

**A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS
IN GUATEMALA: 1824-2011**

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Historical Overview of Guatemala:

Spanish conquest begins under Pedro de Alvarado	1524
Independence from Spain declared:	1821
United Provinces of Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica)	1821-1843
Independent Republic established under Gen. Rafael Carrera:	1841
Concordat with the Vatican	1854
Liberal Revolution under the leadership of President Justo Rufino Barrios	1871
Guatemala's first Constitution established:	1879
Number of known North American mission agencies in Guatemala in 1996:	59
Number of known North American mission agencies in Guatemala in 2006:	78
Number of known North American mission agencies in Guatemala in 2017:	85
Indicates European society*	

Significant Protestant Beginnings or Events:

1800s (8 groups)	
1824	*Belizean Baptist Missionary Society (affiliated with Baptist Missionary Society of London)
1824	Belizean Bible Society (1818) - Joseph Bourne visited Port Izabal on the Caribbean coast.
1827	*Henry Dunn, an Anglican priest lived in Guatemala for 12 months, distributed bibles and Protestant literature, and established a Lancastrian School in Guatemala City with approval of the Government.
1839	*The Rev. Rudolf Krause, a German Lutheran chaplain, served in the British commercial colony of Abbottsville in Alta Verapaz Department with his family for less than one year.
1841	Frederick Crowe was a school teacher and chaplain in the Abbottsville colony until 1843 when he travelled to Salamá, Baja Verapaz, and Guatemala City as a colporteur of the British Honduran Bible Society; he became a school teacher to support himself and his French wife, and was expelled by the Government in 1846.
1882	Presbyterian Church (USA) (merged 1983 = PCUSA + PCUS) - National Presbyterian Church of Guatemala – the Rev. Edward Haymaker in Guatemala City.
1892	The Central American office of the American Bible Society was located in Guatemala City for 13 years under the Rev. Francisco G. Penzotti, until 1905.
1892	*The Rev. F. de P. Castells (a Spaniard), an agent of the British & Foreign Bible Society (1804, London), opened an office for Central America in Guatemala City, where he remained until 1912.
1899	Central American Mission (Dallas, TX) - Association of Central American Evangelical Churches
1900-1919 (10 groups)	

1900	Dr. & Mrs. Charles F. Secord, independent Plymouth Brethren missionaries (1900-1928); a medical doctor.
1901	The Pentecostal Mission (Rev. J. O. McClurkan in Nashville, TN) - Merged with the Church of the Nazarene in 1915.
1902	California Yearly Meeting of Friends in Chiquimula - Friends National Evangelical Church of Guatemala
1908	Seventh-Day Adventist Church begins work in Guatemala City with E. L. Cardey and C. A. Nowlen.
1910	Independent Holiness missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs. Christopher Albert Hines, 1910-1922.
1912	Pentecostal Holiness Church, the Rev. & Mrs. Amos Bradley, 1912-1918.
1915	Church of the Nazarene (Kansas City, Kansas) – Joel Benafé - pioneers in 1901 (The Pentecostal Mission)
1916	United Free Gospel and Missionary Society (Turtle Creek, PA) - Thomas A. Pullin and Charles T. Furman (1916-1922; both joined the COGCT in 1934)
1916	Primitive Methodist Church (Lebanon, PA; founded in 1812 in Great Britain); Thomas A. Pullin and Charles T. Furman were affiliated from 1922-1934; PMC merged in 1932 with the Wesleyan Methodist Church
1917	William Cameron Townsend (1896-1982), working under the auspices of the Los Angeles Bible House, arrived in Guatemala in 1917 to sell Spanish Bibles near Antigua; after two years he joined the Central American Mission (CAM), and for 14 years he lived in a Kaqchikel community on the coast called Santa Catarina, where he learned the native language to the point where he could translate the Bible; later in life, Townsend founded Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1942 in the USA and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) in 1934 in Mexico.
1917	Pilgrim Holiness Church (organized in 1897 in Cincinnati, Ohio); merged with the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1968 to form The Wesleyan Church (Alfred Hicks began missionary work in Jalapa)
1917	A magnitude 5.6 earthquake and aftershocks struck Guatemala City and the surrounding area during December 1917 and January 1918; the quakes gradually increased in intensity until they almost completely destroyed Guatemala City and severely damaged the ruins in Antigua Guatemala that had survived the 1773 Guatemala earthquakes.
1920-1939 (7 groups)	
1922	Missionary George Russell Collmer and his wife Constance begin independent Baptist work in Zacapa.
1922	The Rev. and Mrs. Amos Bradley served with the Primitive Methodist Church until 1928.
1923	Universal Church of God of Prophecy (formerly, National Evangelical Mission) – Jorge Marero
1923	Plymouth Brethren / "Gospel Halls" (founded by Carlos W. Kramer)
1926	Association of Baptist Churches of Zacapa - National Guatemalan Association of Baptist Churches (George R. Collmer)
1928	Twenty members of the "Cinco Calles" Evangelical Church (CAM-related) in Guatemala City were expelled because of their adherence to Baptist church polity and organized themselves as the Guatemalan Fraternal Convention, which in 1939 restructured and constituted the Convention of Independent Evangelical Churches and adopted Baptist church polity and doctrine; nine of these congregations organized the Baptist Convention of Guatemala in 1946, which became affiliated with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in the USA.
1934	Full Gospel Church of God (COGCT-Cleveland, TN) – Rev. & Mrs. Charles Furman were its first missionaries, who formerly were associated with the United and Free Gospel Missionary Society (1916-1922) and with the Primitive Methodist Church (1922-1934).
1937	National Council of the Assemblies of God (Springfield, Missouri); missionaries from El Salvador began work in 1927 in Jutiapa, near the Salvadoran border; the first Assemblies of God churches were organized in 1937-1938 by missionary Ralph Williams.
1940-1949 (7 groups)	
1940	Emanuel Evangelical Association (Eugenio Trotzky)
1942	A magnitude 7.9 earthquake hit Western Guatemala and caused widespread damage in the west-central highlands, at least 38 deaths, many injured, and widespread material damage.

