the amount of debt reported and the number of churches reporting a specific debt, but also the number of churches reporting that they had no debt. The whole number of churches reporting with regard to debt, including the two groups just mentioned, is in most cases nearly equal to the number reporting the value of church edifices or parsonages, respectively.

Expenditures.—The amount expended by the churches during their last fiscal year is separated in the reports received for most of the churches into two parts, comprising (1) current expenses and improvements and (2) benevolences, missions, etc. These figures indicate in a general way the distribution of the church expenditures between the requirements of local self-support and the contributions of the church to larger interests. The items called for, as they appeared on the schedule, were as follows:

Amount expended for salaries, repairs, and other running expenses; for improvements or new buildings; and for payments on church debt.....	\$.....
Amount expended for benevolences, including home and foreign missions; for denominational support; and for all other purposes.....	\$.....
Total expenditures during year.....	\$.....

Averages.—The average number of members per church is obtained by dividing the total membership by the total number of churches shown. The average value of property and the average expenditure per church are obtained by dividing the total value of property and the total expenditures, respectively, by the number of churches reporting in each case.

Sunday schools.—The Sunday schools for which figures are presented in this bulletin are those maintained by the churches of the denomination to which the bulletin relates, including in some cases mission schools or other Sunday schools conducted by the church elsewhere than in the main church edifice. The statistics given relate to Sunday schools only and do not include the week-day schools that are maintained by a number of denominations.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of God in Christ 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 Church of God in Christ consists of all persons who have professed belief in the Gospel and have been accepted as members by the local organizations.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	733	405	328	55.3	44.7
Members	30,263	20,805	9,458	68.7	31.3
Average per church.....	41	51	29		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	9,077	6,158	2,919	67.8	32.2
Female.....	20,873	14,555	6,318	69.7	30.3
Sex not reported.....	313	92	221	29.4	70.6
Males per 100 females.....	43.5	42.3	46.2		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	2,071	1,393	678	67.3	32.7
13 years and over.....	23,291	16,066	7,225	69.0	31.0
Age not reported.....	4,901	3,346	1,555	68.3	31.7
Per cent under 13 years ³	8.2	8.0			
Church edifices:					
Number.....	531	300	231	56.5	43.5
Value—Churches reporting.....	516	288	228	55.8	44.2
Amount reported.....	\$1,508,079	\$1,274,353	\$233,726	84.5	15.5
Average per church.....	\$2,923	\$4,425	\$1,025		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	234	160	74	68.4	31.6
Amount reported.....	\$261,611	\$242,061	\$19,550	92.5	7.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	227	102	125	44.9	55.1
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	48	40	8		
Amount reported.....	\$85,000	\$80,150	\$4,850	94.3	5.7
Debt—Churches reporting.....	25	23	2		
Amount reported.....	\$22,941	\$22,400	\$541	97.6	2.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	20	15	5		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	624	359	265	57.5	42.5
Amount reported.....	\$516,011	\$417,906	\$98,105	81.0	19.0
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$394,773	\$322,234	\$72,539	81.6	18.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$90,384	\$70,874	\$19,510	78.4	21.6
Not classified.....	\$30,854	\$24,798	\$6,056	80.4	19.6
Average expenditure per church.....	\$827	\$1,164	\$370		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	585	331	254	56.6	43.4
Officers and teachers.....	3,216	2,011	1,205	62.5	37.5
Scholars.....	19,282	12,666	6,616	65.7	34.3

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 733 active organizations of the Church of God in Christ, with 30,263 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 727 churches and the classification by age was reported by 577 churches, including, however, only 339 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

Individual churches of this denomination have been in existence since 1896, but the body has not reported at previous censuses, and no comparative data are available.

