A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: DUTCH WEST INDIES (NETHERLANDS ANTILLES)

By Dr. Clifton L. Holland

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Historical Overview:

Discovery by Christopher Columbus on several voyages to the New World: 1492		
Dutch take control of Curacao from the Spanish:	1634	
Dutch receive control of Bonaire in the Treaty of Westfalia:	1648	
Slavery abolished:	1863	
Number of North American Protestant Agencies in 1997:	8	
Indicates European society*		

Significant Protestant Beginnings or Events in the following islands: Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Martin and St. Eustatius.

1650	-	*Protestants arrived with the beginning of Dutch settlement; Dutch
		Reformed churches were established on Curação and Bonaire.

- 1705 *Roman Catholic presence established; a Vicariate was created on Curacao in 1842, and the Diocese of Willemstad in 1958.
- 1786-87 *Wesleyan Methodist Church established by Bishop Thomas Coke in St. Eustatius; Methodist work had previously been established by laymen and the first converts were led by an African slave known as "Black Harry;" Methodist work also spread to St. Martin in 1817 and to Curacao in the 1930s; in 1968 these churches became part of the Conference of the Methodist Church in the Americas and the Caribbean.
- 1825 *The Protestant Church formed as a forced merger of the Dutch Reformed Churches and Dutch Lutheran Churches by Dutch colonial authorities.
- 1926 Seventh-day Adventists
- 1931 *The Reformed Church in Curacao formed by members of the Protestant Church; included members of the Netherlands Reformed Church.
- 1931 TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)
- 1953 Grace Ministries International

- 1964 Trans World Radio
- 1974 United Pentecostal Church International
- 1983 Southern Baptist Convention
- 1984 *United Protestant Church of Netherlands Antilles (a merger of the Netherlands Reformed Church and the Protestant Church)
- 1994 Gospel Outreach Mission

Date of Origin Unknown:

- Child Evangelism Fellowship
- The Assemblies of God
- The Salvation Army

NOTES:

(1) Dates listed indicate the earliest recorded ministry or in case of discrepancies, the date most frequently indicated.

(2) North American Agencies include U.S. and Canadian.

SOURCES:

- (1) 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 Pasadena, CA: an unpublished Doctor of Missiology Dissertation, School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, June 1991.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.
- (2) PROLADES (Latin American Socio-religious Studies Program), international headquarters in San José, Costa Rica: www.prolades.com, prolades@racsa.co.cr
- (3) John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, editors: *Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas* (MARC 1997).
- (4) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, *The Reformed Family Worldwide* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).