1946	Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention – Baptist Convention of Guatemala / Convención Bautista de Guatemala; it became affiliated with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1948 when FMBSBC missionary William Webb moved from Mexico City to Guatemala City to provide guidance to emerging Baptist movements in Guatemala and Honduras.
1947	Continental Missionary Crusade - Norman Parish, Sr. (Asociación de Iglesias El Calvario)
1947	Galilee Church of God (Church of God: Anderson, Indiana) – Isaí Calderón
1947	Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (St. Louis, MO, 1847) – Lutheran Council of Churches
1948	Independent Evangelical Mission (Mardoqueo Mejía Noriega)
1948	A division in the CAM churches resulted in the founding of Filadelfia Church Interdenominational Christian Mission
1950-1959 (15 groups)	
1951	Church of God of Prophecy (Misión Evangélica Nacional, 1923)
1951	The Salvation Army (Lt. Ildelfonso Granados)
1952	Faith Healing Campaign led by U.S. Evangelist T. L. Osborn (1923-2013) had a large impact on the Evangelical movement, especially on the growth of Pentecostal churches.
1952	Bethesda Church of God (Felipe Muñoz)
1953	Apostolic Church of Faith in Christ Jesus (Oneness Pentecostal from Mexico)
1953	United World Mission (St. Petersburg, Florida) – Misión Mundo Unido (Cireaco Chango)
1956	Defenders of the Faith Mission (Gonzálo Dávila)
1956	German Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany: German-speaking)
1956	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
1956	International Evangelical Church Soldiers of the Cross of Christ (Gabriel Lara) (Cuba, 1930s)
1956	Palestine Evangelical Pentecostal Mission (Tereso de Jesús Paredes) - 1956
1956	Prince of Peace Evangelical Church (founded by José María Muñoz Domínguez, 1918-1978; formerly a pastor with the Assemblies of God since 1940)
1956	Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA (New York City, NY, 1607)
1957	Missionary Church of God (Houston, Texas) – Víctor Hugo Matta
1958	U.S. Evangelist Billy Graham (1918-2018) led a large evangelistic crusade in Guatemala City.
1959	Churches of Christ (a fellowship of autonomous local assemblies: a capella)
1960-1969 (42 groups)	
1960	Christian Churches / Churches of Christ (instrumental)
1960	Emanuel Evangelical Foundation (Fausto Cabrera)
1960	Emanuel National Evangelical Church - Evangelistic Faith Missions (Bedford, IN, 1917)
1960	New Jerusalem Independent Pentecostal Church of God (Gabriel de León Tum)
1962	The Costa Rican-based Evangelism-in-Depth team organized a nation-wide series of evangelistic crusades that resulted in tens of thousands of conversions throughout the nation.
1962	Assembly of Christian Churches (New York City, NY) – Félix Ramos
1962	Association of Fundamentalist Presbyterian Churches (Harold Ricker)
1962	Bethany Evangelical Church (Efraín Avelar, was pastor with the National Presbyterian Church)
1962	Elim Christian Mission (founded by Dr. Otoniel Rios Paredes)
1962	Evangelical Mission of the Holy Spirit (Sanctuary of Mt. Zion) – Noé Ildelfonso Reyes del Aguila
1962	Fundamentalist Bible Presbyterian Church (Antonio Sandoval)

