



# A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: ARGENTINA

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## Historical Overview of Argentina:

Independence from Spain declared:	1816
Republic of Argentina founded:	1853
Religious Tolerance established:	1853

Number of North American (USA & Canada) agencies in 1997:	66
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Indicates non-North America Church or Missionary Society \*



## Significant Protestant Beginnings:

- 1806 - \*British and Foreign Bible Society colporteur, D. Greighton
- 1818 - \*British and Foreign Bible Society colporteur, J. Thomson
- 1820 - \*Anglican Chapel services
- 1822 - \*Mission to Patagonia, Allen Gardiner (independent Anglican mission among the Indians)
- 1823 - Presbyterian Church in the USA, Board of Foreign Missions
- 1824 - \*Presbyterian Church of Scotland immigrant mission work; Scottish agricultural colony established at Monte Grande in 1825.
- 1825 - \*Anglican Church (Anglican Cathedral of St. John The Baptist)
- 1829 - \*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Scottish Presbyterian) organized in Buenos Aires; church building constructed in 1833.
- 1836 - Methodist Episcopal Church Board of Missions
- 1843 - \*Arrival of immigrant churches from: England, Wales, Scotland, France, Italy, Holland, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Armenia, South Africa, etc.
- 1843 - \*Bremen Society for German Protestants in South America (Lutheran)
- 1843 - \*German Lutherans (Evangelical Church of the River Plate: Russian-German & Swiss immigrants)
- 1843 - \*German Lutheran Church in Buenos Aries
- 1845 - American Mission Society (to the Patagonian Indians), Alan Gardiner
- 1859 - \*Waldensian Church (French-Italian immigrants who settled in Uruguay in 1856)
- 1864 - American Bible Society (Andrew Milne)
- 1864 - Welsh Protestants in Chubut Valley (now part of the Reformed Church)
- 1882 - \*Christian Missions in Many Lands (English Plymouth Brethren)
- 1882 - \*Danish Lutheran Church
- 1887 - \*Regions Beyond Missionary Union
- 1889 - \*The Salvation Army
- 1890s - \*Reformed Churches in Argentina (Dutch immigrants)
- 1893 - Swiss-born Paul Bettex joins the Salvation Army and is assigned to Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil; he works there until 1903 and then returns to the USA; he later becomes a missionary in China where he was assassinated in 1914 (while a seminary student at Princeton in 1890, he experienced the "baptism in the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues," according to Louisa Jetter de Walker, p. 19).

- 1894 - Seventh-Day Adventist Church (first country entered)
- 1895 - Christian and Missionary Alliance
- 1898 - \*South American Missionary Society
- 1900 - \*San Pedro Mission to the Indians (independent originally; affiliated with the Conservative Baptists in 1947)
- 1901 - YMCA, International Commission
- 1903 - Southern Baptist Convention, Foreign Mission Board
- 1904 - Christian Woman's Board of Missions (Christian Church-Disciples of Christ)
- 1904 - James Stewart arrives from Ireland as an independent missionary (with Oneness Pentecostal convictions) and later becomes affiliated with the Christian & Missionary Alliance; however, complaints against him and others with Pentecostal convictions results in their expulsion from the C&MA on 9 December 1911; Stewart and his wife, along with David Buchanan and his wife, leave Argentina in January 1912, the Stewarts to Ireland the Buchanans to the USA.
- 1905 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- 1906 - United Christian Missionary Society
- 1907 - Peniel Missionary Society
- 1908 - Evangelical Lutheran Church, General Synod
- 1908 - Missionary Thomas B. O'Reilly wrote a letter (published in a Pentecostal journal) stating that he had previously conducted missionary work in Argentina, which resulted in conversions, divine healing and baptisms in the Holy Spirit (Louisa Jetter de Walker, p. 19).
- 1909 - October, Italian Pentecostal missionaries arrive from Chicago, IL: Luigi Franciscon, Giacomo Lombardi & Lucia Menna; work begins in El Tigre & Tres Arroyos, Buenos Aires Province; their pioneer work led to the later founding of the Italian Christian Assemblies in Argentina)
- 1909 - Grace Brethren Church, Foreign Mission Society (Winona Lake, IN)
- 1909 - Church of the Nazarene, World Mission Division
- 1910 - January, Independent Canadian Pentecostal Missionary, Miss Alice C. Wood, begins work in Gualeguaychú, Province of Entre Ríos (later affiliated with the Assemblies of God in USA, in 1914)
- 1915 - \*Inland-South-American Missionary Union
- 1916 - Christian Assembly (Italian Pentecostal missionaries from USA)
- 1917 - Mennonite Board of Missions
- 1917 - Brethren Church Missionary Board (Ashland, OH)
- 1917 - Swedish Lutheran Church (Svenska Kyrkan)
- 1919 - \*United Evangelical Lutheran Church (among Slovaks, Hungarians, Latvians and Estonians)
- 1921 - Canadian Assemblies of God Mission
- 1922 - Evangelical Congregational Church (German immigrants)
- 1923 - \*Armenian Evangelical Church
- 1927 - Church of God (Anderson, IN)
- 1930 - Pentecostal Holiness Church
- 1938 - \*Hungarian Christian Evangelical Reformed Church
- 1940 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1940 - Slavic Gospel Association, Inc.
- 1941 - Chosen People Ministries
- 1943 - Assemblies of God Foreign Mission Dept. (first USA missionaries sent)
- 1944 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
- 1944 - Swiss Evangelical Church (Reformed)
- 1947 - Conservative Baptist Foreign Missionary Society (now CB International)
- 1948 - Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 1950 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelism of Canada
- 1955 - Gospel Missionary Union of Canada
- 1956 - Gospel Missionary Union of USA
- 1955 - Church of God of Prophecy

