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CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN
MISSISSIPPI

1836 — 1954



by
Joe K. Alley

CHURCHES OF CHRIST
IN
MISSISSIPPI

1836-1954

by

JOE K. ALLEY

PUBLISHED BY

Joe K. Alley

P. O. Box 28

Booneville, Mississippi

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

IN

MISSISSIPPI

1838-1934

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DEDICATION

To the many faithful Christians who have in past years contended for the faith once delivered to the saints To the many faithful Christians of today who are holding up the banner of New Testament Christianity in Mississippi.

INTRODUCTION

In April, 1953, the task of compiling information about the churches of Christ in the state of Mississippi was begun. At that time, no individual knew just exactly how many congregations of the Lord's church existed in the Magnolia State. Efforts had been made in the past to get the total number of churches, but these efforts were not finished. Questionnaires were first sent to the churches in northeast Mississippi. After careful consideration, it was decided to extend the work to cover all of the state. More questionnaires were printed and sent out. As the questionnaires began to be returned, it became apparent that there were more churches existing in this state than we at first thought. The over-all picture of the conditions of the church is much brighter than many of us expected.

The purpose of this work may be considered as twofold. First, it is intended to give those of us living in Mississippi a better conception of the actual conditions and needs facing the church in the entire state. Second, it is intended to spread the news of the conditions here into other states where the church is numerically stronger. Whatever you may do to help achieve this twofold purpose will contribute greatly to the success of this work.

The author's special appreciation is expressed to Alonzo Welch and Jean Thornton, who contributed greatly to making this book a reality. In past years, they both gathered much useful material which aided in the securing of the names of churches all over the state. My special appreciation is also expressed to the scores of faithful Christians who took time to fill out the questionnaires and send them back. Without such assistance from so many Christians, this effort would have failed.

No claim of perfection is made for the contents of this book. The author has relied upon information about each church as it came from the Christian who filled in the questionnaire. Any history is necessarily colored by the one who sees, speaks or writes it. At least one hundred and eighty-five individuals have contributed to the compilation of this material. In some of the questionnaires, the names of preachers, elders, deacons and members were hardly legible. Every possible effort was made to spell the names correctly. If, however, you find a name or place misspelled, we ask forgiveness, forbearance and understanding.

The plan of the book is the best we could think of to present as much information on each church as possible. Some questionnaires returned with very little historical data. We have endeavored to give all the important facts that were sent in.

Thus we introduce to you, "Churches of Christ in Mississippi." It is our hope that you will read every page and become acquainted with the conditions and needs facing the Cause of Christ in this state.

JOE K. ALLEY

August 21, 1953

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GENERAL STATISTICS

CHURCHES AND MEMBERS

There are two hundred and two churches of Christ in Mississippi. The total combined membership in the state is approximately 12,500. The largest congregation is at Foote Street in Corinth. The church there has a membership of four hundred. There are 117 white congregations and twenty-four colored congregations.

The oldest Church of Christ in the state is at Thyatira in Tate County. Records show that the church was meeting there in 1836. Two of the youngest congregations in the state are located at Okolona in Chickasaw County and at Rolling Fork in Sharkey County. These were established in June and July, 1953, respectively.

Questionnaires were returned from 188 of the churches in the state. Following is a list of churches not returning questionnaires. These are not listed in the county writeups.

<i>Church</i>	<i>County</i>
Montgomery School	Benton
Temple Hill	Franklin
State Line	Greene
Baxterville	Lamar
Pearlhaven	Lincoln
Columbia	Marion
Cleveland (colored)	Bolivar
Marks (colored)	Quitman
Gum Branch (colored)	Stone
Ruleville (colored)	Sunflower
Senatobia (colored)	Tate
Wall Hill (colored)	Tate
New Albany (colored*)	Union
Wilkinson (colored)	Wilkinson
Meridian (colored)	Lauderdale

*Not certain church exists here.

ELDERS AND DEACONS

The information received reveals that ninety-three of the churches have elders. Seventy-five have deacons.

PREACHERS

There are ninety-seven gospel preachers working with churches of Christ in Mississippi.

PREACHING

Practically all the churches of Christ in the state have preaching at least once each month. From the questionnaires returned, it was found that eighty-six of the churches have preaching each Sunday. Fifty-one have preaching once each month, and thirty-seven have preaching twice each month. Three have preaching three times each month. At least thirteen of the churches do not have any regular preaching. One or two gospel meetings are conducted each year by most of the churches.

COUNTIES WITHOUT CHURCHES OF CHRIST

<i>County</i>	<i>Population</i>
Amite	19,261
Clark	19,632
Covington	16,036
Hancock	11,891
Issaquena	7,966
Jasper	18,912
Jefferson	11,306
Jefferson Davis	15,500
Kemper	15,893
Leake	21,610
Madison	33,861
Pearl River	20,641
Perry	9,108
Pike	35,137
Rankin	28,881
Simpson	21,819
Smith	16,740
Winston	22,231
Total counties	18
Total population	342,525

TOWNS WITHOUT CHURCHES OF CHRIST

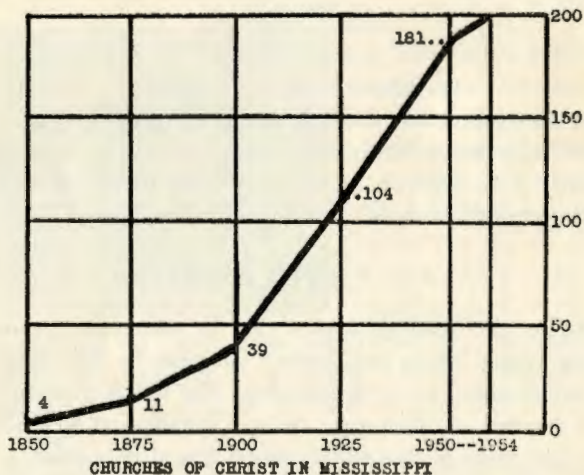
Towns in Mississippi with populations exceeding 2,500 in which there are no churches of Christ.

<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>Population</i>
		Long Beach	2,703
Bay St. Louis	4,621	Louisville	5,282

Canton	7,048	McComb	10,041
Crystal Springs	3,676	Miss. City - Handsboro	3,400
Ellisville	3,579	Moss Point	3,782
Forrest	2,874	Ocean Springs	3,058
Leland	4,736	Pass Christian	3,383
Lexington	3,198	Picayune	6,707

At least one hundred towns with populations from 500 to 2,500 do not have churches of Christ.

At least 250 towns and communities with population from 100 to 500 do not have churches of Christ.



ADAMS COUNTY

In this county with a total population of 32,256, there are two churches of Christ with a total membership of 170. The oldest church in the county is located in Natchez on Fourth Street. It was established in 1929. A colored church was established in 1945. The "Evening Bible Study Broadcast" may be heard at 6:15 p.m. Monday through Friday over WNAT. The "Herald of Truth" broadcast may be heard from the same station Sunday afternoons at 1 p.m. Gospel preachers in this county are Charles A. Lucus, Marlin Howard, and Archie Smith (colored).

The Church at
N A T C H E Z
29½ Fourth Street

CORRESPONDENT: George A. Vaught, Natchez, Miss.

The church located in Natchez began about 25 years ago. J. Roy Vaughn, R. C. Walker, and J. G. Malphurs were some of the first preachers to preach in Natchez. The church is composed of 150 members at the present time and has a full program of work. Preachers who have worked regularly with the church have been Lucian M. Farrar, Murphy D. Phillips, Paul M. Tucker, William B. Kughn, and Eugene A. Pitts. Charles A. Lucus is working with the church at the present time.

The Church at
N A T C H E Z
Woodlawn Avenue (Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Gordon Stancel, Natchez, Miss.

This church was established November 16, 1945. Marshall Keeble, David Shows, J. L. Cothron, and A. L. Cassius preached there. Archie Smith is the present preacher. There are 20 members of the church.

ALCORN COUNTY

Alcorn is the leading county in the state as to number of churches of Christ. There are thirteen churches in the county. In the city of Corinth there are four churches. The oldest church in Alcorn County is located at Wenasoga. It was established in 1850. There are 1,272 Christians in this county which has a population of 27,158. Gospel preachers in the county are Lindsey Allen, Hugo Allmond, Owen Freeman, Frank Newcomb, Luther Davis, Burt Isom, and Bill Johnson. The churches in this radio territory sponsor a gospel broadcast each morning Monday through Friday from 8:15 to 8:30 and on Sunday from 8 to 8:30. These broadcasts are heard over WCMA.

The Church at
C L E A R C R E E K

CORRESPONDENT: Robert Hickman, Rt. 6, Corinth, Miss.

The church at Clear Creek is composed of about 40 members. The present elders are J. F. Haynie and Charlie Owen. The deacons are Dave Metur and Robert Hickman. The church has preaching each

Sunday nine months during the year. Bible classes are conducted every Sunday. C. A. Wheeler was one of the first preachers that preached at Clear Creek.

The Church at
EAST CORINTH

CORRESPONDENT: Hugo Allmond, 1530 Cruise St., Corinth, Miss.

In March, 1952, the church at East Corinth was organized. J. C. Choate was the first regular preacher. Hugo Allmond began work in East Corinth in 1953. There are one hundred members in this church, and it is carrying on a full program of work.

The Church at
FOOTE STREET
(Corinth)



The church in Corinth was small but thriving in 1900. Discord arose soon after this date about instrumental music and societies in the church. This resulted in division. The church met in the courthouse for two and one-half years. In 1907, it met in a new building on Cass Street. Gus Dunn, Sr., preached the first sermon in the new building. F. W. Smith conducted the first meeting in the building. T. B. Larrimore, N. B. Hardeman and Gus Dunn, Sr., preached monthly.

In 1926, the present building on Foote Street was constructed. N. B. Hardeman preached the first sermon in this building. Frank S. Shepherd was the first regular preacher at this congregation. The Foote Street church has about 400 members. W. A. Brumley, Sr., C. P. Butler, H. J. Horton and Ira Wheeler are the elders. The deacons are Joe White, Bruix Brumley, Roscoe McEwen and Moss Doran. Lindsey A. Allen is the regular preacher.

The Church at
FRALEY'S CHAPEL

CORRESPONDENT: O. K. Grisham, Rt. 2, Corinth, Miss.

The church at Fraley's Chapel began about twenty-five years

ago. Brother Willcutt was one of the first who preached in this community. The membership has grown to about 150. O. K. Grisham, Henry Flanagan, Sam Splan, and J. G. Driver are the elders. The deacons are John Hoover, Lawrence Strickland, and Mark Grisham. The church has preaching once each week and regular Bible classes.

The Church at
J A C I N T O

CORRESPONDENT: G. O. Sims, Rt. 6, Booneville, Miss.

This church was established in 1894 with Mr. Johnny Raper, Mrs. Sallie Roberson, and Mrs. J. O. Looney. Mr. Raper built a meeting house in 1895. It still is in use. W. H. Sandy, W. O. Srygley, E. J. Pinegar, and G. A. Dunn, Sr., have preached here. The church now has thirty-five members. Bible classes are conducted each week and preaching services are twice each month.

The Church at
J E R U S A L E M

CORRESPONDENT: Tom Shults, Rt. 1, Corinth, Miss.

In 1949, the church began to meet in this community. Marvin Rainey, Frank Newcomb and Bill Johnson helped with the preaching. The West Corinth church helped to get the work organized. There are about thirty members here, and the church has regular preaching and Bible classes.

The Church at
C O R I N T H

South Madison Street (Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: H. D. Burgess, Corinth, Miss.

The Madison Street Church of Christ was established in 1894 as the result of a tent meeting held by J. H. Hannon. Through the succeeding years many meetings have been held and much mission work done. T. H. Bershy, G. P. Bowser, and Marshall Keeble have preached here. The church carries on a regular program of worship and work with seventy members.

The Church at
N E W H O P E

CORRESPONDENT: W. B. Harville, Glen, Miss.

P. G. Wright and R. L. Colley were two of the first preachers to

preach at New Hope. The church began here around 1900. There are forty members of the church in this community. The church has preaching once each month and has regular Bible classes. The elders are W. B. Harville, A. D. Harville, and B. F. Harville. The deacons are H. A. Harville, W. C. Harville, and S. W. Harville.

The Church at
R I E N Z I

CORRESPONDENT: Frank Trollingier, Rt. 1, Booneville, Miss.

This church was established at the end of a tent meeting conducted by J. A. Thornton in September, 1948. The meeting was sponsored by the West Corinth Church. Three families met in the home of Brother Lee from September 26, 1948, until September, 1952. The church now has a concrete block building. There are approximately fifteen members here.

J. A. Thornton, O. S. Landrum, Luther Davis, J. W. Evans, Rex Newborn, Frank Newcomb and Claudis Gurley have preached here. The Rfenzi church has preaching twice each month and regular Bible classes.

The Church at
S T R I C K L A N D

CORRESPONDENT: Prentiss Hardin, Glen, Miss.

The church here has fifty members. It began in 1949. J. A. Thornton, Burt Isom, and Frank Newcomb assisted in preaching the gospel. The church recently built a concrete block building valued at \$2,200. Regular Bible classes and preaching services are conducted each week.

The Church at
T H E O

CORRESPONDENT: W. C. Martin, Corinth, Miss.

H. K. Rainey helped establish the church at Mocassin School house around 1900. The church later met in the old Theo School house. The new building on Highway 72, ten miles west of Corinth, now serves as a meeting house.

Preachers who have preached here have been Bro. Copeland, E. L. Whitaker, Bro. Kelly, A. E. Emmons, Chester Estes and several others. The church has fifty-seven members. Regular classes are conducted each week, and the church has preaching twice monthly.

The Church at
WENASOGA

CORRESPONDENT: Edgar Smith, Wenasoga, Miss.

One of the first preachers who preached in this community was Allen Kendrick. Later Bro. Freed preached here. In the early years of the church there were around two hundred members. At present there are thirty-five members. The elders are: Edgar Smith, R. L. Nelms, and James Nelms. Monday night Bible study is held each week and the church has preaching each fourth Sunday. The church at Wenasoga was established about 1850.

The Church at
WEST CORINTH

CORRESPONDENT: W. A. Burns, 802 Horton St., Corinth, Miss.



The Foote Street Church "swarmed" in May, 1946, to West Corinth. Maurice Howell was preaching at Foote Street at that time. Everett Day was the first regular preacher at West Corinth. The church has a brick

venerer preacher's home. They are both paid for. J. A. Thornton preached here after Everett Day. The present evangelist is Owen S. Freeman. The elders are: W. A. Burns, John L. Billingsley and Cletus Reed. The deacons are Stanley Bennett, R. C. Jones and Ledford Pratt. There are two hundred members here.

The West Corinth church carries on a full program of work and has helped establish a number of churches in northeast Mississippi.

ATTALA COUNTY

There are 103 members of the church in this county which has a population of 26,652. The church began here in 1920 at Oak Ridge and Nile. Carlos B. Gunter lives and preaches in Attala County.

The Church at
CEDAR GROVE

CORRESPONDENT: A. R. Clark, Rt. 2, Dossville

Brother James Hamilton helped establish the church at Cedar Grove in 1926. The first year six obeyed the gospel. Later two more were converted. As years passed, the number of members grew to thirty-two. Others who preached there were J. J. Hannon and Robert Crawford. The elders at Cedar Grove are A. R. Clark and George Lewis. The deacons are Orea Nash and J. C. Clark. The membership now numbers 16 and the church has preaching once each month.

The Church at
K O S C I U S K O
(Jackson Street)

CORRESPONDENT: T. A. Davis, Lucas St., Kosciusko, Miss.

W. A. Bryant and his family moved here from Jackson, Tennessee, on February 1, 1934. They met in their home until they found Sister T. A. Davis and Sister G. C. Rigby. At that time they began to meet with the church at Nile. This continued until September 9, 1934. Then the group wrote the Gospel Advocate and told of the existing conditions in Kosciusko. A. J. Rollings, who had just finished David-Lipscomb College, came and conducted a two weeks meeting in the courthouse. There were five additions. In March a residence at 310 Madison Street was bought for a meeting place.