State tables.—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Church of God in Christ by States. Table 2 gives for each State in 1926 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 for selected States the number and membership of the churches, together with the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property. Table 5 presents the church expenditures for 1926, 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 4 and 5 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 2.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

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 (1)
United States...	733	405	328	30,263	20,805	9,458	9,077	20,873	313	43.5
New England:										
Massachusetts.....	2	2	---	92	92	---	31	61	---	---
Connecticut.....	4	3	1	144	135	9	46	98	---	---
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	6	6	---	180	180	---	58	122	---	47.5
New Jersey.....	14	12	2	517	498	19	152	365	---	41.6
Pennsylvania.....	11	11	---	1,073	1,073	---	394	679	---	58.0
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	7	6	1	447	428	19	123	324	---	38.0
Indiana.....	12	11	1	589	562	27	217	372	---	58.3
Illinois.....	38	30	8	1,939	1,732	207	518	1,421	---	36.5
Michigan.....	17	16	1	1,253	1,221	32	421	832	---	50.6
Wisconsin.....	2	2	---	83	83	---	29	54	---	---
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	1	1	---	37	37	---	13	24	---	---
Iowa.....	4	4	---	114	114	---	44	70	---	---
Missouri.....	35	24	11	1,768	1,425	343	527	1,241	---	42.5
Nebraska.....	4	4	---	170	170	---	45	125	---	36.0
Kansas.....	22	16	6	968	723	245	218	580	170	37.6
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	1	1	---	14	14	---	5	9	---	---
Virginia.....	14	9	5	677	478	199	192	485	---	39.6
West Virginia.....	1	1	---	15	15	---	4	11	---	---
North Carolina.....	8	4	4	213	134	79	53	160	---	33.1
Georgia.....	21	12	9	763	536	227	192	571	---	33.6
Florida.....	27	9	18	1,080	593	487	397	683	---	58.1
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	12	10	2	384	338	46	97	287	---	33.8
Tennessee.....	32	18	14	1,258	900	358	367	891	---	41.2
Alabama.....	24	10	14	773	409	364	222	551	---	40.3
Mississippi.....	86	14	72	3,314	821	2,493	1,045	2,130	139	49.1

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST—Continued

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females (¹)
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	63	25	38	2,305	1,115	1,190	689	1,612	4	42.7
Louisiana.....	52	20	32	1,661	744	917	522	1,139	-----	45.8
Oklahoma.....	59	35	24	1,700	1,145	555	482	1,218	-----	39.6
Texas.....	126	67	59	5,430	3,933	1,497	1,536	3,894	-----	39.4
Mountain:										
Colorado.....	14	9	5	394	267	127	144	250	-----	57.6
Arizona.....	3	3	-----	102	102	-----	19	83	-----	-----
Pacific:										
Oregon.....	1	1	-----	82	82	-----	36	46	-----	-----
California.....	10	9	1	724	706	18	239	485	-----	49.3

¹ 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: CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

[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	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	733	30,263	2,071	23,291	4,901	8.2
Connecticut.....	4	144	1	143	-----	0.7
New York.....	6	180	3	97	80	3.0
New Jersey.....	14	517	22	455	40	4.6
Pennsylvania.....	11	1,073	29	962	82	2.9
Ohio.....	7	447	62	166	219	27.2
Indiana.....	12	589	41	548	-----	7.0
Illinois.....	38	1,939	251	1,591	97	13.6
Michigan.....	17	1,253	98	922	233	9.6
Iowa.....	4	114	10	91	13	9.9
Missouri.....	35	1,768	96	1,224	448	7.3
Nebraska.....	4	170	15	155	-----	8.8
Kansas.....	22	968	45	734	189	5.8
Virginia.....	14	677	27	318	332	7.8
North Carolina.....	8	213	-----	142	71	-----
Georgia.....	21	763	38	481	244	7.3
Florida.....	27	1,080	93	967	20	8.8
Kentucky.....	12	384	29	257	98	10.1
Tennessee.....	32	1,258	39	1,050	169	3.6
Alabama.....	24	773	76	552	145	12.1
Mississippi.....	86	3,314	287	2,612	415	9.9
Arkansas.....	63	2,305	191	1,941	173	9.0
Louisiana.....	52	1,661	133	1,233	295	9.7
Oklahoma.....	59	1,700	101	1,324	275	7.1
Texas.....	126	5,430	243	4,180	1,007	5.5
Colorado.....	14	394	21	229	144	8.4
Arizona.....	3	102	3	99	-----	2.9
California.....	10	724	70	596	58	10.5
Other States.....	8	323	47	222	54	17.5

