
A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: PARAGUAY

By Clifton L. Holland, Director of PROLADES

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Historical Overview of Paraguay:

Independence from Spain declared:	1811
Independent Republic established:	1814
Independence recognized by Argentina:	1852
War of the Triple Alliance:	1865-1876
Chaco War with Bolivia:	1932-1935
Constitutional religious freedom established:	1967
Number of North American agencies in 1989:	33
Number of North American agencies in 1996:	38
Indicates European society*	

Significant Protestant Beginnings:

- 1817 - *British and Foreign Bible Society colporteur work
- 1870 - Methodist Episcopal Church invited to begin work
- 1886 - Methodist Episcopal Church, Foreign Mission Board
- 1888 - *South American Missionary Society (SAMS-Britain)
- 1892 - Seventh Day Adventist, General Conference (1900)
- 1902 - Inland South-American Missionary Union
- 1902 - *New Testament Missionary Fellowship from England
- 1909 - *Christian Missions in Many Lands (Plymouth Brethren)
- 1910 - *The Salvation Army
- 1917 - United Christian Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ)
- 1919 - Argentine Baptist Convention
- 1927 - First Russian Mennonite colonies established
- 1930 - Mennonite Central Committee (settlement of Russian immigrants)
- 1931 - New Testament Missionary Union
- 1935 - Mennonite Brethren Church of America, among Lengua Indians

- 1938 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- 1938 - European Pentecostals arrived with Norwegian and Swedish immigrants: the Filadelfia Church in Norway and the Swedish Free Mission establish missions.
- 1940 - Full Gospel Grace Fellowship
- 1942 - Free Methodist Church of North America
- 1943 - Nicolás Sabich, a European Pentecostal preacher, ministered in Argentina and Paraguay for about 30 days; Juan Zub Zolotarow, superintendent of the Russian congregations of the Union of the Assemblies of God of Argentina preached in Paraguay and called attention to the need for financial and spiritual support for Russian Pentecostal refugees in Paraguay.
- 1945 - The U.S. Assemblies of God Foreign Mission Board began supporting the Raimundo Stawinski family (Polish-Russian) in Paraguay, building upon the work previously started among European Pentecostal immigrants; missionaries Gustavo Kinderman from Europe and Kermit Jeffrey from Argentina begin to minister among the Slavic congregations in Paraguay.
- 1945 - Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now, Southern Baptist International Mission) begin work in Paraguay.
- 1946 - New Tribes Mission, USA & Canada
- 1948 - General Conference Mennonite Church (1952)
- 1949 - Lutheran Church
- 1952 - Mennonite Mission Network
- 1954 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1957 - Evangelical Mennonite Conference (Canada)
- 1963 - World-Wide Missions
- 1966 - Campus Crusade For Christ
- 1972 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
- 1973 - United Pentecostal Church International
- 1976 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelization (ABWE)
- 1977 - Church of God of Prophecy
- 1977 - Every Home for Christ
- 1978 - Apostolic Christian Church Foundation, Inc.
- 1979 - Word of Life Fellowship
- 1979 - World Salt Foundation
- 1980 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International

- 1982 - Christian Church of North America
- 1986 - World Gospel Mission
- 1986 - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
- 1987 - SIM USA & Canada (a merger of several mission societies)
- 1988 - Association of Pastors of Paraguay formed
- 1988 - United Methodist Church Mission Society
- 1990 - Congregational Methodist Church
- 1990 - Living Water Teaching International
- 1991 - Apostolic Christian Church
- 1991 - South America Mission
- 1991 - Mennonite Economic Development
- 1991 - Open Air Campaigners
- 1992 - STEM Ministries
- 1992 - Wycliffe Bible Translators
- 1994 - Global Outreach Mission
- 1994 - Short-Term Evangelical Missions (STEM International)
- 1995 - International Partnership Ministries
- 1996 - Habitat for Humanity International
- 1997 - The Brethren Church
- 1998 - South American Missionary Society (SAMS-USA), Anglican
- 2001 - Bethany International Ministries
- 2001 - Latin America Mission
- 2001 - The Luke Society
- 2002 - Church of God (Anderson, IN)
- 2002 - Grace Brethren International Missions
- 2002 - Missionary Ventures International
- 2003 - Medical Ambassadors International

Date of Origin Unknown:

Baptist International Missions

Christian Aid Mission

Church of God of Prophecy
Full Gospel Grace Fellowship
International Pentecostal Holiness Church
Mennonite Brethren Mission Services
United Church of Christ (UCC), Wider Church Ministries
Youth With A Mission (YWAM, USA & Canada)



NOTES:

- (1) Dates listed indicate the earliest ministry or in case of discrepancies, the date most frequently indicated by the sources.
- (2) North American Agencies include U.S. and Canadian.
- (3) The War of The Triple Alliance reduced the population from 1,000,000 to 230,000 and male population by 90% (Thiessen 1970:414).
- (4) The 1967 constitution established religious freedom while still designating the Roman Catholic Church as the official state church (Barrett 1982:557).

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) Dayton Roberts and John Siewert, editors. *Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas* (Monrovia, CA: MARC 1989).
- (4) John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, editors. *Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas* (Monrovia, CA: MARC 1997).
- (5) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, *The Reformed Family Worldwide* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).
- (6) Linda J. Weber and Dotsey Welliver, editors. *Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas, 2007-2009* (Wheaton, IL: EMIS-Billy Graham Center, 2007).