1962	Horeb Conservative Presbyterian Church (Eugenio Samayoa Dávila)
1962	Worldwide Missions of Guatemala (Manuel Macal Marroquín)
1963	Door to Heaven Evangelical Church – “Puerto al Cielo” (Manuel Romeo Melgar)
1964	Baptist Missionary Association of America – Humberto Galindo
1964	Calvary Evangelical Churches – Iglesias Evangélicas El Calvario (Continental Missionary Crusade; Web City, Missouri; was Baptist prior to 1964); this denomination experienced a great "baptism in the Holy Spirit" in 1963, and its leaders later became very active in the Charismatic Renewal movement.
1964	Church of God Seventh-Day “House of Prayer” (Carlos Martínez)
1964	Evangelical Mennonite Church (Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions & Charities)
1964	Hispanic-American Mission (Spanish-American Inland Mission) – Rubén Valladares Tolico (split from Calvary Evangelical Churches in 1964)
1965	Association of Independent Evangelical Churches (Luis Cité)
1965	Union Church (interdenominational; English-speaking)
1965	Christ The Counselor Evangelical Church (Romulo Joel Martínez)
1965	Jesus Christ in Calvary Evangelical Church (Basilio Barillas)
1965	Pentecostal Church of God of America (Joplin, Missouri) - Francisco Solórzano
1967	Christ is Coming Evangelical Church
1967	Pentecostal Church of God, Mission Board (Puerto Rico) – Carlos Ramiro Lima - Samuel Cintrón
1968	Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities (1914, Salunga, PA)
1968	Mt. Basan Evangelical Churches (President, Guillermo Galindo); a separation from the Primitive Methodist Church.
1968	Voice of God Evangelical Mission (President, Ricard Elías)
1968	Lamb of God Evangelical Church
1968	New Jerusalem Church of God
1968	World Baptist Fellowship Churches – Frank Martín
1968	Lebanon Missionary Church
1968	Sun of Justice Nacional Evangelical Church
1968	The Golden Candlestick Central American Evangelical Church
1969	Baptist International Mission – Paulo Marsh
1969	Filadelfia Interdenominational Evangelical Association (Juan González) – see 1948 listing
1969	Christian & Missionary Alliance (Nyack, New York) – Marco A. Rodríguez (1970)
1969	Israelite Seventh-day Church of God
1969	Alpha & Omega Church of God
1969	Missionary Church of Christ
1970-1979 (55 groups)	
1970	Jesus the Good Shepherd Evangelical Church
1970	Union Church of Guatemala
1970	Christians in Action Missions International (Phillip Blankenship)
1970	Impact International
1970	Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church (from Nicaragua)
1970	Seventh-Day Adventist Reform Movement (Alfredo Gessner)
1971	Interdenominational Evangelical Mission (Bernardo Salazar Méndez) – 1971