The church continued meeting there until January, 1949. It then began meeting in a new building on North Jackson Street. Paul Murphy, Howard Woolridge, and Charlie Smith have preached here.

The church now has sixty members. J. W. Thompson, T. A. Davis and Ernest Peeler are the elders. The deacons are W. W. Dindy and Emet Lawrence. The local preacher is Carlos B. Gunter. The church carries on a regular program of worship and work.

The Church at
N I L E

CORRESPONDENT: Walter O. Lawrence, Dossville, Miss.

The church at Nile was established about 1920. H. D. Jeffcoat, John P. Lewis and J. M. Powell were some of the first preachers. The church has twenty-five members and has preaching twice monthly and Bible classes each week.

The Church at
O A K R I D G E

CORRESPONDENT: Monroe Hopkins, Rt. 1, French Camp, Miss.

The church was organized here around 1920 with five or six members. Seventy-five have been baptized here. Many have died or moved away. The church has preaching once each month and a Bible class each Sunday night. Charles Harden, Roy Vaughn and A. H. Smith have preached here in the past. At present there are eighteen members in the Oak Ridge congregation.

BENTON COUNTY

The church at Beech Hill is the oldest church of Christ in Benton County. It was established there about 1895. There are four congregations here with a total membership of 247. The population of Benton County is 8,793. There are no gospel preachers in the county.

The Church at ASHLAND

CORRESPONDENT: B. G. Crawford, Ashland, Miss.

In 1935, the church was established in Ashland. The Christians began meeting in the courthouse, but because of persecution they later met in a private home. There were only six members at that time. At present, there are thirty-four members. The church owns a nice concrete block building on a two-acre lot. Plans call for the construction of a preacher's home in the near future. Everett Day, S. A. Freeman and Joe Cooke Van Dyke have preached at Ashland. The church has regular Bible classes and has preaching twice each month.

The Church at BEECH HILL

CORRESPONDENT: Lewis Graves, Ashland, Miss.

A few members began meeting in an old school house around 1895. In 1901, a meeting house was built. The first convert afterwards was Mrs. Parlee Graves. The church at Beech Hill has been active down through the years and has the largest membership in Benton County. About 160 Christians meet in a new building. The elders are Lewis Graves, Spight May and John Peeler. In the past, J. G. Nunnally, W. E. Crum, John Underwood and J. D. Jeffcoat have preached at Beech Hill.

The Church at BLACKWELL

CORRESPONDENT: John W. Alberson, Rt. 1, Ashland, Miss.

This small group of twelve Christians meet in a school house. In past years, much good has been done by preaching the gospel to the community. Many have been converted. In recent years, most of the members have moved away. Everett Day, Joe Cooke Van Dyke, Frank Chambers and J. A. Thornton have preached at Blackwell in the past. The church was established in 1935.

The Church at HICKORY FLAT

CORRESPONDENT: (Miss) Annie Laws, Hickory Flat, Miss.

About 1920 an organ was introduced into the Christian Church after having been set aside for a number of years respecting the wishes of J. S. Dupuy and his family. The Dupuys originally worshipped with the church at Thyatira. When others determined to use the organ, several of the Christians met with the Dupuy family in the afternoon of each first day of the week. Meetings were held at different times with J. Roy Vaughn with only a few converted. C. Barton Laws held a meeting in 1933 and baptized Alonzo Welch. Ten and eleven days meetings were held for a number of years with no visible results. About this time, only nine were worshipping according to the New Testament pattern. J. Marvin Powell was one of this number. In 1937, Leonard Johnson of Nashville was sent to Hickory Flat by the Twelfth Avenue Church. He held a four weeks meeting in which one was baptized and fourteen were restored from the Christian church.

The church now has a very nice little building and all the members seem to have a mind to work. The greatest handicap is a lack of leadership. The contributions average well over \$100 per month. There are forty Christians at Hickory Flat.

BOLIVAR COUNTY

The churches of Christ in this county have a combined total membership of 200. The oldest congregation is at Parks Chapel. Paul Ayers is the only gospel preacher in the county. Bolivar County has a population of 63,004. Delta State Teachers College is located at Cleveland.

The Church at
C L E V E L A N D

CORRESPONDENT: W. W. Neal, Avery Street, Cleveland, Miss.



The church in Cleveland began meeting in the Court House in 1946. W. S. Long conducted the first gospel meeting. Afterwards, John Iverson conducted two meetings. Through the help of J. C. Moore, now deceased, John Doggett and Bro. Fuller

of Memphis, the churches at Jackson Ave., and Union Ave., of Memphis, the building was erected. The church began meeting in it for worship January 1, 1950. The membership of the church numbers 135. Paul Ayers is the preacher. A full program of work is carried on by the church with regular preaching and Bible study services. The church has a special class for young people and publishes a church bulletin each week. W. R. Samuels, Sr., W. W. Neal, T. B. Craddock and J. D. Joel, Sr., are among the leading men of the congregation.

The Church at
M O U N D B A Y O U
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Sam Bush, Mound Bayou, Miss.

The church was established here in 1950. It began as a result of meetings held by James L. Cothron and C. C. Clark. These meetings were held at Mound Bayou and Merigold. After several had been converted as a result of these efforts the church began regular services. There are twenty-five members here now. The church has preaching every Sunday and regular Bible classes. Deacons of the church are Jule Hutton, William Ross and Luther Anderson.

The Church at
P A R K S C H A P E L

CORRESPONDENT: George McElmurry, R.F.D., Merigold, Miss.

J. Roy Vaughn established this congregation in 1927 by preaching in a school house known as Little Dean. Many have been bap-

tized here and a number of congregations started from Parks Chapel. It is considered as one of the oldest churches of Christ in this section of the state. The church now has thirty-five members and has preaching services two Sundays each month. A. C. Dreaden, Jean Thornton, W. L. Gentry, Jack Dunn and Jimmie Powell have preached here.

The Church at
ROSEDALE

CORRESPONDENT: J. F. Jackson, Rosedale, Miss.

This church was started in Beulah, Mississippi, by two or three women. In 1921, a few members moved into Rosedale. It was then decided to move the meeting place from Beulah to Rosedale. The church had a normal growth for ten or fifteen years but has not grown much for several years. Many of the members have moved away and some have died. The elders are E. O. Wynne, J. F. Jackson, A. F. Estes and J. W. Walker. The membership numbers about twenty-five. Regular worship services are conducted each Sunday with preaching twice each month.

CALHOUN COUNTY

There are three churches of Christ in Calhoun County with a total membership of sixty-four. The oldest church is located at Vardaman. It began there in 1920. The population of Calhoun County is 18,369. There are no gospel preachers in this county.

The Church at
BRUCE

CORRESPONDENT: Mrs. S. L. Countiss, Bruce, Miss.

A few members met in a private home in Bruce in 1936. They continued meeting there until 1947 when Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harshman moved here from Washington, D. C. The church then secured the Mayor's Office for a meeting place which it used until 1948. The foundation for a building was laid June 23, 1948. On July 18 of that year the church moved into the new building with twenty-nine attending. The first meeting was held in August by O. C. Lambert who was preaching regularly then in Tupelo. Paul Murphy, V. P. Black, G. H. Gurley and W. S. Long have been among those who have preached at Bruce. The church now has about thirty members.

The Church at
CROSSROADS

In 1948 there were three members living in this community. They were meeting with the church at Thorn. In 1949, Paul D. Murphy was sent by the church at Thorn to conduct a meeting in the Crossroads community. Five were baptized during this meeting. Four of them were members of the Missionary Baptist church. Everett Day held the meeting the next year with two baptisms resulting. The next year Brother Day baptized two more. The church now has nine members.

The Church at
VARDAMAN

CORRESPONDENT: W. T. Gregory, Vardaman, Miss.

The church began here in 1920. Brother and Sister Perkins were largely responsible for the church being established at Vardaman. Later, Bro. Thompson and Brother Castleman helped carry on the work. Brethren Ridge, Whitaker, Thornton and Estes have preached here. The present membership is twenty-five. The church has preaching services twice each month.

CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County has a population of 15,499. One of the oldest churches in the state is located in this county at what is known as Old Union.

The Church at
OLD UNION

CORRESPONDENT: Arvie Watson, Carrollton, Miss.

Over one hundred years ago, the church began at Old Union. At times, the church did not meet for regular services. There are 100 members of the church here. The church meets regularly now and has preaching twice each month. I. B. Bradley, A. H. Smith, and Will J. Cullum have preached here.

CHICKASAW COUNTY

There are three churches of Christ in the county which has a total population of 18,951. Ninety-eight Christians make up the three

churches. The oldest congregation in this county is located at Thorn and began in 1938.

The Church at HOUSTON

CORRESPONDENT: Everett Day, Sr., 247 Church St., Houston, Miss.

The church at Houston began with brethren who moved here from Tennessee. These brethren separated themselves from some of the digressives when they put an organ in the worship over their protest. They met in various places until 1949 when the present building was started. After the walls and roof had been completed and a subfloor put down, the church began meeting in the unfinished building. The building is now complete. Everett Day, Sr., has been doing evangelistic work in this section for five years. He lives in Houston. The present membership numbers sixty-five. H. P. Hunt, Levi Gentry, Paul Murphy, J. Roy Vaughn and Bruce Viteto have preached there.

The Church at O K O L O N A

CORRESPONDENT: Robert M. Puckett, Egypt, Miss.

The church that meets at this place is one of the youngest in the state. Claude Hall preached in a meeting in the Baptist church building in the late thirties. James Wells and J. A. Thornton preached in a tent meeting in 1943. John Wheeler preached in a tent meeting in June 1953, and a congregation was established. It meets in the court house with twelve members. Hudson Nichols and Howard Meeks have preached in Okolona.

The Church at T H O R N

CORRESPONDENT: Miller Clark, Star Route, Houston, Miss.

About the year 1898, Brother and Sister F. H. Clark moved to Chickasaw County and settled about three miles northwest of Thorn. They met in their home on Sundays and had gospel meetings under brush arbors nearby. The church later met in a school house. In 1945, the present building was erected and put into use. Bro. Gordon, who moved to Thorn in 1938, gave the lot and timber for the building. He passed away in September, 1945. One gospel preacher, Howard Woolridge, went out from the church at Thorn. In past years,

E. L. Whitaker, O. D. Johns, F. O. Howell, Paul Murphy and Jean Thornton have preached here. The elders are Miller Clark and Ernest Turman. The deacons are Ray Woolridge and G. V. Langley. There are twenty-one members of the church at Thorn.

CHOCTAW COUNTY

The church at Friendship is the oldest in this county. It began there in 1910. Choctaw County has a total population of 11,009. Of this number, fifty-five are Christians.

The Church at FRIENDSHIP

CORRESPONDENT: R. V. Hunt, Route 4, Ackerman, Miss.

J. W. Swafford, O. H. Smith, Brother Doss and Brother Fox have preached at Friendship. Throughout the years, this church has been beset with divisions caused by false teaching. There are about twenty members of the church which has preaching once each month. At one time there were thirty faithful members meeting here, but this number has been decreased due to members moving away.

The Church at REFORM

CORRESPONDENT: Earl E. Steadham, Reform, Miss.

There are thirty-five members of the church at Reform. The church began in this town in 1920. Lamberth Griffith has preached here. J. C. Dickens has done monthly preaching here. Progress has been very slow in this county because of a lack of gospel preaching.

CLAIBORNE COUNTY

There are two churches of Christ in this county. The total membership of both is eighty-five. The oldest church in Claiborne County is at Midway. The population of this county is 11,944.

The Church at MIDWAY

CORRESPONDENT: Jim Hill, R.F.D., Port Gibson, Miss.

This congregation began with a few members in 1925. They met in a school building until three years ago. The church now has a new meeting house. The church helps sponsor a radio program in

Vicksburg and has one or two gospel meetings each year. It also carries on an active program of benevolent work. There are seventy-five members in the church here. J. A. Copeland, M. D. Phillips and G. S. Hall have preached here.

The Church at
PORT GIBSON

CORRESPONDENT: J. C. Moore, Port Gibson, Miss.

This congregation was started by Charles Houser in 1950. He held two mission meetings here. H. C. Green and J. W. Evans also preached in meetings at Port Gibson. There are ten members who presently meet in the Kiwanis Club Hall. A lot is being paid for on which a building will be erected to meet in. The church has preaching each Sunday and Bible classes on Sunday morning and Thursday night.

CLAY COUNTY

Clay County has a total population of 17,757. Of this number, only fifty-five are members of the church. There are two churches of Christ in this county. Joe F. Moore of West Point is the only gospel preacher in the county.

The Church at
LAWSON'S CHAPEL

CORRESPONDENT: W. C. Loden, Prairie, Miss.

The church was established at Lawson's Chapel around 1900. G. C. Brewer, Ed Craddock, J. H. Lawson and Richard Curry have preached there. There are twenty-five members in this community, and the church has preaching once each month.

The Church at
WEST POINT

CORRESPONDENT: Joe F. Moore, 10 East Street, West Point, Miss.

The congregation here was established about 1943. It met in the court house for a number of years. In the intervening years, the group purchased two lots. One is used for the meeting place. The other was sold in 1953 to establish some funds toward a permanent building. The church here has endeavored to build up through the years; meetings were held, but regular services were "spasmodic." Today,

the church has a full-time preacher, a full program of Bible classes, and concrete plans for furthering the work in this town and county. The church is well blessed with leaders. The membership numbers thirty, and Joe F. Moore is the regular preacher. Howard White, Harold V. Trimble, and Yarbrough Leigh have held meetings here.

COAHOMA COUNTY

The Church at

CLARKSDALE

(Oakhurst)

CORRESPONDENT: J. W. Dreaden, 419 Mississippi Ave., Clarksdale, Miss.



The church at Clarksdale was established in 1925 with Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Samuels and Mr. and Mrs. William R. Samuels. They first met in the Coahoma County court house and later met in the city hall. Their first building was completed in 1934. Ber-

nard Lemmons was the first regular preacher. A new building was built and moved into in May, 1952. J. W. Fox and Jack Wood Sears have preached here. The church has capable men who can carry on the work without the assistance of a regular preacher. There are 159 members of the church in Clarksdale. The elders are J. B. House, J. W. Dreaden and George S. Sanders, Sr. The deacons are Brode Dreaden, Ivy Lauderdale, Byron Weaver, J. B. Hyde, H. E. Manning, Herman Jenkin. Oneal Boyd and Ed Campbell. Preachers who have preached there are: Jack Meyer, Hugo Allmond, Gilbert E. Shaefer and W. O. Hall. This is the only church of Christ in this county.

COPIAH COUNTY

In Copiah County, there are two churches of Christ. There are forty-seven members in them. The population of Copiah County is 30,493. There are no gospel preachers in the county.

The Church at
C A R P E N T E R

CORRESPONDENT: Ross Price, Carpenter, Miss.

During the year 1920, some Christians from Franklin, Tennessee, moved to this community. They met in their home for worship for several years. Later they met in a school house. Help was then solicited through the Gospel Advocate to erect a building. The building was built about twenty-five years ago. Three churches have been established from this congregation. The membership now numbers twenty-two. The elders are Ross Price, C. A. Greer, and Hugh Rials. M. C. Casey, W. F. Lemmons, T. C. Fox and J. P. Sanders have preached here in the past. The church now has preaching once each month.

The church at
H A Z L E H U R S T

CORRESPONDENT: A. J. Meridith, Hazlehurst, Miss.

The church began in Hazlehurst through the efforts of the A. J. Meridith family. Prior to 1942, the church was not known in this town. When the Meridiths moved here, they found one family in Hazlehurst and one family at Crystal Springs (10 miles north) in which there were members of the church. They formerly met in an old Baptist church building but now meet in a very attractive new building on the highway just north of town. The building will seat 130 people and cost approximately \$10,000. It is built so class rooms can be added later. Gardner S. Hall, H. C. Green, Owen Freeman and Oris Copeland have preached here. There are twenty-five members of the church in Hazlehurst which has a population of 3,400.