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported

TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

[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	733	531	516	\$1,508,079	234	\$261,611	48	\$85,000	25	\$22,941
New Jersey	14	5	5	14,500	4	4,715	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Pennsylvania	11	6	6	36,450	5	8,600	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Ohio	7	4	4	27,718	2	14,000	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Indiana	12	9	9	37,500	4	12,766	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Illinois	38	20	19	111,905	12	18,695	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Michigan	17	14	13	116,600	11	24,618	3	8,500	3	3,900
Missouri	35	31	29	99,065	15	12,323	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Nebraska	4	4	4	16,050	3	2,300	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Kansas	22	16	15	70,070	7	7,920	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Virginia	14	11	10	29,864	6	9,388	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
North Carolina	8	6	6	11,400	3	2,558	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Georgia	21	15	15	26,100	7	1,940	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Florida	27	21	21	51,545	14	15,987	3	3,500	1	440
Kentucky	12	6	6	16,900	3	1,950	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Tennessee	32	28	26	69,250	12	6,088	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Alabama	24	17	17	21,150	7	4,714	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Mississippi	86	62	61	88,360	21	7,651	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Arkansas	63	45	44	72,875	13	4,677	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Louisiana	52	37	37	63,418	10	8,434	4	2,750	1	450
Oklahoma	59	48	48	79,750	22	8,940	5	3,600	2	482
Texas	126	103	99	307,109	41	39,820	14	31,750	6	3,916
Colorado	14	7	7	23,000	3	15,027	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
California	10	7	7	84,600	4	20,500	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Other States ²	25	9	8	32,900	5	8,000	19	34,900	12	13,753

¹ Amounts included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 18 churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, and California.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The founder and organizer of the Church of God in Christ was Elder C. H. Mason, a Negro who had received his early training in the Missionary Baptist Church, in Tennessee. In 1898 he was called to the ministry and received a local license from Mt. Hyale Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Soon after this he found his own beliefs at variance with the strict Calvinistic teachings of the Baptist faith and sought to establish a church with stronger appeal and greater encouragement for all Christian believers, one which would emphasize the doctrine of entire sanctification through the outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

The Church of God in Christ was organized in 1895, with headquarters at Memphis, Tenn. From the beginning, evangelistic zeal characterized its work, and in 1896 an evangelistic meeting held at Jackson, Miss., added many members to the new denomination. The first church was established at Lexington, Miss.,

¹ This statement was furnished by Elder C. H. Mason, general overseer and chief apostle, Church of God in Christ,