1971	Showers of Grace Evangelical Church (Ángel Edmundo Madrid Morales) - Misión Cristiana Evangélica Lluvias de Gracia
1972	National Evangelical Methodist Church / Iglesia Evangélica Nacional Metodista; a split from the Primitive Methodist Church.
1972	Pentecostal Church of God, International Movement (Puerto Rico)
1972	Independent Evangelical Christian Pentecostal Churches of Guatemala
1972	Apostles and Prophets Evangelical Church from El Salvador (Ramón Arturo Rivera)
1972	Jeriel Evangelical Church
1972	Bethany Evangelical Mission
1972	Calvary Pentecostal Church – Iglesia El Camino Bíblico (Carlos Craft)
1972	Latin American Council of the Pentecostal Church of God (New York) – Carmelo Vega
1972	Springs of Living Water Evangelical Churches (Artemio Hernández Castillo)
1973	Samaria Christian Church
1973	Door to Heaven Evangelical Mission – Grace Gospel Churches (Waco, Texas) - Carlos Leonel Gómez Madrid
1974	Universal Church of God
1974	Transfiguration Pentecostal Church of God Movement of Guatemala
1974	Macedonia Evangelical Association (Atitlio Contreras)
1975	Baptist Bible Fellowship
1975	Church of God in Christ, Mennonite (Moundridge, Kansas)
1975	Conservative Mennonite Fellowship Missions (Carbon Hills, Ohio)
1975	Mennonite Church (Mennonite Air Missions- (Hartsville, Ohio)
1975	Christians Sharing Christ (Costa Rica)
1975	Baptist Convention of Guatemala (Ricardo Pérez Ortiz)
1975	Congregational Holiness Church (Venacio F. Pérez) – Iglesia Congregacional Pentecostés
1975	Mount Calvary Central Evangelical Church (80 charismatics left the RCC and founded a new church in Quetzaltenango - Guillermo Seberiano Satey Ixcolin)
1975	Open Bible Standard Churches (1919; 1935 merger)
1975	Mt. Sinai Evangelical Presbyterian Church (José Santos García)
1975	Ark of Noah Evangelical Pentecostal Association
1975	Faith Evangelical Church
1975	The Great King Evangelical Church (Jesús Chamalé)
1975	Independent Church of the Nazarene (Julio Delgado)
1975	Sun of Justice Evangelical Church (Eberardo Coloma)
1975	Bread of Life Evangelical Church (Union Church, Villa Ridge, IL)
1975	Missionary Advance (Puerto Rico) – Arquimides Rivera
1976	In February, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake hit central Guatemala; the most heavily affected area covered an estimated 30,000 km², with a population of 2.5 million; at least 23,000 people were reported dead and 77,000 were wounded; approximately 258,000 houses were destroyed that left about 1.2 million people homeless.
1976	New Life Advance International
1976	The Great Commission Pentecostal Church
1976	St. John the Apostle Evangelical Church
1976	The Word Christian Church (El Verbo – Gospel Outreach: Eureka, CA)

1977	Assembly of United Christian Churches (Fermín Carazo)
1977	United Pentecostal Church (Oneness Pentecostal)
1978	AMG International
1978	Center of Faith, Hope and Love (Mexico)
1978	Road to Heaven Evangelical Church – Juan Juárez
1978	Christian Fraternity - Fraternidad Cristiana de Guatemala (Jorge López)
1978	The Seventh Trumpet Church of God (José Luis Lucas)
1979	Extended World Gospel Pentecostal Church (Thomas Joseph Jasso)
1979	Fountain of Eternal Life Evangelical Church
1979	Getsemani Evangelical Pentecostal Church
1979	Mount Moriah Evangelical Church
1979	The Bible Way Center
1980-1989 (12 groups)	
1980	Global Missionary Evangelism
1980	Jesus Christ is Lord Church - Gamaliel Duarte
1980	Bethania Family Christian Church - Misión Cristiana Familiar Bethania, en Quetzaltenango (Efraín Avelar)
1981	Hebrews 13:8 Evangelical Church
1981	The Door is Christ Evangelical Pentecostal Mission (Pedro Ambrosio Guerra)
1983	El Shaddai Church (Harold and Cecilia Caballeros)
1985	Christ's Mandate for Missions
1985	Misión Cristiana Evangélica Lluvias de Gracia (Edmundo Madrid)
1985	Pentecostal Christian Church Worldwide Missionary Movement (Puerto Rico)
1985	Missionary Ventures International
1987	Centro Internacional de Adoración El Refugio de la Oveja (Fernel Monroy)
1988	Trans-World Missions
1990-1999 (27 groups)	
1990s	The Church of God of the Bible (from Nashville, TN)
1990s	Church of God "Adonai" - Ovidio Sánchez Pérez (from Norfolk, VA)
1990s	Zion Assembly Church of God - Ricardo Valenzuela Chávez (from Cleveland, TN)
1990	Family of God Church of Jesus Christ (Pastor Luís Fernando Solares)
1990	Mission to the Americas (formerly known as Conservative Baptist Foreign Missionary Society)
1990	Way of Holiness Churches (Trinidad Pérez Pineda)
1990	Vision of Faith Christian Church
1991	Augustana Lutheran Church of Guatemala (affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) – founded by Bishop Horacio Castillo in Guatemala
1992	Church of God, Inc. (from Puerto Rico)
1993	Refuge of Salvation Pentecostal Council
1994	House of God Christian Church (Carlos "Cash" Luna) - Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Dios
1994	Zion Christian Mission (Romeo Guerra) - Misión Cristiana Sión
1994	International Partnership Ministries
1995	Pentecostal Holiness Church World Missions