D E S O T O C O U N T Y

DeSoto County has a total population of 24,599. Of this number only 56 are members of the two churches of Christ which exist there. The church at Hernando is the oldest in the county having begun in 1929. M. C. Sparks, Raleigh Wooten and Samuel Bolin preach in DeSoto County.

The Church at
H E R N A N D O

CORRESPONDENT: Ed Madding, Hernando, Miss.

In September, 1929, six members met in the courthouse in Hernando. In 1931, Mr. and Mrs. Manning moved to Hernando. The church was making some progress at that time. In 1943, the church began a building fund. Elders were appointed in 1951, and the church moved into a new meeting house in March, 1953. There are thirty-six members of the church in this congregation. The elders are Ed Manning, Charlie Boling and H. D. Wooten. The church has preaching each Sunday and conducts two Bible classes each week. Jasper Dunn, Albert Holland and Charles Lane have preached here in the past.

The Church at
O A K H I L L

CORRESPONDENT: M. C. Sparks, Jr., Lake Cormorant, Miss.

Albert Holland came from Memphis and preached a few times in the Oak Hill school house in 1939. Sister Manning was getting a few of the ladies and children together for a Bible class on Sunday afternoons. Roy Deaver held a meeting in 1942 and baptized about five people. They began meeting regularly for Lord's Day worship shortly thereafter, and a few have been meeting ever since. Altogether there have been fifty baptized in this community. At present, twenty members meet regularly. Billy Nicks and H. I. Copeland have preached in this community in the past.

F O R R E S T C O U N T Y

The Church at
H A T T I E S B U R G

CORRESPONDENT: Eugene A. Pitts, 304 Mamie St., Hattiesburg, Miss.

The only church of Christ in this county is located in Hattiesburg. It began here in 1935. W. V. Murray, Thomas Scott and S. L. Edwards have preached here in past years. The city of Hattiesburg has a population of 40,000. Sixty-five of these are members of the church. Eugene A. Pitts is the regular preacher.

F R A N K L I N C O U N T Y

There are three churches of Christ in this county which has a population of 10,129. One of the churches (Temple Hill) is of the anti-

Sunday school persuasion. Information from this church was not submitted.

The Church at
R O X I E

CORRESPONDENT: D. C. Wilkinson, Roxie, Miss.

The beginning of this congregation must have been back about 1900 or earlier in the Knoxville community. It was known then as the Christian Church. Some of the earliest preachers here were Bro. Lanier and Bro. Sadler. Howard McMillan and his wife were among the first members. About 1915, the few members started meeting at the Whiteapple school house and regularly observed the Lord's Supper for the first time. E. L. McMillan and J. M. Seab were elders of the church at that time. They continued as elders until Brother Seab's death in 1941. The Whiteapple school building burned the next year and a move was made to begin a building for the church to meet in. The Methodist people permitted the members to meet in their building in the afternoons until a building could be erected. In 1943, the building was completed. Later, class rooms were added. Owing to a scarcity of preachers in this section, it has been a hard struggle down through the years to keep the members faithful, and very little growth in the church has been experienced.

The Church at
R O X I E
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Arthis Smith, 409 Woodlawn, Natchez, Miss

The colored church of Christ in Roxie was established in 1948. James L. Cothron has preached here. There are five members in this congregation.

G E O R G E C O U N T Y

The Church at

R O C K Y C R E E K

CORRESPONDENT: Fred Goff, Lucedale, Miss.

The church at Rocky Creek is the only one in this county and is located five miles northeast of Lucedale on Highway 63. It is as large, if not larger, than any other congregation in this entire section of the state. It was started by Bro. Jeffcoat about 30 years ago. The

membership now is 130. Woodrow Plyler is the regular preacher. Plans are underway to erect a building in Lucedale so the church can begin meeting there. The elders are Mark Eubanks, Cola Dungan, and Fred Goff. The deacons are W. R. Howard, Houston Eubanks, Kenneth Howard and Steve Booth. The church has purchased a tent to be used in mission meetings in that area.

GRENADA COUNTY

The Church at

G R E N A D A

(Jefferson and Adams Sts.)

CORRESPONDENT: George Ward, 73 Govan St., Grenada, Miss.

The church began meeting in Grenada in 1923 under the leadership of George Ward. A church house was built in 1938. O. L. Windorn was the first regular preacher. Harvey Starling is the regular preacher at the present time. There are 100 members of the church in this congregation which is the only one in the county. The population of Grenada County is 18,830. A. Y. Howell and R. L. Colly have held meetings here. The elders are George Ward, N. D. Chapuis and W. D. Ferguson. The deacons are Randolph Martin, A. P. Mitchell and Johnny Green. The church presents a program over radio station WNAC, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:15 a.m. Harvey Starling is the speaker.

HARRISON COUNTY

In this Gulf Coast county there are two churches of Christ. The total membership in both is 260. The oldest congregation is located at Biloxi. Gardner Gateley of Biloxi is the only gospel preacher in the county. Harrison County has a population of 84,073.

The Church at

B I L O X I

212 Keller Place

CORRESPONDENT: Robert Lee, 1508 Fourth Street, Biloxi, Miss.

The congregation here was started about twenty-five years ago and met in various homes until about 1946. Worship was then conducted for some time in the city hall. At that time there were about

35 members. Preaching was done by different brethren in the congregation. In 1947, a building was constructed and H. C. Edwards preached for about a year. Following him, J. C. Davidson began work with the congregation and was here until the fall of 1952. The congregation has grown constantly for several years. Since there is a large Air Force base nearby, much of the membership consists of Air Force personnel. There are approximately 200 members of the church in Biloxi. Biloxi has a population of 40,000. The church is carrying on an aggressive program of work and sponsors a program over station WLOX.

The Church at
G U L F P O R T
1509 22nd. Ave.

CORRESPONDENT: H. G. Hughes, 805 Lewis Ave., Gulfport, Miss.

The church in Gulfport first met in a Mr. Bennett's home. Then the American Legion Hall was rented for a meeting place. The church met there for about three years. The present meeting house on 22nd. Ave., was completed in 1947. Clifton Ganus, Jr., came over from New Orleans to preach and helped build the church house. After Bro. Ganus, the church secured the services of Howard McTee. He still preaches there each Sunday. The new building is paid for and is air-conditioned. There are about 60 members of the church in Gulfport. They sponsor a radio program each Sunday morning over Station WGCM at 9:00. H. E. McTee is the speaker.

H I N D S C O U N T Y

The capitol of Mississippi is located at Jackson in Hinds County. This county has the largest population in the state with 142,164. There are three churches of Christ here with a total membership of 500. Two of the churches are in Jackson. Two gospel broadcasts may be heard in Jackson: "Jesus Christ, the Hope of the World," is broadcast at 9:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday; "Herald of Truth," Sunday 2:00 p.m. Both of these are broadcast over WSLI.

The Church at
J A C K S O N
Central (N. West and Yazoo Streets)
CORRESPONDENT: Fletcher Cauthen (c/o Church)



The church at Central was formed from West Capitol in the summer of 1946. Though the congregation, as such, is comparatively young in years, it is carrying on one of the most aggressive programs of work in the state. The church supports four preachers and in 1953 had a proposed budget of \$39,050.00. Austin Siburt and Fletcher Cauthen work with the church full-time. The church also supports Oscar Bruce in his work with the church at Belzoni. Salvatore Puliga of Cosanza, Italy, is also supported by the Central church. Presently, there are 265 members who meet here. Bond Stocks formerly preached at Central.

The Church at

JACKSON

West Capitol (1917 W. Capitol)

CORRESPONDENT: E. L. Key, 808 Boyd, Jackson, Miss.

In 1920, M. C. Cayce was sent from Nashville to preach in Jackson. Nine members were meeting in a rented hall. Soon thereafter (1921) a small building was purchased on Silas Brown Street. Later, the property was sold, and the church met in the Old Calvary Baptist building. In 1931, the present location was purchased. The church used the large two-story residence until the new auditorium was built in 1947. Gardner Hall, H. C. Green, B. G. Yount and Charles Holt have preached here in past years. Orlan Miller and Harold D. Mobley are the present preachers. There are 185 members in the West Capitol church. The elders are E. L. Key, Hubert Hart, and L. D. Loden. The deacons are B. R. Summers, Frank Chambers, Sr., Raymond Thomas and Robert Carter.

The Church at

UTICA

CORRESPONDENT: Alvin Mobley, Utica, Miss.

The church was established in Utica in 1941. There are about

50 members in the church here. Ordis D. Copeland, Glenn Purdy, and J. W. Evans have preached here in the past. Preaching services are held once each month.

HOLMES COUNTY

The Church at
D U R A N T
(Cedar Street)

CORRESPONDENT: W. E. Thomas, 332 Madison St., Durant, Miss.

This is the only church of Christ in Holmes County. The church has twenty members. The population of the county is 33,301. Durant has a population of 2500. The Christians have been meeting in Hotel Durant since 1948. An old building has been purchased, and the church is remodeling one side to be used as a place of meeting. The other side will be rented out. The West Capitol Street church in Jackson sends someone to preach at Durant each Sunday. Sidney Roper, H. C. Green, B. G. Yount and Bro. Winborn have preached here.

HUMPHREYS COUNTY

The Church at
B E L Z O N I
(171 Central St.)

CORRESPONDENT: Oscar Bruce, 3252 N. State St., Jackson, Miss.

J. P. Halbrook started the church at Belzoni in 1912. Through the years, the church has not been very active. Recently a beautiful brick meeting house was built. There are fourteen members of the church here and attendance averages eighteen. Oscar Bruce of Jackson preaches each Sunday. Paul Slaydon, W. S. Smith and Brother Grant have preached here.

ITAWAMBA COUNTY

Itawamba County has a population of 17,216. There are nine churches of Christ here. The oldest is located at Pine Grove and began there in 1895. Jimmy Powell, Mitchell Reed, Mariel Mitchell and Rubel Clayton preach in Itawamba County.

The Church at
BEAN'S FERRY

CORRESPONDENT: Curtis Tucker, Route 1, Fulton, Miss.

Ralph Gray and Enos Moore helped establish the church in this community in 1936. The church now has about forty members. Mitchell Reed of Fulton preaches here once each month. Others who have preached here have been John Wheeler, J. A. Thornton, W. A. Holley and G. L. Mann.

The Church at
FULTON

CORRESPONDENT: B. A. Brumley, Fulton, Miss.

The church at Fulton was meeting as early as 1923 in the Methodist building. They then began worshipping in an old public school building. In 1926 the church built a frame building. Later class rooms were added and the building was brick-veneered. The first regular preacher at Fulton was S. A. Freeman. W. T. Pruitt and H. D. Jeffcoat succeeded him. Jimmy Powell is the present regular preacher. W. R. Willcutt and Everett Day, Sr., have lived here and done extensive preaching throughout this section. The elders of the church are Travis Toomer, Willie B. Howell, and B. A. Brumley. The deacons are Troy Gray, S. H. Alexander, Herman Adams, and Tom Wren.

The Church at
FULTON
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Joe Billups, Fulton, Miss.

The colored church has met for services on and off for several years. There were only two colored members of the church in Fulton when Jimmy Powell began Sunday afternoon meetings in the fall of 1952. Through these efforts five were baptized. The white church sponsored Brother Whitaker of Valdosta, Georgia, in a May meeting. Two more were baptized. With the help of white brethren in this section, the frame building formerly occupied by the colored Baptists was bought and moved to a desirable lot. Jimmy Powell preaches for the church each Sunday afternoon.

The Church at
G U M

CORRESPONDENT: Simeon Holley, Rural Route, Fulton, Miss.

The church at Gum began meeting about 115 years ago in a log building put together with pegs. This was later torn down and replaced with a large frame building which was destroyed by a storm. A small building replaced it which stood until 1952. Then a brick building was built. At one time the church was called the Christian Church, but it never used an instrument. W. R. Willcutt, S. A. Freeman, W. T. Pruitt, Charlie Nichols and Howard Woolridge have preached here. The church now has thirty-five members.

The Church at
M O U N T G I L E A D

CORRESPONDENT: H. V. Truelove, Rural Route, Fulton, Miss.

The original log building in which this church met also served as a meeting place for the Primitive Baptists of the community. This building was sold in 1909 and a frame building was built which burned in 1926. The next building also burned in 1933. The present building was built four years later. There are twenty-six members at Mount Gilead. The church has preaching once each month.

The Church at
P I N E G R O V E

CORRESPONDENT: T. O. Davis, Route 3, Fulton, Miss.

The exact date of the establishment of the church at Pine Grove is not known. However, it was around 1895. In the early days, the church met in a log building with an open fire place. The building was also used as a school house. The church has had several buildings and the present building will seat about 300. J. K. Davis, Joshua Hood, P. D. Lawson and A. A. Murphy have preached here. The elders are N. J. Reich, T. O. Davis and Elby Webb. The deacons are P. P. Johnson and Kelly Johnson. There are thirty-five members in the church.

The Church at
R O B E R T ' S H I L L

CORRESPONDENT: Melvin Roberts, Route 3, Fulton, Miss.
Brethren Meeks and Hunt of Tupelo began work in this com-

munity some three or four years ago. At that time, there were twelve members. Since then, some have moved away and only four or five are left. The church has a small meeting house which was built when they began work a few years ago.

The Church at
SHADY VALLEY

This church was established in 1943. J. A. Thornton, Pervie Nichols and H. P. Hunt have preached here. The membership now numbers twenty, and the church has preaching two times each month.

The Church at
TILDEN

CORRESPONDENT: Era Smith, Route 1, Fulton, Miss.

The church at Tilden has seventy-five members. It began in 1900. Kelly Davis and P. D. Lawson have preached in this community. H. P. Hunt and Mitchell Reed preach here two Sundays each month.

JACKSON COUNTY

The Church at
PASCAGOULA
(Lincoln and Buena Vista)

CORRESPONDENT: Clyde Chatman, 941 Resca De La Palma,
Pascagoula, Miss.

The nucleus of the church here started meeting about 1940 in Kreole, Miss. About one and one-half years later a meeting was held in which Floyd Decker preached. Afterwards, the meeting place was moved to Pascagoula. In 1943, a building was erected. A class room building was added in 1952. Growth here has been steady. The church has supported the "Herald of Truth" program as well as a local program. The Christians here have plans to purchase a tent to be used in evangelizing this area. There are seventy-five members who meet here. Clyde Chatman is the present preacher. J. W. Evans, William Atkins, and Frank Farris have preached here. This is the only church of Christ in this county, which has a population of 31,-401. Brother Chatman is the only preacher living in the county.

JONES COUNTY

The Church at

L A U R E L

(10th St., at 4th. Ave.)

CORRESPONDENT: Glynn Purdy, 1215 So. 17th Ave., Laurel, Miss.



The Y. W. C. A. was the first meeting place of the church in Laurel. This was in 1934. Soon thereafter, the Christian Church broke up and many of the members began to meet with the church. Growth has been gradual. Membership now

numbers 100. The church at Laurel is helping two other churches in its vicinity. Glynn Purdy is the regular preacher. The elders are H. A. Morrison, W. H. White and Leonard Swan. The deacons are W. H. Wells, Paul Stumph, Douglas Lewis and Rufus Morgan. Everett Day, Owen Freeman, J. H. Baird, Gilbert Dobbs and Jack Gaw have preached here in the past. The church at Laurel is the only one in Jones County which has a population of 57,235.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

One hundred and ninety members make up the three churches of Christ in this county. The oldest church is at Oak Grove where it began in 1889. Lafayette County has a total population of 22,798. The University of Mississippi is located at Oxford.

The Church at

O A K G R O V E

CORRESPONDENT: Mr. Ethel Maples, R. F. D., Como, Miss.

Oak Grove was established in 1889 and made fair progress in spite of strong denominational influences in the community. At times, the church became weak in membership but never stopped meeting on the Lord's Day. When the Sardis Reservoir was built in

1938, the territory was divided by the water. This cut the membership in half. There are thirty members in the church now. Lee Jackson, W. A. Crum, A. Y. Howell and A. A. Smith have preached here. H. I. Copeland of Senatobia now preaches at Oak Grove once a month.