- 1956 - Christian & Missionary Alliance of Canada
- 1956 - Elim Fellowship World Missions
- 1957 - Baptist General Conference
- 1958 - Every Home For Christ
- 1958 - Christian and Missionary Movement (independent Pentecostal church; split from Assemblies of God)
- 1959 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International
- 1962 - United Evangelical Church (an independent church among the Toba Indians who were evangelized by the Mennonites)
- 1963 - Campus Crusade for Christ
- 1967 - United Pentecostal Church International
- 1968 - Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches (FAIE)
- 1968 - Go Ye Fellowship
- 1969 - Che Il Korean Presbyterian Church
- 1970 - Gospel Mission of South America
- 1970 - Evangelical Pentecostal Confederation (CEP)
- 1970 - World Gospel Mission
- 1973 - The Navigators
- 1974 - Evangelical Baptist Missions
- 1975 - Impact International
- 1975 - Christian Church of North America
- 1977 - Baptist World Missions
- 1978 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (USA)
- 1979 - Biblical Ministries Worldwide
- 1982 - Alliance of Evangelical Churches of Argentina (ACIERA)
- 1982 - Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (Sin-Heng)
- 1983 - Baptist International Missions
- 1984 - Presbyterian Church of America, Mission to the World
- 1985 - Harvest Evangelism, Inc.
- 1985 - Korean Presbyterian Church of America
- 1986 - Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Antonio Andrés Gómez)
- 1986 - Team Expansion, Inc.
- 1987 - OC International, Inc. (formerly Overseas Crusades)
- 1987 - Baptist Mid-Missions
- 1988 - Walk Thru the Bible Ministries
- 1991 - Missionary Revival Crusade
- 1991 - Mui Presbyterian Church (Taiwanese)
- 1992 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada
- 1992 - Chinese Christian Mission
- 1995 - BCM International
- 1995 - Christ For The City International
- 1995 - International Outreach Missions

**Date of Origin Unknown:**

- Armenian Brethren
- Armenian Congregational Church
- Congregational Christian Board
- Christian Reformed Church
- Cultural Christian Assembly
- Emmanuel Holiness Church
- English Pentecostals
- Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Chile
- Evangelical Baptist Convention
- German Evangelical Lutheran Church (Buenos Aires)
- International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

Irish Baptist Church  
New Testament Missionary Church  
Norwegian Pentecostals (Norske Pinsevenners Ytremisjon)  
Norwegian Lutheran Church (Norske Kirk)  
Protestant Congregation in Tandil (Lutheran)  
Protestant Society in Southern Argentina-Lutheran Church  
Protestant Society of the Southeast-Lutheran Church  
Swedish Pentecostals (Svenske Fia Missionen)



**NOTES:**

- (1) Dates listed indicate the earliest recorded ministry or in case of discrepancies, the one most frequently indicated by the sources.
- (2) Liberty to begin Spanish language services was granted in 1867.
- (3) Arno W. Enns, *Man, Milieu and Mission in Argentina* (Eerdmans, 1971)
- (4) North American agencies include U.S. and Canadian (John Siewert and Edna Valdez, *Mission Handbook: MARC*, 1997).
- (5) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, *The Reformed Family Worldwide* (Eerdmans, 1999)
- (6) Lutheran World Federation, *2000 Directory* (Geneva, Switzerland: 2000)
- (7) Daryl L. Platt, "Who Represents the Evangelical Churches in Latin America? A Study of the Evangelical Fellowship Organizations." Pasadena, CA: an unpublished Doctor of Missiology Dissertation, School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, June 1991. Used by permission of the author.
- (8) Louisa Jetter de Walker, *Siembra y Cosecha, Tomo 2, Las Asambleas de Dios de Argentina, Chile, Perú, Bolivia, Uruguay y Paraguay* (Editorial Vida, 1992).