

# A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT ORIGINS IN COSTA RICA, 1845-2000

Compiled by Clifton L. Holland

(Last updated on 9 May 2011)

DATE FOUNDED	DENOMINATION / SERVICE AGENCY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
<b>1800-1899</b>		
1845	The British & Foreign Bible Society (founded in 1804 in London)	ENGLAND
1848	United / Union Church (San José) - met in private homes of members of the expatriate community.	COSTA RICA
1865	Church of the Good Shepherd founded in San José; the first Protestant church built in the nation to serve the expatriate community in the capital city; this church later affiliated with the Anglican Church after 1896.	COSTA RICA
1887	Jamaican & Central American Baptist Missionary Society (founded in 1842 in Jamaica) in Limón Province among English-speaking West Indians.	JAMAICA
1891	Central American Mission-related churches (1948, Asoc. de Iglesias Evangélicas Centroamericanas)	USA
1892	The American Bible Society	USA
1894	Wesleyan Methodist Church - founded among English-speaking West Indians in Limón Province.	ENGLAND
1896	The Anglican Church (later affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA) - founded among English-speaking West Indians in Limón Province.	ENGLAND
<b>1900-1919</b>		
1903	Seventh-Day Adventist Church, General Conference (officially in 1927) in Limón Province among English-speaking West Indians.	USA
1907	The Salvation Army (1878, England) in Limón Province among English-speaking West Indians.	ENGLAND
1917	Methodist Episcopal Church, North (1844, Northern States) - Iglesia Metodista de Costa Rica; founded in the Central Valley among the Spanish-speaking population; this was the first Protestant denomination there.	USA
1918	Pentecostal Holiness Association - Mr. and Mrs. James Hare, independent missionaries in Cartago (remained only a few months; returned in 1926), the nation's old colonial capital.	USA
<b>1920-1929</b>		
1921	Latin America Mission (1921, Costa Rica; Strachans) - founded the Association of Costa Rican Bible Churches	SCOTLAND
1926	Pentecostal Holiness Association - Mr. and Mrs. James Hare, independent missionaries in Cartago	USA
1926	Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)	USA
<b>1930-1939</b>		
1936	Pentecostal Holiness Association - the Rev. Amos Bradley (previously served in Guatemala and El Salvador)	USA
1937	Church of God (Cleveland, TN) - began work in Limón Province and in 1950 in the Central Valley	USA
<b>1940-1949</b>		
1940	Conservative Mennonite Convention of Costa Rica	USA
1942	Assemblies of God, General Conference (1914, Hot Springs, AR)	USA

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1943	Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board - Baptist Convention of Costa Rica (now known as Federación de Asociaciones Bautistas de Costa Rica, FABCR)	USA
1945	Pentecostal Church of God - Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal, Mision International	PUERTO RICO
1945	Asoc. de Iglesias Evangélicas Costarricenses (related to the Latin America Mission)	COSTA RICA
1946	American Baptist Association - Walter Goulding (Iglesia Bautista Hebrón)	USA
1948	Association of Central American Evangelical Churches - Asoc. de Iglesias Evangélicas Centroamericanas, AIEC), affiliated with the Central American Mission, CAM	COSTA RICA
<b>1950-1959</b>		USA
1950	Thirty-one Quakers from Fairhope, Alabama, relocated to Monteverde in Puntarenas Province to establish a Quaker agricultural colony.	USA
1951	International Pentecostal Holiness Church - the Rev. John Parker	USA
1954	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (1923, Los Angeles, CA)	USA
1956	German Lutheran Church (German-speaking) - established a working relationship with the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, in Central America	GERMANY
1958	The Moravian Church (founded in 1735 in Germany)	GERMANY
1958	International Evangelical Church of Soldiers of the Cross (Cuba, 1930s)	CUBA
1958	Baptist Missionary Association of America (Robert Heflin)	USA
<b>1960-1969</b>		
1960	Church of God of Prophecy - Iglesia de Dios de la Profecía	USA
1961	Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement - Iglesia Adventista Séptimo Día, Movimiento de Reforma	GERMANY
1962	Conservative Mennonite Fellowship	USA
1962	World Baptist Fellowship - William Tabor	USA
1963	Asamblea Apostólica de la Fe en Cristo Jesus (founded in 1916, Los Angeles, CA)	USA
1964	Association of Lutheran Churches of Costa Rica & Panama (the Rev. Kenneth Mahler)	USA
1964	World Missionary Movement - Movimiento Misionero Mundial (1950s, Puerto Rico)	PUERTO RICO
1965	Beachy Amish Mennonite Conference (Mennonite agricultural colonies)	USA
1965	Church of the Nazarene - Iglesia del Nazareno	USA
1967	Conservative Baptist Home Mission Board - worked with the English-speaking West Indian Baptist churches in Limón Province that were founded by the Jamaican & Central American Missionary Society.	USA
1967	Plymouth Brethren Assemblies (Salas Evangelicas)	USA
1967	Christian churches / churches of Christ (independent local churches; not a denomination)	USA