The Church at O X F O R D

CORRESPONDENT: O. T. Whitehead, Oxford, Miss.



O. T. Whitehead located in Oxford in 1913 and immediately set about to get the work started. The church met in a private home for a while and then moved to the court house. For a number of years the church made very little progress. It then

bought a house to be used for worship services. This place was used until about three years ago when the new building was built. This building is one of the most beautiful in the state. Alonzo D. Welch worked with the church for eight years. Richard Lee Curry is the present preacher. I. M. Uery, J. W. Dunn, W. A. Crum, S. H. Hall and C. B. Laws have preached at Oxford. There are about one hundred members in the church.

The Church at P I N E B L U F F

CORRESPONDENT: S. J. Coleman, Lafayette Springs, Miss.

Pine Bluff began around 1900. The original group of Christians were brought together as a result of preaching done in both Pontotoc and Lafayette counties. They met first at Toccapola. When the church building burned, they moved to a school house about two miles away in Lafayette County. This building was used until 1930 when another church house was built. Recently, three class rooms have been added. There are about sixty members in the church. J. W. Craig, A. H. Smith and J. B. Nelson, among others, have preached here.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

The Church at
M E R I D I A N

(7th St. and 30th Ave.)

CORRESPONDENT: Reginald Ginn, 2914 7th St., Meridian, Miss.

Mrs. J. A. Grice, Mrs. Annette Vance, Mrs. J. H. Sellers and a Mrs. Stokes were some of the first members to begin meeting in 1938. They first met in the home of Mrs. Stokes and then moved to the city hall. Two meetings were held which located several lukewarm members. Hoyt Bailey was the first located preacher in 1940. Homer Winnett, C. R. Franks and Theo N. Kirkland followed. R. A. Ginn is the present preacher. The church in Gladewater, Texas, sponsored Bro. Kirkland full time in the work here. During this time a building was erected and a house for the preacher was built. The church is presently carrying along with its other work a fifteen-minute radio program five days a week. The program is "Bible Meditations" and is heard over WCOC at 5:15 p.m. The church has 145 members.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

The Church at

U N I T Y

CORRESPONDENT: Cassie Reid, Route 1, Jayess, Miss.

J. R. Maynor came and put up a tent in the Cross Roads Community about fourteen miles east of Monticello. Ten were baptized in this meeting. With the help of the Cold Springs church they built a house. There are forty-two members of the church now. The elders are Cassie Reid, Mike Brassel, and John Tullis. Jack Searcy of Brookhaven preaches here. This is the only church in this county.

LEE COUNTY

Lee County has a population of 38,237. There are six churches of Christ in the county. The oldest is in Tupelo on Gloster Street. It began there in 1914. Charles Williams, H. P. Hunt, J. W. Falkner, Gurley Hood, L. D. Willis, H. L. Meeks and W. H. Anderson are preachers living in this county.

The Church at
E G G V I L L E

CORRESPONDENT: J. W. Wesson, Route 1, Dorsey, Miss.

The Eggville church was moved from Hebron in August, 1945. There are sixty-five members in this church. The elders are J. W. Wesson, T. D. Weathers and J. T. Simpson. The deacons are Denver Weathers, Conrad Price and Ermon Smith. The church has preaching once each month.

The Church at

T U P E L O
(Gloster Street)

CORRESPONDENT: R. C. Beckman, 404 Madison St., Tupelo, Miss.



The church in Tupelo had its beginning in 1914 when three families (Bro. and Sis. George Long, Bro. and Sis. T. D. Long, and Bro. and Sis. Russell Phillips) withdrew from the Christian church with Bro. W. H. Owens who was then preaching for the Christian Church. Because Brother Owens preached the truth too strongly, the Christian church brethren finally decided to reorganize their efforts. After electing elders to supercede the existing ones, they passed reso-

lutions and requested that Bro. Owens preach no more for them. Bro. George Long suggested that all who wished to stand with Brother Owens meet in the court house that Sunday night. The families mentioned above did that. They met in the court house for eleven years. Brother Owens preached for them two years. C. P. Roland preached twice monthly thereafter.

In 1925, the members moved into a new building. The work grew very slowly after first flourishing in the new meeting house. During these years, J. W. Dunn, J. F. Doggett and Roy Vaughn preached for these disciples. Finally, under O. C. Lambert, the church decided to purchase property and build a new meeting house. This was completed and occupied in 1948. The building is valued at \$96,000. Recently, a \$6,000 air-conditioning system has been added. James W. Falkner is the present preacher. The Gloster Street church has 250 members and in 1953 had a budget of \$20,000. The elders are R. C. Beckman, R. L. Shappley, J. D. Clayton and R. L. Franklin. The deacons are Russell Sample, H. G. Seal, Jr., W. R. Williams and Noon Weathers. The church sponsors the "Back To The Bible Broadcast" five days a week over WELO at 4:45 p.m. James W. Falkner is the speaker.

The Church at

M A Y F I E L D

CORRESPONDENT: Willic S. Clark, Saltillo, Miss.

In 1935, the church at Mayfield was organized by J. T. Rogers. Since its beginning, about two hundred people have been converted in this community. Two gospel preachers have gone out from this church. The new meeting house is on Highway 45. The membership numbers ninety. The elders are Willie S. Clark and Charlie Rogers, Frank Chambers, R. W. Willcutt, Paul D. Murphy, V. P. Black and J. F. Doggett have preached here.

The Church at

S K Y L I N E

CORRESPONDENT: Levi H. Willis, Star Route, Tupelo, Miss.

The church began here in 1938. J. W. Dunn and J. F. Doggett were two of the first preachers to preach in this community. There are one hundred members in the church now. Charles Williams is the preacher. The church is carrying on a full program of work. A bus is used to carry people to and from the services. W. H. Smith, S. M. Smith and Levi H. Willis are the elders. The deacons are Auther Hickman, Hoyle Pearson, and Homer Ray Smith.

The Church at
E A S T T U P E L O

CORRESPONDENT: W. A. Holley, c/o East Tupelo Church of Christ

In the fall of 1952, several families in the Tupelo church and Skyline church banded together and moved to East Tupelo to begin a new congregation. A dwelling house was purchased and converted into a meeting house on Highway 78 East in the heart of East Tupelo. W. A. Holley is the first full-time evangelist. The church is carrying on a full program of work. There are thirty-seven members meeting here.

The Church at
T U P E L O
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Jessie Clifton, Route 1, Tupelo, Miss.

Jessie Hannon of Corinth preached the first gospel sermon to the colored people here in 1934. This meeting was held under a tent on N. Green Street. A few were baptized and they began to meet in their homes before moving to the school building. As the membership grew, a church building was erected on Holmes Street with the help of the white brethren. There are 41 members of the church now. The elders are Jessie Clifton and Albert Mabry. Joseph Bradley of New Albany is the preacher. Louis McAlister, Bro. Phillips, Marshall Keeble and Bro. Bowser have preached here.

L E F L O R E C O U N T Y

There are two churches of Christ in this county which has a population of 51,813. Of this number, 130 are members of the church. C. M. Allen is the only gospel preacher in the county.

The Church at
G R E E N W O O D

CORRESPONDENT: J. C. Logan, Route 1, Greenwood, Miss.

In 1942, a small group of Christians was meeting in the court house. J. C. Logan moved to Greenwood that year. Glen Rice moved here the next year. With their help, the small band of Christians began to make some progress. J. A. Thornton held a meeting here in

1944 and wrote to the Union Avenue church in Memphis and told of the conditions in Greenwood. The Union Avenue church sent W. S. Long to meet with the church. Through these efforts, Harvey Martin was contacted to work with them. The church began to grow and it was necessary to secure different quarters. An old dwelling near the post office was bought and converted into an auditorium and living quarters for the preacher and his family. Walter Key came to work with the church in 1948. During the following year, the membership grew until the old building would not accommodate the crowd. A building fund was started. In 1950, a new church building and preacher's home were built. The membership has grown to 110 and the contribution averages \$125.00 per week. C. M. Allen is the present preacher.

The Church at
H A L F M I L E

CORRESPONDENT: N. E. Gardner, Itta Bena, Miss.

A. L. Gardner, now deceased, moved to Leflore County in 1924. In the summer of 1925, A. H. Smith held a meeting in Bro. Gardner's yard. This congregation grew out of this meeting. Some of the members from this church helped organize the work in Greenwood. J. G. George, Jack Dunn and Clinton Hamilton have preached here. The church now numbers about twenty members.

L I N C O L N C O U N T Y

Lincoln County leads central and south Mississippi as far as number of churches of Christ is concerned. There are seven congregations here with a total membership of 495. The oldest is at Mount Olive and began there in 1887. N. E. Rhodes, H. R. Stringer, David Gordon, Carlos B. Smith, Robert Adams and Lenwood Smith are the gospel preachers living in this county. Some of the churches in this area are of the "one cup" and "anti" persuasions.

The Church at
B R O O K H A V E N

CORRESPONDENT: Estes J. Nations, Natchez Road, Brookhaven, Miss.

In 1940, a group of Christians from some of the churches of

Christ in the county decided to band together and start a congregation in Brookhaven. The first building was erected on the "outskirts" of town. It was later decided that more good could be accomplished if the church were meeting in a more centrally located place. Plans were made to build another building closer to the middle of Brookhaven. A nice brick building was built in 1946-47. The old building was bought by a group of the "one cup" persuasion. It is now known as the Pearlhaven church. The church in Brookhaven has 130 members. N. E. Rhodes is the regular preacher. C. B. Head, Dewey Shaw, N. L. Clark, G. L. Shellburn and Woodrow Allen have preached here in the past. The church sponsors a radio program each Sunday morning at 8:45 over WJMB.

The Church at
C O L D S P R I N G S

(Bogue Chitto, Route 2)

CORRESPONDENT: H. R. Stringer, Bogue Chitto, Miss.

About sixty years ago, N. L. Clark left Lincoln County and went to Texas as a school teacher. While there, he was converted to Christianity and came back to this section preaching the gospel of Christ. That was the beginning of this work in this area. Brother Clark is now eighty-three years of age and is blind. He still preaches in Fort Worth, Texas. The church at Cold Springs has had plenty of trouble in the past forty years caused by "hobby riders." These influences are still causing unrest among the Christians in this section of the state. The church at Cold Springs began about twenty-five years ago and the membership now numbers sixty. The church has regular preaching and mid-week Bible study.

The Church at
J O H N S O N ' S G R O V E

CORRESPONDENT: Ernest Johnson, Bogue Chitto, Miss.

The church here began in 1910 largely due to the work of N. L. Clark. There are fifty members meeting here, and the church has preaching once each month.

The Church at
MOUNT OLIVE

CORRESPONDENT: James Stewart, Route 2, Bogue Chitto, Miss.

This church was established by N. L. Clark. N. F. Jacks labored with this group until his death. There are eighty members here. The church began here in 1887.

The Church at
MOUNT ZION

CORRESPONDENT: J. O. Redd, Route 4, Bogue Chitto, Miss.

Mount Zion church of Christ was organized at Johnson Grove school house on Oct. 14, 1894. It has continued with services each Lord's Day until the present time. It has supported many mission meetings and has assisted the needy. The church has one or more gospel meetings each year. Membership now totals one hundred. The church has preaching each week but has no classes. N. L. Clark, N. F. Jacks, T. E. Newby and D. J. Whitten have preached here.

The Church at
NEW SALEM

CORRESPONDENT: Grafton Smith, Route 2, Brookhaven, Miss.

The church here was established under the hardships imposed by those who opposed the New Testament way. Through most of the years, the leader and preacher was T. E. Smith, who recently passed away. This church is opposed to "cups" and Sunday school. It sponsored the establishing of the Pearlhaven church in Brookhaven. It has helped many churches throughout the country; has sent out two gospel preachers and has taught the gospel to hundreds. The church is about forty-four years old. There are seventy-five members here.

LOWNDES COUNTY

Four churches of Christ exist in this county—three white and one colored. The church at Lone Oak is the oldest in the county. M. E. Hall, Aubrey Belue and Leo Powers are gospel preachers living here. Lowndes County has a population of 37,852. Of this number, 525 are members of the church. The "Herald of Truth" is broadcast each week over WCBI at Columbus.

The Church at
C O L U M B U S
 (324 South 5th Street.)

CORRESPONDENT: J. Roy Johnson, R. F. D. 2, Columbus, Miss.



Matthew C. Cayce was one of the first gospel preachers to come to Columbus. As a result of his preaching, a congregation was established in 1921. Frank D. Ellis helped carry on the work of the church after the congregation was

organized. Later, J. W. Howell taught and worked with the church for a number of years. Charlie Nichols (who lived here) preached some. Located preachers who have worked here have been Howard A. White, Robert H. Farish, Phillip G. Speer, Robert Box, James M. Benson and A. C. Dreaden. Membership totals 225. Elders are L. B. Nabors and P. L. Vaughn. J. Roy Johnson and O. C. Logan are the deacons.

The Church at
C O L U M B U S
 (Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: S. W. Sykes, 2225 3rd Ave. S., Columbus, Miss.

This colored church was established under the preaching of James Conron. The white brethren of Columbus assisted in the work. Some of the white brethren taught "by turns" during the first year. When the building was erected, the white church assisted in a good way. There are about 50 members in this church which began in 1948. Semi-monthly preaching is done by Edgar Jamison of Aliceville Alabama.

The Church at
L O N E O A K

CORRESPONDENT: W. R. Wheeler, Steens, Miss.

Charlie Wheeler preached the first sermon at Lone Oak around 1888. Soon thereafter, a comfortable church house was built. Meetings were held in nearby communities. The church has carried on an active program of worship and Bible study. W. R. Wheeler, J. A. Ligon and L. W. Vaughn are the elders. The deacons are Albert Mason, E. A. Mason and Wheeler Logan. The church here has about 150 members.

The Church at
S T E E N S

CORRESPONDENT: Mrs. C. C. Cole, Steens, Miss.

About twenty-five years ago, the church was established at Steens. The first building was of wood construction. A new brick house has taken its place. Approximately 100 members meet here. Gus Nichols and John Brinn have preached here in the past. At the present time, the church has good interest and good attendance.

M A R I O N C O U N T Y

The Church at
C O L U M B I A

CORRESPONDENT: Jimmy W. Cox, Rt. 2, Sandy Hook, Miss.

There is one church of Christ with nine members in this county which has a population of 23,967. The church started meeting in the Columbia High School in the summer of 1948 with H. T. Pardue as minister and F. L. Fife as treasurer. In August of that year a building was purchased on Broad Street. Membership here has been as high as thirty-five. Several of these members are now meeting at Tylertown and at Baxterville. There are no gospel preachers in Marion County.

Columbia, where the church is located, has a population of 6,500. Eugene Pitts of Hattiesburg preaches for the church each Sunday afternoon.

MARSHALL COUNTY

There are three churches of Christ in this north Mississippi county. A total of 120 members make up all three churches. The population of this county is 25,106.

The Church at

HOLLY SPRINGS

CORRESPONDENT: H. E. Wilson, Box 82, Holly Springs, Miss.

A history of Holly Springs dating back to 1880 mentions that the church was at one time broken up by a Yellow Fever epidemic. There were no churches active here for the next ten years. The present group became active in 1937 but did not accomplish much until 1947 when W. S. Long began working with them. The church now has a beautiful yellow brick building across the street from the school. About seventy members meet here. The elders are V. B. Aiken and H. E. Wilson. W. K. Brown and Clyde Billingsley are the deacons. G. C. Brewer and N. B. Hardeman have preached here.

The Church at

HOLLY SPRINGS

(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Joseph Finley, Route 5, Box 51, Holly Springs, Miss.

This church had its beginning when the white brethren sponsored a gospel meeting for the colored people. In September, 1949, A. J. Colston of Memphis preached in a two-weeks meeting. Twenty-two were baptized. For some time the church met from house to house and later rented a building. The church now has a meeting house on the north side of town. Membership totals 35, and W. H. Vance is the preacher.