1995	King of the Nations Christian Mission / Misión Cristiana Rey de las Naciones (Robin García)
1996	King of the Nations Christian Mission - Misión Cristiana Rey de las Naciones
1996	Korean Presbyterian Church of Love
1997	Korean Presbyterian Church of Guatemala
1997	Fellowship International Mission
1997	Wesleyan Church World Missions
1998	Elim Central Church of Christ (Pastor General Héctor Nufio, founded by Dr. Othoniel Ríos Paredes in 1963)
1998	"Palabra Miel-Elim" Church of Jesus Christ Ministries (Apostle Gaspar Sapalu Alvarado, a split from the group founded by Dr. Othoniel Ríos Paredes, Elim Christian Mission)
1998	The Golden Candlestick Evangelical Church becomes Pentecostal (Moisés Fuentes); formerly affiliated with CAM churches.
1998	Biblical Life Christian Church / Iglesia Cristiana Biblia Vida
1998	Evangelical Missionary Church in Divine Order, The High and Eternal God
1999	Ebenezer Ministries of Guatemala / Ebenezer Church of Christ (Apostle Sergio Enríquez); a split from the group founded by Dr. Othoniel Ríos Paredes, Elim Christian Mission.
Since 2000 (16 groups)	
2000	House of Refuge Evangelical Church
2001	Reformed Church in America
2001	Divine Restoration Pentecostal Mission - Misión Evangélica Pentecostés Restauración Divina
2002	Royal Life Christian Church (Pastor Rony Madrid, son of Edmundo Madrid)
2003	International Gospel Outreach
2004	Grace International – Iglesia Cristiana Gracia
2004	Continuing Anglican Church (headquarters in Guatemala City)
2005	Macedonia World Baptist Missions
2005	Word and Spirit Ministries Church
2005	Good News Evangelical Pentecostal Association - Misión Ministerios Internacionales Buenas Nuevas
2006	Victorious King Christian Church
2007	Church of Restoration International Mission - Nelson Edgardo Martínez Sosa (a split from MC Elim in El Salvador)
2008	Rhema Christian Church
2008	Central Korean Presbyterian Church
2011	Beautiful Jerusalem Evangelical Pentecostal Mission
2011	Living Word Evangelical Christian Mission
DATE OF ORIGIN UNKNOWN	
	Association of Evangelical Congregations of Guatemala
	Church of God in the Holy Spirit (San Marcos department) – member of the Evangelical Alliance
	The Verb of God Evangelical Church

Notes:

(1) Some of the dates of origin reported for some of the 199 groups listed above may be earlier due to the fact that, in addition to the sources listed below, we also used the Guatemalan government database of registered religious groups, which gave the date when each group was officially registered

and not its actual founding date. Not all of the religious groups contained in this chronology are found in the Guatemalan government database of registered religious groups.

(2) The Guatemalan government database of registered Evangelical churches (as of 31 January 2018) listed 466 groups registered between 1981 and 1999 and 2,424 since the year 2000, for a total of 2,890; most of the groups registered since 2000 are believed to be independent local congregations.

SOURCES:

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