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1968	Baptist Bible Fellowship - their are several missionaries who work independently who have established groups of affiliated local churches (not a denomination)	USA
1968	Emmanuel Baptist Churches - William Murdock, affiliated with Baptist International Missions	USA
<b>1970-1979</b>		
1970	Trans-World Missions - Christian Center of Guadalupe	USA
1970	Elim Fellowship (founded in Lima, NY; 1932, 1947)	USA
1970	The Christian Mission (Barbados/Panama)	BARBADOS
1971	Pentecostal Congregational Church - Iglesia Congregacional Pentecostés	USA
1971	Pentecostal Church of God - Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal de Nuevo York	USA
1972	Christian Church of Christ (Robert Sheldon) - Iglesia de Cristo Cristiano	USA
1973	Association of Christian Churches - Asoc. de Iglesias Cristianas / Mision Cristiana (Costa Rica)	COSTA RICA
1974	Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church - Iglesia Bautista Pentecostal Misionera	USA
1975	Door of Faith Missionary Community - Comunidad Misionera Puerta de Fe	COSTA RICA
1975	Damascus Christian Church - Concilio de las Iglesias Cristianas "Damasco"	USA
1975	Crusade of Faith Evangelistic Center - Centro Evangélico Crusada de Fe	COSTA RICA
1975	The Christian & Missionary Alliance - Alianza Cristiana y Misionera	USA
1975	Evangelical Free Church of North America - Iglesia Evangélica Libre	USA
1976	United Pentecostal Church, International - Iglesia Pentecostal Unida	USA
1976	Rose of Sharon Christian Mission - Misión Cristiana La Rosa de Sarón	COSTA RICA
1978	Council of National Evangelical Churches - Concilio de Iglesias Evangélicas Nacionales	COSTA RICA
1978	Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Mankato, MN - 1918)	USA
1979	Banquet House Ministries - Ministerios Casa del Banquete (now, Iglesia Centro Victoria)	COSTA RICA
<b>1980-1989</b>		
1980	Christ Lives Christian Centers - Asoc. Centros Cristianos Cristo Vive	COSTA RICA
1980	Spring of Life Christian Church - Asoc. Cristiana Manantial de Vida de Costa Rica	COSTA RICA
1980	Shalom Christian Community - Comunidad Cristiana Shalom	COSTA RICA
1980	Iglesia SIM (Somos Enviados a las Mies)	COSTA RICA
1980	National Union of Baptist Churches - Unión Nacional de Iglesia Bautistas (split from Baptist Convention)	COSTA RICA
1983	Christian Reformed Church - Iglesia Cristiana Reformada	USA
1983	Uction and Holiness Pentecostal Baptist Churches - Iglesias Bautistas Pentecostales Unción y Santidad	COSTA RICA

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1983	Fraternity of Costa Rican Evangelical Churches - Fraternidad de Iglesia Evangélicas Costarricenses (a split from the Association of Costa Rican Bible Churches) (now affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.	COSTA RICA
1984	Maranatha World Ministry of Faith and Power - Ministerio Mundial de Fe y Poder Marantha	USA
1984	Association of Costa Rican Presbyterian & Reformed Churches (a split from the Christian Reformed Church)	USA
1986	Costa Rica for Christ - Asociación Costa Rica para Cristo	USA
1988	Costa Rican Lutheran Church - Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILCO), affiliated with the Communion of Lutheran Churches of Central America (CILCA)	CENTRAL AMERICA
1989	Genesis Presbyterian Church (Korean) - Iglesia Presbiteriana Génesis	KOREA
1989	Pentecostal Church of God of America - Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal de América	USA
<b>1990-1999</b>		
1990	Champeons for Christ Christian Center - Centro Cristiano Campiones para Cristo	COSTA RICA
1991	Costa Rican Baptist Federation - Federación Bautista Costarricense	COSTA RICA
1991	International Christian Fraternity - Fraternidad Cristiana Internacional	COSTA RICA
1992	Disciples of Christ Christian Association - Asociación Cristiana Discípulos de Cristo	USA
1992	Abundant Life Church - Iglesia Vida Abundante	COSTA RICA
1993	Pillar of Fire Ministry Association (God Speaks Today Church) - Asoc. Ministerial Pilar de Fuego (Iglesia Dios Habla Hoy)	USA
1993	International Wesleyan Churches - Iglesia Wesleyanas Internacionales	USA
1994	Korean Presbyterian Mission, Peace and Love Churches	KOREA
1995	The Vineyard Fellowship of Escazú - La Viña de Escazú (founded by Chris and Andrea Dearnley) -now, Federation of Vineyard Churches in Costa Rica	USA
1997	Heavenly Banquet Christian Association (Fountain of Life) - Asoc. Cristiana Banquete Celestial (Fuente de Vida)	COSTA RICA
1997	Rock of Ages Christian Association - Asociación Cristiana Roca Eterna	COSTA RICA
1997	Showers of Blessing Adoration Center - Centro de Adoración Lluvias de Bendición	COSTA RICA
<b>2000-2009</b>		
2007	Reunification of UNIB and FABCR after 20 years of separation (13 April 2007).	COSTA RICA

## Sources:

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