The Church at
L A W N H I L L

CORRESPONDENT: H. R. Hartley, Route 2, Waterford, Miss.

For many years, A. S. Howell preached in this community in the school house. After his death some fifteen years ago, it seems that the church became inactive. About four years ago W. A. Poe of Memphis came and preached from house to house. The church began meeting once more in the school house. There are fifteen members in the church. Rex Newborn and R. R. Wooten have preached there.

M O N R O E C O U N T Y

Nine churches of Christ exist in this county in northeast Mississippi. The oldest is at Amory. There are 488 members of the church in Monroe County which has a population of 36,543. John Wheeler and Hudson Nichols are two preachers living in this county.

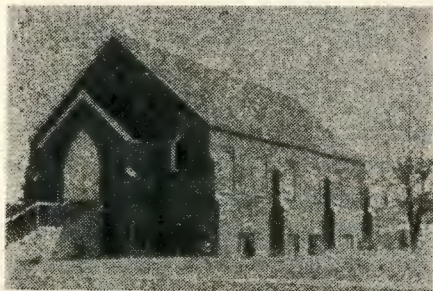
The Church at
A B E R D E E N

CORRESPONDENT: Brewster Neil, Aberdeen, Miss.

In this town of 7,000, there are forty-five members of the church. For years, the church met in an old dwelling. This has been sold and moved away. A basement auditorium has been built. Howard White, J. A. McNutt and Aubrey Belue, Jr., have preached here. The church began here in 1935.

The Church at
A M O R Y

CORRESPONDENT: Hudson Nichols, Amory, Miss.



Several attempts were made to establish the church in Amory which always ended in failure until the fall of 1942. The church at Christian Chapel was instrumental in establishing the church here. In September, 1942, the church at Chris-

tian Chapel supported a mission meeting under a tent in Amory.

G. A. Dunn did the preaching. The church began meeting in the City Hall after this meeting. At the first service, only nine or ten were present. For two years the church continued meeting in the City Hall and then moved to the old Strand Theater. After several months, a move back to the City Hall was made. A basement was built and the church began meeting in it in March, 1948. The congregation has grown considerably during the past five years. The note on the basement was paid off in April, 1950. The building is now completed. Elvis Bozart and F. W. Havard worked for the church part time. Hudson Nichols is the first full-time preacher. The church now has 94 members.

The Church at
A M O R Y
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: John L. Wheeler, Route 2, Amory, Miss.
(Preacher at Christian Chapel)

Luke Miller conducted a meeting in June, 1953, in which sixteen were baptized. Those baptized came from different sections of the county. Churches in the county have raised support for a Negro Evangelist to work among the colored people of this section. The colored people of this area, and especially Amory are stirred up. The firm preaching, plain and bold challenges given out, with their preachers running for cover has made a definite impression on these people. There are nine members who meet in a store building on 109th Street.

The Church at
C H R I S T I A N C H A P E L

CORRESPONDENT: John L. Wheeler, Route 2, Amory, Miss.

C. R. Nichol was called in to debate the Seventh-Day Adventists in 1904 at Hatley. In October, he moved up the road about three miles to Oak Grove School House for a meeting. Fifty-three were baptized and a building erected nearby. The first mission work done by these Christians was at Parham School House in 1909. Thirteen were baptized during this meeting. Many debates have been held here by such men as Bogard and Nichol. As a result of these debates two strong Missionary Baptist churches have been almost dissolved. The first full-time preacher was F. W. Harvard. John L.

Wheeler began work with the church in 1953. The church owns a well-equipped church building with class rooms and baptistry and has just completed a nice preacher's home. There are about 120 members here.

The Church at
HAMILTON

CORRESPONDENT: G. W. Willmore, Hamilton, Miss.

The church here was established about 1918 by some members who moved here from Tennessee. They were assisted by J. B. Jeffcoat of Fulton, Miss. The church has never been large as far as numbers are concerned but has been active throughout the years. I. B. Bradley, J. Roy Vaughan, John Fox and John D. Cox have preached here. There are 20 members in this congregation.

The Church at
NEW HOPE

CORRESPONDENT: Bailey Fears, Amory, Miss.

There are sixty-five members of the church here. Charlie Nichols, J. B. Jeffcoat and Lasan Pinager have preached here. The church is about thirty-five years old and has preaching twice each month.

The Church at
NETTLETON

The congregation started meeting about 1930 in an empty store building. Later, funds were raised to build a neat plank building. Some of the brethren pulled away into "progressiveness" for "music" in the church. G. A. Hood did a good work in building the membership as well as many of the preaching brethren from Tupelo. The work is still slow, but progress is evident. Forty-five members make up the church. Joshua Hood, H. L. Meeks and Brother Wilcut have preached here.

The Church at
WALLACE CHAPEL
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: W. T. Tucker, Route 1, Box 17, Smithville, Miss.

G. P. Bowser, J. Hannon and L. A. Wright have preached for this church. It began in 1906. The present membership totals 25.

The Church at
WEST CHAPEL

CORRESPONDENT: Jim Corbit West, Hamilton, Miss.

Originally, the church began meeting in West Chapel in 1924. However, it seems that sometime afterward the work ceased. In 1946 work was started again. The membership now numbers 90. The elders are J. C. West, Alvin E. Roberts and J. B. West.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

There are 145 members of the church in this county. They make up the three churches of Christ. Montgomery County has a population of 14,470.

The Church at HUNTSVILLE

CORRESPONDENT: J. F. Shaw, French Camp, Miss.

The church has been in this community for ninety years. There are 50 members now. The elders are H. H. Jenkins, J. F. Shaw and W. H. Jeffcoat.

The Church at RED HILL

CORRESPONDENT: A. O. Gordan, Sweatman, Miss.

A brush arbor was the first meeting place for the church at Red Hill. Later, a small frame house was built and used until 1948. At that time a masonry building was erected which will seat 300. There are 65 members in this church which began in 1912. J. D. Tant, A. H. Smith, J. W. Brents, A. H. Lanthan and T. H. Ethridge have preached here. The elders are M. W. McCuiston, S. E. Frazier, K. L. Pittman, A. O. Gordan and S. P. Fowler.

The Church at WINONA

CORRESPONDENT: Chester Miller, 224 Fairground, Winona, Miss.

In 1947, the church at Ridgley, Tennessee, sponsored a tent meeting at Winona. W. J. Stanley did the preaching. He rounded up the members in and around here and established a little congregation which met in the Court House for several years. At times, only two or three would be present. With two or three meetings in the court house the little group began to grow, and they now have a nice brick building on Highway 51. Churches at Union Avenue, Memphis, Grenada, and Kosciusko have helped this congregation which now has approximately 30 members.

NESHOPA COUNTY

The Church at

PHILADELPHIA

CORRESPONDENT: Dr. Leigh, M. D., Philadelphia, Miss.

The only church of Christ in Neshoba County is located in Philadelphia. It began meeting there in September, 1952, when Austin Siburt held a meeting. Jim Kinser of Jackson came up every Sunday to help the church for several months. There are eight members in the church. Neshoba County has a population of 25,730.

NEWTON COUNTY

Two churches of Christ exist in Newton County. They are located at Duffee and Newton. The one at Duffee is the oldest. Fifty-six members make up both churches. The population of the county is 22,681.

The Church at

DUFFEE

CORRESPONDENT: George Clearman, Duffee, Miss.

J. L. Freeman, J. L. Tolbert and S. M. Beddingfield were among the first members of the church in this community. J. B. Jeffcoat was the first to preach here. Later, John P. Lewis organized the congregation during a tent meeting held at Duffee. W. R. Craig was instrumental in introducing the gospel to the section by bringing preachers to hold meetings. The church building is located two miles from the community. There are 25 members. The church began in this community in 1925.

The Church at

NEWTON

CORRESPONDENT: S. T. White, Lake, Miss.

No services had been held in Newton until 1946. Gus Dunn, Sr., preached in a meeting at that time. This was the result of the efforts of Theo N. Kirkland. The church has been meeting since then and now occupies a brick building valued at \$15,000. There are 31 members.

NOXUBEE COUNTY

The church at Pleasant Ridge in this county dates back to 1917. The other church is at Macon. There are 31 members in these churches. The population of Noxubee County is 20,022. Theo N. Kirkland is the only preacher here.

The Church at M A C O N

CORRESPONDENT: H. B. Allsup, Macon, Miss.

In June, 1948, the H. B. Allsup family and five other Christians living in Macon held a tent meeting here. The church at Meridian assisted this group. They started having worship in the court house at that time. Another tent meeting was held in September, 1948. Worship was held in the afternoon so preachers from Meridian, Columbus and Starkville could meet with the church. Two tent meetings were held in 1949—one in Macon and one in Crawford, fifteen miles north of Macon. The next year, meetings were held at both places again. In 1950, the church bought and paid for a lot on Main Street in Macon. Meetings were held on this lot. In February, 1951, the court house burned and the church met in the H. B. Allsup home in the afternoons until March 15, 1953. At that time, the first services were held in the new building. Theo N. Kirkland is the regular preacher at Macon. A preacher's home has been built adjoining the church building. C. W. Brannam, Harold Trimble, Andrew Brown and John Murphree have preached here.

The Church at P L E A S A N T R I D G E

CORRESPONDENT: Gene Phillips, R. F. D., Macon, Miss.

J. A. Allsup and his family moved from Tennessee and started the work in this community. There are about 16 members meeting at Pleasant Ridge. Theo N. Kirkland teaches a mid-week Bible class here. This church began around 1917. Brother Duke Barnett, Brother Fox and Brother Ridge have preached here.

O K T I B B E H A C O U N T Y

One hundred members make up the two churches of Christ in this county. The oldest is at Maben where it started in 1927. Mis-

Mississippi State College is at Starkville. The population of the county is 24,569.

The Church at

M A B E N

CORRESPONDENT: Frank Snyder, Maben, Miss.

There are twelve active members at this place. The church began here in 1927. Roy Vaughn, Mack Craig and John P. Lewis have preached here. The elders are Herbert Logan and Frank Snyder.

The Church at

S T A R K V I L L E

CORRESPONDENT: W. W. Littlejohn, State College, Miss.

The church began meeting in Starkville in 1938 with about 15 members who previously had gone to various churches around to worship. The first year they met in the court house. A building was begun in November of 1939 and the church began using it in January, 1940. Andrew Morris helped in getting some outside funds for the building, though most of the cost was met by the members. The church has grown now to about 80 members. Starkville is a college town and through the years, many members connected with the college have come and gone. Quite a number of students have been baptized to go elsewhere to work for the Lord. During the last four years, there have been more than forty responses to the invitation. However, due to the large number which have moved away there are only about 20 more members now than there were in 1949. John P. Murphree is the preacher here. The elders are W. W. Littlejohn, B. E. Smith and Ralph Beene. Preachers who have worked here in the past have been Andrew Morris, Sydney Astin and Andrew Brown.

P A N O L A C O U N T Y

Four churches of Christ exist in this county. The population of Panola County is 31,271. Preachers in the county are J. A. Thornton, M. L. Powell, O. V. Newman, Lynn Harris and Wayne Fincher. The churches sponsor a daily program over the Batesville station.

The Church at

C E N T R A L

(5 mi. East of Batesville)

CORRESPONDENT: Irby Johnson, Rt. 4, Batesville, Miss.

A one-room school was the first meeting place of this church in 1901. The church now meets in a nice concrete block building on Highway 6. There are 40 members. The elders are Louis Anderson, Dorris Young and Irby Johnson. The deacons are Ray Faggert, Dave Young, John Cooper and Dick Darby. Preachers who have preached here in the past have been Sidney Roper, Clinton Hamilton, Richard L. Curry, Clifton Gainus and Howard White.

The Church at
C O M O

CORRESPONDENT: R. M. Porter, Como, Miss.

The church here has not been functioning long enough to have much history. In 1947 the small group of Christians repaired a closed and much deteriorated building owned by members of the Christian Church. Most of them had died or moved away. Clyde Miller and Lee Brown have preached here. Lynn Harris preaches at Como twice each month.

The Church at
S A R D I S

CORRESPONDENT: John Langston, Sardis, Miss.

John D. Cox preached in a meeting in the Court House and then monthly for some time at the beginning of the church here. The church in Charleston where he lived supported him. He was followed by Howard White about 1938. Sidney Roper was the first full-time preacher in 1945. He was followed by Richard Curry, 1947-52.

This congregation has supported Rex Newborn full time at Marks, Miss., and also supported the colored work locally. It is now supporting Sidney Roper in Alberta, Canada. The record attendance for Bible classes is 125. J. A. Thornton is the present preacher. The elders are Dr. J. D. House, F. W. Loden and John Langston. Membership numbers 78.

The Church at
S A R D I S
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: J. A. Thornton (preacher at white church)

A. J. Colson of Memphis preached in a meeting here among the colored in September, 1952, and baptized 15. They have been meeting in the colored school building, but a building project is underway and building should be completed in about four months.

PONTOTOC COUNTY

Two churches of Christ are in this county. One is at Buckhorn and the other in Pontotoc, the county seat. In July, 1953, the church at Pontotoc sponsored Camp Hope, a camp for young people. Pontotoc County has a population of 19,994.

The Church at

CHOICE RIDGE

CORRESPONDENT: Berry Young, Route 1, Springville, Miss.

About 1898, Bro. Henry Holly moved to West Tennessee. He had never heard the true gospel preached. Upon an invitation from the local brethren, he and his wife attended services there. They found the preaching to be what they believed and they obeyed the gospel. Later, they moved back to this county and with the help of the Craigs, they began worshipping at Choice Ridge (Buckhorn). Bro. Holly later began preaching and was the "backbone" of the church for many years. There are 50 members at Choice Ridge now. The church began here in 1901.

The church at

PONTOTOC

CORRESPONDENT: John Bedingfield, Box 281, Pontotoc, Miss.

Although no record was kept previous to 1931, it is known that the church met for worship some ten or fifteen years before. In June, 1931, four members of the church began meeting for worship each Lord's Day in the home of W. A. Dandridge. They were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bedingfield and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dandridge. The first protracted meeting was held in July, 1938. Leonard Johnson of Montgomery, Alabama, did the preaching. Thirteen were added to the church by baptism, and two restored from the Christian Church. Paul D. Murphy was the first to locate in Pontotoc. In 1941, Mrs. W. A. Dandridge gave the church a lot and a meeting house was built. They moved into it on July 6, 1941. J. W. Dunn worked with the church from January 1948 to December, 1950. Ross Long from Kinsett, Arkansas succeeded him. Clifford Payne from Searcy, Arkansas, began work with the church in June, 1952. There are 65 members in this church. The elders are John Bedingfield and R. O. Massey. The deacons are Estes Eubank and J. D. Bost.

PRENTISS COUNTY

There are twelve churches of Christ in Prentiss County. The oldest is at Marietta. It began there in 1879. At present there are 751 members in this county which has a population of 19,810. The churches of the county sponsor a daily radio program, "The Gospel of Truth Broadcast," which is heard over WBIP at 12:15-12:30 p.m.. The "Herald of Truth" broadcast is also carried over this station at 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Joe K. Alley, Luther Davis, Frank Chambers, and Frank Cole preach in this county..

The Church at BALDWYN

CORRESPONDENT: Claude Gentry, Baldwyn, Miss.

This church was founded mainly through the efforts of Dr. W. M. B. Cox sometime before 1920. It first met in the directors' room of the Peoples Bank. Later, a church building was erected as the church grew. In its early years, it was a very active and influential church. In 1922, the Peoples Bank failed, and because the bank president was a member of the church, it received much opposition. After that, the church struggled along as best it could with very little growth and activity. In 1942, the original building was destroyed by a tornado. Another small brick building was erected on Highway 45 and is presently in use. About 100 members make up the church in Baldwyn now. The town has a population of 1600.

The Church at BOONEVILLE

CORRESPONDENT: C. F. Morton, Booneville, Miss.



The existence of the church of Christ in Booneville dates from 1903. In that year two Christians, Sister Clearcy Wright and Sister Fanny Wright were instrumental in establishing the cause in this town. Through their efforts a gospel

meeting was conducted. J. W. Dunn did the preaching.