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

[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	733	624	\$516,011	\$394,773	\$90,384	\$30,854	585	3,216	19,232
Connecticut.....	4	3	2,511	1,661	850	-----	3	15	89
New York.....	6	5	5,913	5,200	713	-----	5	20	123
New Jersey.....	14	11	17,024	13,580	2,444	1,000	12	75	403
Pennsylvania.....	11	11	26,960	21,604	5,356	-----	8	75	657
Ohio.....	7	6	8,744	5,878	2,866	-----	6	35	399
Indiana.....	12	12	18,974	16,276	2,698	-----	10	73	493
Illinois.....	38	33	31,748	24,604	6,356	788	31	201	1,215
Michigan.....	17	17	31,201	27,733	3,288	180	14	117	577
Iowa.....	4	4	2,142	1,500	550	92	3	10	113
Missouri.....	35	26	24,302	20,287	3,666	349	28	152	842
Nebraska.....	4	4	6,500	3,300	2,100	1,100	2	10	52
Kansas.....	22	16	20,956	14,409	2,547	4,000	18	93	572
Virginia.....	14	14	13,401	11,428	1,685	288	12	75	491
North Carolina.....	8	8	3,869	3,434	310	125	7	24	152
Georgia.....	21	20	10,646	8,493	1,121	1,032	12	50	345
Florida.....	27	23	14,962	10,944	3,103	915	23	109	803
Kentucky.....	12	6	4,547	4,000	547	-----	7	44	232
Tennessee.....	32	30	22,922	18,423	4,389	110	29	139	812
Alabama.....	24	18	8,335	5,789	2,546	-----	15	81	434
Mississippi.....	86	73	31,240	21,425	5,520	4,295	69	387	2,159
Arkansas.....	63	54	30,202	22,629	5,825	1,748	51	256	1,576
Louisiana.....	52	44	20,197	15,253	3,656	1,288	44	202	953
Oklahoma.....	59	51	33,702	24,193	9,509	-----	45	247	1,290
Texas.....	126	105	84,245	56,705	14,296	13,244	103	596	3,667
Colorado.....	14	11	9,547	8,593	954	-----	12	41	238
Arizona.....	3	3	1,490	1,190	-----	300	3	17	51
California.....	10	10	24,055	21,557	2,498	-----	7	47	415
Other States.....	8	6	5,676	4,685	991	-----	6	25	159

in 1897. This church was set up in an old gin on the banks of a little creek, and it soon proved too small to accommodate the congregation. Other churches were formed, and 12 years after its organization there were 10 congregations, 3 of which were in Tennessee, 3 in Arkansas, 2 in Mississippi, and 2 in Oklahoma. During the year 1907 the leadership of Elder C. H. Mason was recognized and he was appointed general overseer. Since that time the church has made rapid growth in numbers and in influence, receiving a great impetus, also, from the pentecostal revival in Los Angeles, Calif., in 1906. There are now more than 700 churches, located principally in the Southern States.

DOCTRINE

The church is trinitarian in doctrine, acknowledging its belief in God the Father as the Author and Creator of all things; in the Sonship of Jesus Christ—"that Jesus Christ was, and is, the Son of God, coequal in wisdom, power, and holiness with the Father, and that through His atonement the world is saved from sin and reconciled to God." They believe also in the personality of the Holy Spirit, "that He proceedeth from the Father and the Son; that He is equal in power with the Father and Son; and that He is the executive of the Trinity through which the plan of salvation is carried on in this earth."

The church requires of its members sorrow and restitution for sin; it promises cleansing by the blood of Jesus, the only mediator between God and man; and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They believe in the sacredness of the Holy Scriptures and in the possibility of entire sanctification, in evidence of which they are given the power of speaking with new tongues and gifts of healing.

Three ordinances are recognized, baptism of believers (by immersion), the Lord's Supper, and washing of the feet of the saints.

ORGANIZATION

The Church of God in Christ claims to be divinely instituted and to trace authority for all its offices directly to the Scriptures.

The organization includes the following officers: The chief apostle, or general overseer, elders, local overseers, and evangelists.

Each local church has its overseer; groups of churches are united, under a State overseer, holding district or State convocations annually. Matters in dispute are adjusted by the State overseers in consultation with two or more elders, but only upon application of the local churches. This body also assigns the pastors of churches.

A general convocation of elders and general overseers also meets annually and takes up questions referred to it by the State overseers and the elders of the State convocations.

The women's work is well organized under a body called "Mothers," General and State. There are also Bible Bands, Sunshine Bands, an organization called the Young People's Willing Workers, and a benevolent burial association.

WORK

The activities of the denomination are largely of an evangelistic nature; they hold camp meetings, and stress personal holiness.

The church maintains a mission work in the British West Indies, an industrial home for boys and girls, in the State of Arkansas, and other local mission work, all supported by voluntary donations.

The principal organ of the church is the Whole Truth, published at Memphis, Tenn., but the young people also publish a periodical called the Willing Worker.