Soon thereafter (1906) J. E. Wright and his family moved to Booneville. The small group of Christians met in his home for several years. After J. E. Wright's death, the church met in a rented

building on Church Street. In the summer of 1920, the church erected its first meeting house on the lot on North Main Street. In June, 1950, work was started on a new building. The first Sunday of November of that year, the building was put into use. W. R. Ward was preaching for the church at that time. When the building was completed, the church had a debt of \$10,500. This amount was borrowed from a number of the members. A small amount of the loan was paid back by the church but the greater part was cancelled by the lenders. In August, 1952, the church debt was paid. The membership of the church in Booneville numbers 200. Preachers who have worked with the church have been: W. A. Black, Vanderbilt Black, Athelston Crowson, J. W. Evans, W. R. Ward. Joe K. Alley began work with the church in January, 1952.

The Church at

CARTER'S CHAPEL

CORRESPONDENT: Frank Cole, Booneville, Miss.

The church was established in this community around 1897. W. J. Phillips, R. C. Carter, V. P. Harling and C. M. Lee were the elders and deacons. Most of the members have moved away from the community or have died. There are eleven members who make up the church at Carter's Chapel at the present time.

The church at

HILL'S CHAPEL

CORRESPONDENT: Joe L. Clark, Route 5, Booneville, Miss.

Charlie Davis helped start the church at Hill's Chapel around 1913. After a short time, the Christians stopped meeting for worship. Fifteen years ago three families began meeting again. The building was used as a combination church and school house until 1951, when the church erected its own building on Highway 30. The church has preaching two or three Sundays each month, a mid-week Bible study and one or two gospel meetings each year. There are thirty members in the church.

The Church at

JUMPERTOWN

CORRESPONDENT: Feak Geno, Booneville, Miss.

The church was established in this community in July, 1950, as a result of a tent meeting conducted by J. A. Thornton and F. L. Clayton. Services were first held in the tent and later in the school

building, which caused much opposition to come from the other religious groups in the community. Through the planning and work of F. L. Clayton and others, lumber, money, labor and material were given by individuals and other churches for the purpose of constructing a meeting house. The building was completed in 1951, and the church began meeting in it the first Sunday in April of that year.

The Church at
M A R I E T T A

CORRESPONDENT: Grafton Burns, Marietta, Miss.

The church at Marietta is the oldest in the county. It was established in 1879, when Brother Sewell preached in the community. A meeting house was built in 1880. Some of the members when the church began were: Blackwell, Stocks, Nelson, Kizer, McCollum, Dr. Archer, and Mrs. J. H. Harris. The church now has approximately 150 members.

The Church at
O A K R I D G E

CORRESPONDENT: Bill Coates, Baldwin, Miss.

The Oak Ridge Church of Christ began around 1908. The church has thirty members and has preaching services twice each month and Bible classes twice each week.

The Church at
P L E A S A N T V A L L E Y

CORRESPONDENT: H. J. Wright, New Site, Miss.

The church in the Pleasant Valley community began in 1926. Some of those who preached there in its early years were Halley C. McDonald, W. W. Heflin, W. R. Wilcut and Yater Tant. There are 30 members who meet at Pleasant Valley.

The Church at
R O A R I N G H O L L O W

CORRESPONDENT: G. A. Moreland, New Site

The Roaring Hollow church began around 1900 with a few members. For some time services were held under a brush arbor with wheat straw as a floor. Later the church grew to about 40 members. At present, between 15 and 20 members attend the worship. John Underwood, P. G. Wright and Frank Chambers have preached for the church in past years.

The Church at
S N O W D O W N

A few members began meeting in the old Snowdown school building in 1912. The building was moved in 1915, and continued as a joint church building and school building. The school was moved in 1938. In 1942, the old building was torn away and a new one erected. Class rooms were added in 1950. Some of the preachers who have preached here are: Harville, Jess Rogers, Kelly and the Woodruffs. The church has 30 members.

The Church at
S T U T T S C H A P E L

CORRESPONDENT: Roy McGee, Route 3, Rienzi, Miss.

In 1931, W. R. Wilcut from Fulton held a meeting in the grove where the present building is located. From the results of this meeting a congregation was established under the leadership of J. T. Holmes. A building was erected. V. P. Black, Paul Murphy and others preached their first sermons at Stutts Chapel. It has contributed monthly to radio preaching since 1946. The church helped buy a tent and helped sponsor meetings at Thrasher and Jumpertown. In the summer of 1953, a new meeting house was erected. There are 35 members who meet at Stutts Chapel.

The Church at
Z I O N ' S R E S T

CORRESPONDENT: W. A. Gray, Booneville, Miss.

The church was established in this community in 1916, as a result of preaching by Brother Gurganus. Though it experienced a slow growth in its early years, it has made more rapid advancement in the immediate past. At present there are 50 members of the church at Zion's Rest.

Q U I T M A N C O U N T Y

The Church at
M A R K S

CORRESPONDENT: Ben M. Campbell, Marks, Miss.

This group began meeting in the town community house in February, 1951. This has been the meeting place with the exception

of a few months when the church met in the school building. In 1952, the church sponsored its own gospel meeting with Richard Curry doing the preaching. The Sardis church supported Rex Newborn to preach once each month here for a year. There are twelve members of the church in this town with 5,000 population. The population of Quitman County is 25,885.

SCOTT COUNTY

The Church at
MORTON

CORRESPONDENT: Paul Gray, Jr., Morton, Miss.

The Central church in Jackson and the church in Vicksburg sponsored a meeting in Morton in 1949. There were five baptisms and several members were found in the town nearby. This formed the nucleus of the church. A building was rented and services were held regularly. Bond Stocks and Landon Hatley have preached here. The church now owns its own meeting place. There are 30 members in the church. This is the only church in this county which has a population of 21,681.

SHARKEY COUNTY

Sharkey County has a total population of 12,903 and has only two churches of Christ. J. C. Oser is the only preacher in the county.

The Church at
ROLLING FORK

In June, 1953, Paul D. Murphy of Bastrop, Louisiana held a meeting at this place. Several were baptized and the church began to meet for worship on the Lord's Day. There are 16 members now.

The Church at
SUNFLOWER
(Richey, Miss.)

CORRESPONDENT: J. C. Oser, Box 53, Richey, Miss.

In 1927, a few members moved here from the Christian Chapel church in Monroe County. Through their faithful efforts, J. Lee Black was brought in for a meeting. The meeting was held in the home of Elon Parish and the group began to meet in his home. After meet-

ing from house to house for several years, the church built its first meeting house in December, 1943. The first full-time preacher, J. D. Oser, located with the church in June, 1953. There are 40 members here.

STONE COUNTY

One white and one colored church are in this county. Information about the Gum Branch (colored) church was not sent in. Stone County has a population of 6,264.

The Church at WIGGINS

CORRESPONDENT: Box 552, Wiggins, Miss.

This church was established by Woodrow Davidson of the Biloxi church in 1951. A small frame building was erected. The Lishey Avenue Church in Nashville helped in a financial way. Young men from the Keesler Air Force Base help conduct the services on Sunday. The 10 members consist of people who have moved here from north Mississippi and were members before coming.

SUNFLOWER COUNTY

One hundred and seventy members make up the three white churches of Christ in this county. The oldest congregation is at Ruleville where it began in 1942. The population of this county is 56,031. A small colored congregation is at Ruleville.

The Church at DREW

CORRESPONDENT: M. M. Moore, 120 Gertrude Ave., Drew, Miss.

T. A. Nicks did the singing and M. M. Moore did the preaching in a meeting here in 1950. The beginning of this church was with 13 local members who were converted as a result of these efforts. Brother Moore has been preaching for the church since its beginning. There are 55 members now.

The Church at INDIANOLA

CORRESPONDENT: Rex Newborn, Box 55, Baird, Miss.

A meeting was held in Indianola by Pervie Nichols. The church

then began meeting in the Lions Club building. A lot was purchased on Highway 82 and Grand Ave. Plans are underway to build a church house in the near future. The church has two meetings each year. Charlie Lain drove down from Memphis and preached each Sunday until Rex Newborn began regular work in March, 1953. There are 35 members in this town of 4,500. Paul Ayers and Yarbrough Leigh have preached here.

The Church at
R U L E V I L L E

CORRESPONDENT: W. R. Britt, Ruleville, Miss.

J. C. Moore, A. C. Carpenter and Ross Spears were instrumental in purchasing the building from the Christian Church and getting the church started here. A small group meeting about two miles from town and the church at Quiver Chapel combined to make up the church here. The elders are J. L. White, J. W. Ussery, J. C. Spencer and J. N. Williams. The deacons are W. W. White and Buster Berry. W. R. Britt is the regular preacher. There are 80 members in this church.

T A L L A H A T C H I E C O U N T Y

The three churches of Christ in this county have a total membership of 271. The oldest congregation is located at Charleston. Alton James and C. R. Fite are two gospel preachers living in Tallahatchie County. The population of the county is 30,496.

The Church at
B R A Z I L

CORRESPONDENT: J. H. Caldwell, Charleston, Miss.

The church began here in 1925. The membership now numbers 91. The elders are Green McVey and Roy Sweeden. Deacons are Lou Childree, Stewart Tranaum and Brother Hitt. Regular church work is carried on with preaching twice each month. Clinton Hamilton, Paul Hunton and Oscar Cooper have preached here.

The Church at
C H A R L E S T O N

CORRESPONDENT: J. H. Caldwell, Charleston, Miss.

Alton James is the present preacher at this place. The church be-

gan here in 1909. W. B. West, John Cox, Howard White and A. R. Hill have preached here in the past years. Membership now totals 150. The deacons are R. L. Peters, Reece L. Moore and J. H. Caldwell. During the summer of 1953, the church building was remodeled. Charleston has a population of 3,500.

The Church at

ENID

CORRESPONDENT: C. B. House, Enid, Miss.

J. W. Beardain and Tom House established the church at Enid about thirty years ago (1923). The church here carries on its regular work and helps at other places. The members come from several communities. Those who have preached here have been Lee Jackson, Jack Meyer, John D. Cox and W. B. West.

The Church at

JACKSON GROVE

CORRESPONDENT: C. W. Kiihnl, Enid, Miss.

It is believed that the church began in this place in 1870. B. F. Manier was the first preacher. In Manier's "Reminiscences of Preachers and Churches in Mississippi," he says, "The facilities of travel were much more limited then than now, yet my labors in 1868, extended from Thyatira, then in DeSoto but now in Tate County, to Battle Springs in Hinds." J. T. Riley was the next preacher. The church began meeting in a school building. Later a meeting house was built by the church. It stood until 1942, when it burned. There are 40 members here. The elders are D. T. Kiihnl and C. W. Kiihnl. Lee Jackson, John D. Cox and Howard White have preached here.

TATE COUNTY

This county has the largest number of churches of Christ in north-west Mississippi. According to information received, there are five white churches and five colored churches. These have a combined membership of 812. The oldest church in the state is located at Thyatira in Tate County. D. W. White, H. I. Copeland, Lavern Moore, Paul Kellar and Jim Mabry are preachers living here.

The Church at
A N T I O C H

CORRESPONDENT: E. M. Parks, Jr., Coldwater, Miss.

The church lot was deeded to G. W. McCain and Alex Burford in 1885, by a Mr. Perry. The original frame building was remodeled in 1948. A number of gospel preachers have originated in this church. T. W. Caskey, E. A. Elam, G. A. Reynolds, and S. P. Pittman have preached here. The present elders are E. M. Parks, Sr., W. E. Brown, A. R. Ruby, Herbert Moore. The deacons are E. M. Parks, Jr., Jessie Bostic, Carl Parks and Robert Thompson. The church has 150 members.

The Church at
C R O C K E T T

CORRESPONDENT: Earl Koph, Route 2, Senatobia, Miss.

R. N. Moody conducted the first gospel meeting here in 1910. There were forty baptisms during this effort. Brother John Sinquefield who came here from Alabama was responsible for the beginning of the church at this place. Two preachers have been supported in school by this group. The membership has now grown to 200. The elders are M. F. Moore, Sr., and Ed Koph. Deacons are Preston Koph and C. T. Giles, Jr.

The Church at
L O O X A H O M A

CORRESPONDENT: Dr. L. L. Welborn, Senatobia, Miss.

The first church building at this place was erected in 1907. Membership at that time was very small. The church now has a beautiful yellow brick building, and the membership is at least 112. Since 1917, J. C. Foster of Texas has held 24 meetings at Looxahoma. H. I. Copeland of Senatobia preaches here once each month. The elders are P. V. Lewers, T. W. Hyde, Thomas Lewers, D. T. May and L. L. Welborn. Deacons are W. W. Edwards, Winfred Aiken and L. R. Dickerson. Preachers in past years have been J. W. Dunn and John Hedge.

The Church at
M T . Z I O N
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: J. D. Davis, Route 3, Box 72, Coldwater, Miss.

Ninety-five members make up this church. The deacons are Sam-

son Davis and Roosevelt Cathey. D. W. White of Coldwater preaches here. Tom Potter and J. P. Bowser have preached here in past years.

The Church at
NEW ZION
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Jimmy Miller, Star Route, Senatobia, Miss.

This church has 30 members. Walter Miller of Memphis preaches here twice each month. J. P. Bowser and Marshall Keeble have preached here.

The Church at
PROVIDENCE
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: Route 1, Box 107, Coldwater, Miss.

This work was established by L. H. Alexander of Texas. A meeting was conducted in 1935, in which 12 were baptized. The membership here is 100. Providence has helped establish churches at two other places. The elders are M. J. Wallace and C. H. Hill. Deacons are H. Hill and Sam Tolliver.

The Church at
SENATOBIA

CORRESPONDENT: Roy H. Sawyer, Sr., Senatobia, Miss.

The Senatobia church began about 1916, with separation from the Christian Church by a number of members. This occurred during a meeting in which J. P. Lowery was preaching. The church now has a membership of 130. H. I. Copeland preaches three Sundays each month. The elders are: M. H. Dandridge, R. H. Sawyer, H. I. Copeland, C. A. Barber and H. T. Dixon. Deacons are James H. Welborn, J. E. Taylor, Marcus Welborn, L. P. Puryear, Meek Carter and A. G. Johnson. Senatobia has a population of 2,500.

The Church at
THYATIRA

CORRESPONDENT: N. N. House, Star Route, Senatobia, Miss.



The congregation now known as the Thyatira church of Christ was first organized on December 31, 1843. Their conception of the church and their purpose for organizing themselves together as a congregation is best set forth by

their own recorded statement of the matter:

"The congregation of Jesus Christ on Jim Wolf creek on the county line between Marshall and DeSoto counties, Mississippi, was organized on the 31st day of December 1843. It was composed of the following persons: James N. Brown, Alexander Cathey, William Cathey, Matthew B. Cathey, Anderson C. Brown, Frances Locke, Fredrick Meridith, William C. Malone, Eli Askew, Nancy Cathey, Jim Locke, Sarah A. Brown, Luisa Malone, Alice Askew, Margaret Locke, Alice Cooke, Matilda Cathey. Nearly all of these persons had previously been members of the church of Christ on Cathey's Creek in Tennessee who were known to be of good morals and Christian characters. In coming together as a congregation, having already been immersed upon a confession of their faith in the Messiah as the only begotten Son of God, they declared it to be their full purpose and determination to acknowledge no leader but Christ; no infallible teacher but the Apostles and Prophets; and the latter as containing their faith and their rules of behaviour as Christians.

Regarding all protestant sects as building upon human opinions equally with the Apostles' testimony, and in some instances making void of word of God by their traditions, and being resolved to stand perfect in the knowledge and practice of the revealed will of God; also regarding the church as built only on the foundation of the apostles and prophets—Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; and it being the duty, honour and happiness of the church, to preserve the unity of the spirit, by the bond of peace—there being 'but one body and one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all.' They have declared before God and to each other, that they are determined to do the whole will of God as far as they can understand it—to bear with one another, when

they may differ in matters of opinions—to contend only and earnestly for the faith formerly delivered to the saints—to be ever vigilant for the truth—and to walk in obedience to the Lord alone as their Prophet, Priest and King. Thus giving themselves to the Lord and to one another according to the will of God, they have agreed to walk together, as members of the family of God, under the government of the Prince of Peace, to whom be honour everlasting. Amen.”

The record adds, “The next day Elizabeth Cooke was added to the church upon her confession of the Messiah and being baptized into his name.”

In listing those members who first made up the church, it is said of William Cathey that he “since fell asleep in Jesus on the 11th day of August, 1844. He was one among the first in the reformation in Tennessee.” “In 1843, the church procured part of the time of Levi Davenport as evangelist, first Saturday and Sunday following in each month for twelve months for which they gave him seventy-five dollars.” In 1844, (Dec.) as Bro. Davenport was about to “leave the church” the services of Bro. Joseph Greer were “procured” for the third Saturday and Sunday. The church gave him about \$75 or \$80. Bro. Greer was used again in 1845, for a salary of \$70. Bro. Greer left in Nov., 1846. The membership was 69. On the second Lord’s Day of October, 1847, the church met in a new house that had been constructed.

Beginning the second Sunday of April, 1848, Bro. Stark Dupuy (a physician) began preaching for the church once each month. At this time the new meeting house was named “Thyatira.” It is interesting to note that the servants (slaves) were also listed among the membership. Charges were brought against sinning members, and upon their refusal to repent they were no longer fellowshipped by the church. Those who did repent were forgiven. In Dec., 1848, there were 90 members. On the second Lord’s Day of August, 1849, fourteen members “petitioned for letters of recommendation for the purpose of forming a church at Temperance Hall (DeSoto County).” Their request was granted. In May, 1848, elders and deacons were appointed “by fasting and prayer and laying on of hands.”

In 1849, the church “appointed a protracted meeting to commence Friday before the 2nd Lord’s Day in September next and to invite preachers and brethren from a distance to attend.” Just who

did the preaching in this meeting cannot be ascertained. In September of 1852, a Brother Webber and a Brother Cooper conducted a protracted meeting for which each was paid \$5.00.

Brother James Holmes was the preacher after Bro. Dupuy. His salary was \$250.00 per year. Following this a Brother Barbee preached for the church. The church set apart the Saturday before the second Lord's Day in June in 1866, for the purpose of bringing forward and registering the names of the members of the church in order to know "who has died and moved away since the war commenced." (Civil War.)

The church at Thyatira has had continuous existence since its beginning in 1843. The horrors and ravages of the Civil War did not end its organized existence. The Thyatira church is one of the few in the state that was not led away in the digression. Some of the preachers who preached for the church, later espoused the cause of the Missionary Society and Instrumental Music. But as far as can be determined from records of the church, they did not influence the church to digress. The church has never used instrumental music. Our only knowledge concerning missionary societies is that they were opposed and not aided. It should be noted that there have been Lord's Days on which the church has not assembled since the beginning in 1836. However, these are isolated instances due to varying circumstances. The church has considered itself a continuous body since 1843.

Alexander Campbell was to have preached here on his tour of the South. The audience had assembled expecting him, but for some reason he did not come.

The present membership at Thyatira numbers 150. Elders are N. N. House, C. S. Dandridge, Jeffrey Stewart and J. F. Hyde. Paul C. Keller is the present evangelist. He was preceded by Plato Black and Clyde M. Miller.

TIPPAH COUNTY

The population of Tippah County is 17,522. Eight churches of Christ exist here with a combined membership of 458. The church at Union is the oldest in the county. Clyde Miller is the only preacher living in the county at the present time. (1953)

The Church at

BLUE MOUNTAIN

CORRESPONDENT: William Tapp, Box 34, Blue Mountain, Miss.

The W. G. Tapp family moved here from Alamo, Tennessee in November, 1944. They worshipped at Ripley until January, 1945. After finding some members around Blue Mountain, they began to meet in the Tapp home. Afterwards, a theatre building was rented as a place of worship. The town built a new city hall and the church has been using it with from 15 to 30 in attendance. Four tent meetings have been held with about twenty baptisms as the results. H. A. Dixon, Billy Nicks and E. L. Whitaker have preached here. The membership totals 12.

The Church at

CHAPMAN

CORRESPONDENT: Melvin Smith, Ripley, Miss., Route 2

The church began here in 1934. W. R. Wilcut, Everett Day and Chesley Cranford have preached at Chapman. There are 60 in regular attendance, and the church has preaching twice each month.

The Church at

HICKORY GROVE

The first preaching in this community was done under a brush arbor in 1924. I. N. Brady, Henry White, Claude Linville, J. F. Johnson and M. Y. Johnson aroused interest in the work and helped build a meeting house. At times, the church ceased to meet for worship. Thirty-five members make up the church. J. D. Jeffcoat, A. H. Smith, Edward Craddock and D. E. Walker have preached here in past years.

The Church at

MARLOW

CORRESPONDENT: L. E. Campbell, Route 1, Walnut, Miss.

Sixty-three members make up the church here. The history of the church dates back to 1939. W. F. Etheridge and Dan Craig have preached at Marlow.. The elders are L. E. Campbell and Claude Rainey. The deacons are J. T. Street and Kelton Martindale. The church has preaching twice each month.

The Church at

R I P L E Y

CORRESPONDENT: James Childers, Ripley, Miss.



The church at Ripley was organized at the close of the protracted meeting conducted by Adlai Loudy in the late summer of 1924. It was composed of members of various congregations in the county at that time residing in Ripley and those baptized

in the meeting. Soon after organizing, a committee was appointed to secure a lot and make arrangements for a building. A Bro. Schick was then sent as minister by Secretary Harmon of the United Christian Missionary Society. This action was disapproved by most of the members who desired to work independent of human organizations and societies. Construction of the building was halted in the fall of 1925 because of a contention of a minority that instrumental music be used in the worship. Under the supervision of J. Roy Vaughn, the work was resumed in 1926. Several weeks later, the minority withdrew and started a separate Sunday school in the local theatre. Efforts were made to reconcile the two factions. When this failed, the majority offered to pay all the dissatisfied members the full amount paid in by them for the lot and building. The minority failed to appear at the meeting, so no arrangement has ever been made with them. The church has not had a located preacher all the time.

S. A. Freeman, E. L. Whitaker and Frank Chambers have preached here. Clyde M. Miller is the present preacher. The church building was remodeled in 1951-52. The elders are T. H. Jackson, B. A. Akins, and W. R. Pitner. Deacons are T. L. Stanford, Lee Alvis, James Childers, Jeff Young and Will Pickens. The church is growing spiritually with 150 members.

The Church at
R I P L E Y
(Colored)

CORRESPONDENT: W. R. Pitner, Sr., Ripley, Miss.
(Elder, White congregation)

Marshall Keeble preached in a meeting here in 1934. Eleven were baptized in "ice" water as a result of this effort. Later, Jessie Hammon, E. W. Anderson and Bro. Steward preached for these brethren. The church has 58 on roll.

The Church at
T I P L E R S V I L L E

CORRESPONDENT: Tip Thornton, Tiplersville, Miss.

A group of faithful women were responsible for the beginning of the church at this place. The first meeting place was a school building about one-fourth mile from town. Later, Dalton Hopper, R. J. Shannon, Tom Rowland and W. R. Rutledge were leaders of the work. The present elders are James H. Rutledge and Tip Thornton. Deacons are Wilford Hopper and C. W. McCoy. There are 50 members who meet in an attractive brick meeting house. The church at Tiplersville began in 1910.

The Church at
U N I O N

The land for the church building was purchased in December, 1893. At first, T. B. Larrimore preached under a brush arbor at Union. The work at times was greatly neglected, but for the past several years regular services have been conducted. The old building has been remodeled. There are 30 members here. Others who have preached at Union have been W. E. Crum, J. G. Nunnally, T. A. Rowland and J. H. Smith.

T I S H O M I N G O C O U N T Y

There are nine churches of Christ in this northeast county. Membership totals 483 among them. Tishomingo county joins Tennessee on its north side and Alabama on its eastern side. The church at Berea is one of the oldest in the state. R. L. Shook, Tommy Rosenblum and Roy Vaughn are preachers living here.

The Church at
BAY SPRINGS

CORRESPONDENT: G. G. Harris, Belmont, Miss.

Preachers who have preached here in the early history of the church have been W. H. Sandy, J. W. Howell, W. W. Heflin, W. R. Wilcut and Joe Cooke VanDyke. There are about 25 members who meet here in a very old building. The history of the church dated back to 1926.

The church at
BELMONT

CORRESPONDENT: E. Clay Wright, Belmont, Miss.

The Belmont church of Christ was organized in 1909. A church building was erected that year. The first members were T. B. Lindsey, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Shook, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Shook, and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Trollinger. The first elders were T. B. Lindsey, R. L. Shook and W. W. Shook. The first gospel meeting was conducted by John T. Smith. T. B. Larrimore, A. G. Freed and G. A. Dunn, Sr., later preached here. The membership now totals around 50. Thomas C. Rosenblum is the present evangelist of the church. The elders are R. L. Shook, E. Clay Wright and E. F. White. Deacons are Claude Carr and Raymond Patrick.

The Church at
BEREA

CORRESPONDENT: Ward Parsons, R. F. D., Iuka, Miss.

The earliest record of the church here dated back to 1863. It mentions slave membership and burial of a slave mother's infant in the Berea cemetery. Another old record dated August, 1893, names about 40 members. S. H. Sandy was the preacher. The record of May 28, 1891 shows that Crit Depoyster and G. W. Bingham were elders. John Harwell and Sam Harwell were listed as deacons. W. T. Coker was the treasurer of the church at that time.

The first two buildings were burned by forest fires. The third building which was built in 1903, stood until it was replaced in 1938 with a stone house. Regular worship has been carried on here since 1932. Jim Stone, Paul D. Murphy, Vanderbilt Black and Paul Brock have preached here.

The Church at
BURNSVILLE

CORRESPONDENT: George Lambert, Burnsville, Miss.

Many of the present members here worshipped as digressive Christians in using instrumental music in worship for about 40 years. George Lambert was instrumental in bringing this number together as New Testament Christians which resulted in the establishment of the church at Burnsville in 1946. Jean Thornton, S. Nagles, Chester Estes and Lindsey Allen have preached here. Frank Newcomb is the present preacher. Fifty members make up the church.

The Church at
IUKA

CORRESPONDENT: Edwin Harwell, Iuka, Miss.

The Iuka congregation was established about 1889 by Mansel Kendrick. The first meeting was held in the court house as a digressive Christian Church. Later the Presbyterian church building was used until the erection of the Christian church building. The church continued to worship as a digressive congregation until about 1902, when it withdrew from the use of instrumental music in worship. Since that year, the church has been worshipping according to the New Testament order. The church now has 70 members and Roy Vaughn is the regular preacher.

The Church at
LIBERTY

CORRESPONDENT: Monroe Pounds, Dennis, Miss.

The deed to the land on which the first church building was built was made on Oct. 31, 1895. The first elders at Liberty were C. M. Burleson, J. H. Shook and J. T. Vaughn. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Burleson, J. T. Vaughn, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Shook, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Shook, Henry Lancaster, J. C. Johnson, Mrs. Henry Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Carr. The present elders are Hardie Moore, Monroe Pounds, W. B. Lindsey, S. L. Orick and Fred Byram. The deacons are C. E. Malone, Freed Lindsey and W. O. Orick.

The Church at
NEW BETHEL

CORRESPONDENT: M. L. Taylor, Route 2, Paden, Miss.

The church at New Bethel has a membership of 65. It is about 75 years old. Bro. Wilcut, Bro. Dobbs, Bro. Heflin, Bro. Bill Blankenship and Bro. Joe Cooke VanDyke have preached here. The church has preaching once each month.

The Church at
PLEASANT GROVE

CORRESPONDENT: W. T. Seaton, Route 2, Iuka, Miss.

W. B. Kelley held the first meeting here under a brush arbor in 1915. A small number was baptized including W. T. Seaton and J. W. Reynolds, the present elders. In 1916, the church was organized and established. A building was erected that year, and the church has been meeting regularly since. There are 55 members here. The deacons are K. L. Lambert and Burley B. South.

The Church at
TISHOMINGO

CORRESPONDENT: W. M. Glasgow, Tishomingo, Miss.

The first meeting here was held in a tent on the high school campus in 1913, by John T. Smith. Six were baptized. The church was organized and a building built in 1914. The same year, F. F. Belue, W. M. Glasgow and Luther Owens were appointed elders. Since the organization of the church, there have been three regular preachers: Bobby Hoover, Jimmy Moffet and Ewell Wade. The present elders are T. O. Lindsey, Charlie Ingram and W. M. Glasgow. The deacons are Will Hester, Hoyt Phillips and Vaden Loveless. Membership totals 50 in this town of 335. W. H. Owen, E. L. Whitaker, T. B. Larrimore and W. H. Heflin have preached here.

TUNICA COUNTY

The Church at
TUNICA

CORRESPONDENT: B. H. Garner, Tunica, Miss.

Many years ago, the church started meeting but met for only a short time. In 1945, W. S. Long located two or three members, and

they started meeting in the court house. R. V. Scott moved here in 1950. In November, 1951, a nice lot was purchased on which to build. Plans are to build just as soon as sufficient funds are raised. There are 20 members here. This is the only church of Christ in Tunica County which has a population of 21,664.

UNION COUNTY

Two white and one colored congregations are in Union County. The church at Antioch is the oldest, having been established in 1913. Union County has a population of 20,262.

The church at

ANTIOCH

CORRESPONDENT: H. B. Billingsley, Rte. 4, Blue Springs, Miss.

Members of the church in this community got together in 1913 and built the present building. Some of them were U. S. Hamblin, J. J. McNutt, Bart Billingsley, J. M. Billingsley, M. S. Gentry and John Dye. The church has had troubles through the years, but all have been settled and peace now prevails. Several debates with the Baptists have been held here. These debates stimulated Bible study and also built up religious jealousies which have not been overcome to this day. J. D. Tant, W. R. Wilcut and J. L. Hines have preached here. The present elders are H. B. Billingsley, L. L. White, A. D. Wood, C. A. Miller and J. T. McNutt. C. T. Crump, H. L. Miller, G. R. Gentry and H. A. McNutt are the deacons. There are 100 members here.

The Church at

NEW ALBANY

CORRESPONDENT: J. E. Rogers, Sr., 501 Oak St., New Albany, Miss.

The church started here with a meeting conducted by Hugo McCord. Most of the Christian Church was converted. The property was purchased from those left. Everett Day, W. A. Holley and Jimmy Powell have preached here. B. C. Morton, Jr., is the present evangelist. Membership totals 100. Elders are W. E. Harrison, J. D. Dickerson, S. H. Whitehorn and J. E. Rogers, Sr. The deacons are H. B. East-erling and J. E. Rogers, Jr.

WALTHALL COUNTY

The Church at

TYLERTOWN

CORRESPONDENT: Clark Stringer, Tylertown, Miss.

This congregation is made up of three families who started meeting October 5, 1952. This small band of nine Christians carries on a full program of worship and Bible study. Their contributions average ten dollars each week. This is the only church of Christ in Walthall County. The county has a population of 15,563 and Tylertown has a population of 2,500.

WARREN COUNTY

There are two churches of Christ in this county which has a population of 39,616. J. W. Evans, L. C. Pope, J. L. Black and Everette Conn are preachers living here.

The church at

OAK RIDGE

G. A. Dunn, Sr., conducted a meeting here in 1897 in which 33 were baptized. The first one to come forward was the local Baptist preacher, E. S. Martin. A brush arbor was built soon afterwards, and 55 became obedient to the faith. Fifty of them came from the Methodist church. A. K. Hall was one of those converted. When the Methodist Conference met, one of their workers was to turn out these members who had become Christians. They turned out thirty-odd and seemed to think that got them all. But Brother Hall, who had been accustomed to attending the conferences, informed them that he had listed the names of 50 who had quit the Methodists. But they told him that they had not time to deal with others at that time. A Methodist preacher was sent to Oak Ridge in an effort to reclaim the lost members. During his stay at Oak Ridge he converted only one man to the Methodist church. In another meeting conducted by Bro. Dunn, that man also became a Christian.

The Church at
VICKSBURG
(Grove and Adams Streets)

The church at Vicksburg began meeting for worship in 1890 with three members, J. W. Hanes, Harry Orsban and Light Hanes (Miss.). We are told that in the early days of the church at Vicksburg that Bro. George Hoover, then of Port Gibson, preached some here and rode a bicycle some thirty miles making his trips. In 1900, J. W. Shepherd of Nashville conducted a ten days meeting at Vicksburg. In the year 1914, J. Lee Black came to Vicksburg as a teacher in the Warren County schools. He has remained in Vicksburg. In 1927, the Delta country north of Vicksburg was flooded, and the people of that section were camped on the National Military Park in Vicksburg. The church, led by J. Roy Vaughn, pitched a tent in the camp and gave relief to the distressed. Bro. Vaughn preached daily. After he was called away, J. Lee Black took the leading part. When the people returned to their homes, Bro. Black went and conducted several meetings throughout the Delta. He started the people near Richey, Miss., to worshipping and out of this has developed a well-established congregation.

In the early days of the work of the church in Warren County, G. A. Dunn, E. S. Martin and John H. Thompson had a brush arbor built near Red Bone in the southern part of the county. They were planning to do some preaching there. The people in that community knew so little about the church that some thought it a dangerous doctrine. Some vile fellows raised a mob, fired a shotgun blast into the assembly. One shot struck Bro. Martin in the forehead and lodged just under the skin. It remains there to this day. The work there was discontinued and has never been renewed.

The church at Vicksburg now has 175 members and J. W. Evans was the regular evangelist until the fall of 1953.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Church at
GREENVILLE

CORRESPONDENT: R. R. Reid, 427 S. Broadway, Greenville, Miss.

The church here began meeting in the City Hall in 1934. W. R.

Peters helped get the work started. Later, the church moved to the home of R. E. Cox for worship. One of the first meetings was held in the First Christian Church building. Bro. Gregory of Nashville did the preaching. In 1945, the churches at Leland, Stringtown and Greenville combined their efforts and built a building on McAllister St. Plans are underway to erect a new building on State Highway No. 1. Yarbrough Leigh is the local evangelist. The church has 240 members. The elders are R. R. Reid, R. M. Neil, G. B. Nerron and Leroy Floyd. This is the only church of Christ in this county which has a population of 70,504.

WAYNE COUNTY

The Church at

WAYNESBORO

Three men from Waynesboro came to the Laurel church in 1951, and asked for help in establishing the church here. The Laurel church assisted and found several ladies who were Christians. They began meeting in the Wayne County court house. A building has been started. There are twelve members here. Woodrow Plyler has preached here. This is the only church in this county with 17,010 population.

WEBSTER COUNTY

Three churches of Christ exist here. They have combined membership of 155. Leslie Wyatt and Bert Chism are preachers living in this section.

The Church at

EUPORA

CORRESPONDENT: Mrs. J. M. Harvey, Eupora, Miss.

The church here has twenty members. It was established in August, 1952. Paul Ayers, J. C. Dickens and Bert Chism have preached here. Eupora has a population of 1,300.

The Church at

MATHISTON

CORRESPONDENT: B. F. Archer, Mathiston, Miss.

The work was begun here by Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Archer and

Mrs. J. M. Harvey. The first meeting was held in 1924. Worship services were conducted in homes until a church building was erected in 1937. The church now has 75 members. The elders are R. M. White, J. C. Gardner and B. F. Archer. Deacons are J. I. Smith, Marlin Adkins, J. H. McMinn and Carl Day. The local evangelist is Leslie Wyatt.

The Church at

M T . H O P E

CORRESPONDENT: Ed McCarter, Mantee, Miss.

The Mt. Hope church of Christ was started 105 years ago. It has continued meeting since. Elders now are Ed McCarter, R. S. Walden and Bob White. The deacons are Dale Carodine, G. E. Logan, Joe Johnson, A. A. White, J. O. White and O. E. White. Membership totals 60..

WILKINSON COUNTY

Four churches of Christ are in Wilkinson County. Information from one of them was not sent in. C. T. Netterville and David Owen are preachers living in the county. The population of Wilkinson County is 14,116.

The Church at

C O R I N T H

CORRESPONDENT: Dudley Carter, Wilkinson, Miss.

The church began here in 1913. It has a regular attendance of 30 members at the present time. Preaching services are held once each month, and regular Bible classes are conducted each week.

The Church at

P E R R Y T O W N

CORRESPONDENT: Maurice Murry, Rosetta, Miss.

About seventy-five years ago, the church was established at this place. Eighty or more members make up the church. Jewell Anders and Maurice Murry are the deacons. Marlin Howard of Vidalia, La., preaches for the church.

The Church at
WILKINSON

CORRESPONDENT: C. T. Netterville, Wilkinson, Miss.

The church here was started in 1933 by C. T. Netterville and other members who originally met with the Corinth church. Fifty members now make up the church. R. C. Walker and John T. Smithson, Sr., have preached here.

YALOBUSHA COUNTY

In this county of 15,191 population four churches of Christ exist. They have a combined total membership of 180. The oldest church is located at Sylvan Knoll. Lee Brown of Water Valley is the only gospel preacher in the county.

The Church at
COFFEEVILLE

CORRESPONDENT: Mrs. George Schmitz, Box 263, Coffeerville, Miss.

The church began meeting in the court house in 1945. It continued there until 1950, when a building was partially completed. The church meets in the afternoon in order to have preaching twice each month. There are 35 members here. Billy Harris, Clifton Ganus, Sammy Swinn, Wyatt Swayer, Granville Tyler and John Hedge have preached here.

The Church at
OAKLAND

CORRESPONDENT: George Langston, Route, Water Valley, Miss.

About 35 years ago the church here was established. Many of the members moved away or became indifferent, and for a number of years there were no services. In 1949, a few Christians started meeting here once more and have continued to do so. Fifteen members are here. A. Y. Howell has preached at this place.

The Church at
SYLVAN KNOLL

CORRESPONDENT: Henry Perkins, Coffeerville, Miss., Rt. 3

The church began here in 1905. W. B. West, Jr., Jack Meyer, John Cox, Granville Tyler and Leonard Tyler have preached here.

There are 30 members who meet at Sylvan Knoll, the oldest church of Christ in the county.

The Church at

WATER VALLEY

CORRESPONDENT: Lee Brown, 1000 N. Main St., Water Valley, Miss.

A few members met here for a short time prior to 1940. For some reason they gave up their efforts. But in 1940, they decided to begin meeting again. Progress began to be made, and in 1946, the church obtained the services of Sidney Roper as local evangelist. Lee Brown is the present local preacher, and membership is 100.

YAZOO COUNTY

The Church at

YAZOO CITY

CORRESPONDENT: H. C. Green, 328 North St., Yazoo City, Miss.

Eight members met for the first time, May 4, 1941, in the home of Bro. and Sis. Ivy Lawson. For a short while, they alternately met there and in the home of Bro. and Sis. A. E. Nave. By September, 1941, a few more members moved to the city, and for convenience, they began to meet regularly in the Lawson home. This they did until July 15, 1951. At that time, the church moved into its new brick building. While located with the Capitol Street church in Jackson, H. C. Green came here one evening a week and taught a Bible class. He began work with the church in March, 1951. The church now has 45 members.

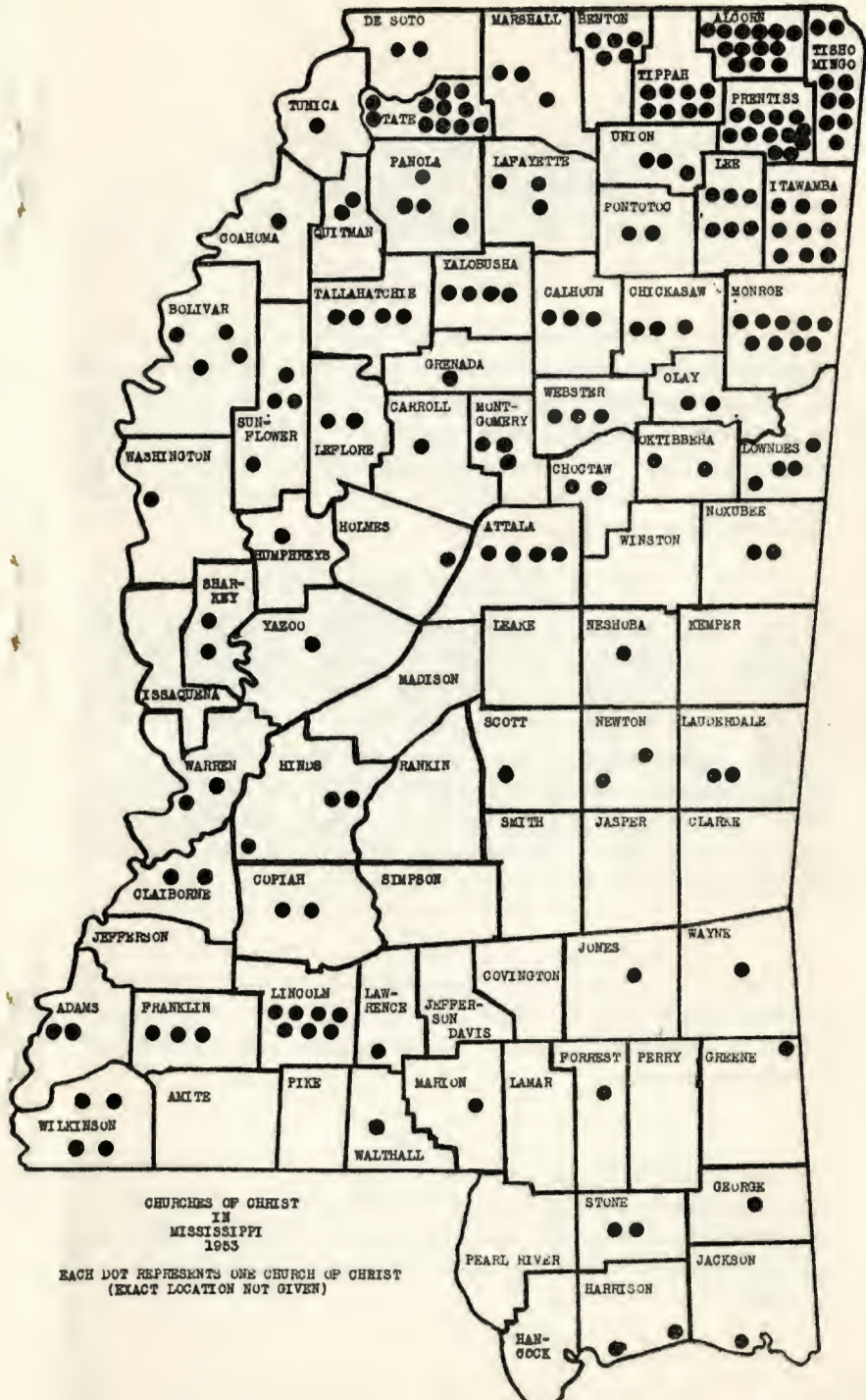
Gospel Broadcasts in Mississippi

The gospel is being preached over radio stations in sixteen Mississippi counties. The "Herald of Truth" is carried on nine stations in the state. Many other gospel broadcasts are heard from adjoining states. Following is a list of the broadcasts that are of a local nature:

<i>Town</i>	<i>Station</i>	<i>Time</i>
Aberdeen	WMPA	8:00 a.m. Sundays
Batesville	WBLE	7:45 a.m. Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. Sundays
Booneville	WBIP	12:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Brookhaven	WJMB	8:15 a.m. Sundays
Cleveland	WCLD	10:00 a.m. Tuesdays
Corinth	WCMA	8:15 a.m. Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. Sundays
Grenada	WNAG	9:15 a.m. Mon.-Wed.-Fri.
Gulfport	WGCM	9:00 a.m. Sundays
Jackson	WSLI	9:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed.-Sat.
Meridian	WCOC	5:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Natchez	WNAT	6:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Pascagoula	WPMP	5:30 p.m. Tues. & Thurs.
Starkville	WSSO	8:00 a.m. Wed.
Tupelo	WELO	4:45 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Vicksburg	WQBC	8:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

The nation-wide program, "Herald of Truth" is heard over the following stations each Sunday.

Booneville	WBIP	1:00 p.m.
Centerville	WGLC	8:00 a.m.
Columbus	WCBI	6:00 p.m.
Greenwood	WABG	1:00 p.m.
Jackson	WCLI	2:00 p.m.
Kosciusko	WKOZ	1:00 p.m.
Laurel	WLAU	8:30 p.m.
McComb	WSKB	1:00 p.m.
Meridian	WTQK	



DE SOTO MARSHALL BENTON ALCOON TISHO
TUNICA STATE TIPPAH PRENTISS MINGO
PANOLA LAFAYETTE UNION LEE ITAWAMBA
COAHOMA GUITMAN YALOBUSHA PONTOTOC
BOLIVAR TALLAHATCHIE CALHOUN CHICKASAW MONROE
WASHINGTON SUN- FLOWER LEFLORE ORENADA WEBSTER OLAY
SHAR- RAY YAZOO CARROLL MONT- GUMBERY OKTIBBEHA LOWNDES
ISSAQUENA MADISON CHOCTAW NOKUBEE
WARREN HYDES RANKIN ATTALA WINSTON
OLATBORNE COPIAH SIMPSON LEAKE NESHUBA KEMPER
JEFFERSON LINCOLN LAW- RENCE JEFFER- SON SCOTT NEWTON LAURENDALE
ADAMS FRANKLIN JONES WAYNE
WILKINSON AMITE PIKE MARION LAMAR FORREST PERRY GREENE
WALTHALL HAN- COCK

SEVEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP SPREAD THE GOSPEL IN MISSISSIPPI

1. OPEN YOUR EYES

Become acquainted with the actual conditions facing the church. Our work is of little effect when do not know the problems and needs facing the church in each community. Investigate the conditions in the state, in your county, in your community. Many have not taken time to learn of the church in Mississippi. Today, we must open our eyes to the multitude of opporunities to preach the gospel to thousands who have never heard it.

2. BE ENCOURAGED

Small numbers do not mean defeat! The success of the work of the Lord does not depend upon large numbers. Throughout the years, several churches of Christ in Mississippi have fallen away. They did not digress nor become denominational. They simply quit meeting for worship. Perhaps they became discouraged by their small numbers. If the church is small in your community, do not be discouraged. Lift up your head, open your eyes, go to work for the Lord. When we serve the Lord, the church will grow. Nothing can stop the growth. Be encouraged.

3. PRAY

Prayer is powerful. The Lord will answer the prayer of the righteous. Let us pray that the seed of the kingdom may be scattered abroad in Mississippi. Then let us go to work and help the Lord answer our prayers.

4. STUDY

We cannot lead others to Christ when we do not know how. The New Testament teaches us how to convert the sinner. Every Christian should study the Word of God. When every Christian learns enough about the plan of salvation to teach others, the Kingdom of God will increase.

5. TEACH

There is one Gospel preacher to every 22,461 people in Mississippi. Preachers cannot do all the teaching. Every Christian must teach. Prepare yourself to teach the Gospel of Christ to others. Do not depend upon others to do this part of your work for you.

6. GIVE

All Christians cannot be preachers in the public sense. Yet, every Christian can engage in an honest occupation. He can give of his material blessings derived therefrom. He can help support the preaching of the gospel at home and abroad.

7. LET OTHERS KNOW

The church is stronger in other states. Churches in these places will send preachers and support to Mississippi if they learn of the needs existing here. If you have friends who are Christians in other states, let them know about Mississippi. Send them copies of this book. Write them letters. Let others know about Mississippi.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37, 38.

. . . Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest. John 4:35.

Use this space to record information about new congregations as they are established.

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