

# A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT ORIGINS IN GUATEMALA, 1824-1980

Compiled by Clifton L. Holland  
(Last updated on 18 March 2011)

DATE FOUNDED	DENOMINATION / SERVICE AGENCY	COUNTRY OF O
<b>1800-1899</b>		
1824	<b>Belizean Baptist Missionary Society</b> (affiliated with London Missionary Society) begins work in Izabal Department - Joseph Bourne	Great Britain
1824	<b>Belizean Bible Society</b> - affiliated with the British & Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) begins work in Izabal Department - Joseph Bourne	Great Britain
1839	Rev. Rudolf Krause, a German Lutheran chaplain, ministered in Abbottsville colony, Izabal Province	Germany
1841	Frederick Crowe (a Baptist layman) worked as a school teacher and served as a voluntary chaplain in the Abbottsville colony, Izabal Department.	Great Britain
1843	Frederick Crowe traveled from Abbottsville to Guatemala City by way of Salamá, Baja Verapaz, as a missionary and Bible salesman (colporteur) in 1843 with a mule-cargo of Bibles and other evangelical literature provided by the <b>Belize Baptist Mission and the British Honduran Bible Society in Belize City.</b>	Great Britain
1843-1846	Frederick Crowe lived in Guatemala City from 1843 until April 1846 when he was expelled from the country by government officials; during his stay, he supported himself by teaching English and French to children of Liberal families while teaching the Bible in private homes.	Great Britain
1882	<b>Presbyterian Church (USA)</b> - The Rev. John Clark Hill and family; Hill founded Union Church in Guatemala City.	USA
1893-1906	<b>Francisco Penzotti</b> established a regional office in Guatemala City for the American Bible Society (ABS) in Central America; this was the beginning of the Guatemalan Bible Society.	USA
1899	<b>Central American Mission (CAM)</b> - the Rev. and Mrs. Edward Bishop	USA
<b>1900-1919</b>		
1900	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Secord, an independent Plymouth Brethren medical doctor, in Chichicastenango.	USA
1901	<b>The Pentecostal Mission (TPM), an independent holiness organization</b> founded in 1901 by the Rev. J. O. McClurkan with headquarters in Nashville, TN. The first TPM worker to arrive in Guatemala was Miss Eula Fay Watson who established a school for girls in Cobán (department of Alta Verapaz), followed by the Rev. and Mrs. John Thomas Butler who also worked in Cobán and later in Zacapa (department of Zacapa) between 1901 and 1915.	USA
1902	<b>California Yearly Meeting of Friends</b> - now part of the Friends United Meeting (Quakers) - begins work in Chiquimula.	USA
1908	<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, General Conference</b> , began work in Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango.	USA
1912	Independent Holiness missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs. C. Albert Hines, arrived in Totonicapán in 1910-1912; they retired in 1922 and returned to Texas; the Rev. and Mrs. Amos Bradley began supervision of this mission station under the Primitive Methodist Church.	

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1913	<p><b>The Pentecostal movement</b> had its origin in Guatemala in the ministry of the Rev. and Mrs. Amos Bradley who served in Guatemala affiliated with the <b>Pentecostal Holiness Church</b> (PHC, organized in 1911 in North Carolina). The Bradleys were that denomination's first missionaries in Central America during 1913-1918, while serving in Guatemala and El Salvador. Previously, the Bradleys had been <b>independent holiness missionaries</b> in Guatemala between 1909 and 1912. Later, Amos Bradley served in Guatemala as an independent Pentecostal missionary from 1930 to 1936 and in Costa Rica from 1936 until his death in 1955.</p>	USA
1915	<p>When <b>TPM merged with the Church of the Nazarene in 1915</b>, the Rev. and Mrs. Richard Anderson (who arrived in 1904) joined the Church of the Nazarene, while the Butlers joined the Central American Mission. Three additional Church of the Nazarene missionaries arrived in 1917: Eugenia Phillips (Cobán) and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Franklin (Salamá).</p>	USA
1916	<p>Thomas A. Pullin and Charles T. Furman of the <b>United and Free Gospel Missionary Society</b> (an independent holiness organization, founded in Turtle Creek, PA, which became identified with the Pentecostal movement in 1916; its name changed to "Free Gospel Church, Inc." in 1957) arrived in Guatemala to begin an itinerant evangelistic ministry in El Quiché and San Cristobal, Totonicapán, respectively.</p>	
<b>1920-1929</b>		
1922	<p>When Furman and his family returned to Guatemala in 1922, they were affiliated with the <b>Primitive Methodist Church</b> and remained so until 1934 when doctrinal differences (Holiness vs. Pentecostal) forced them to resign.</p>	USA
1922	<p>The Bradleys returned to Guatemala in 1922 invited by the <b>Primitive Methodist Church</b> (PMC, founded in England in 1812) to supervise their new mission station in Totonicapán, which had been established by <b>independent holiness missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs. C. Albert Hines, in 1912</b>; they retired in 1922 and returned to Texas.</p>	USA
1923	<p><b>National Evangelical Mission</b> - Jorge Marero (later affiliated with the Church of God of Prophecy under Rev. Ramón Ruano Peña)</p>	
1924	<p><b>Christian Brethren</b> (the "closed communion" branch of the Plymouth Brethren) began work in Guatemala in 1924 through the ministry of Carlos Kramer in Quetzaltenango, a German-heritage Guatemalan and former Presbyterian; these congregations are known as "Salas Evangélicas" or Asambleas Cristianas."</p>	
1926	<p><b>National Association of Baptist Churches - Asociación Nacional de Iglesias Bautistas</b></p>	
1927	<p><b>Association of Central American Evangelical Churches</b> established (CAM-related) - Asociación de Iglesias Evangélicas Centroamericanas</p>	
1927	<p>Pastors and missionaries of the <b>Assemblies of God</b> in El Salvador began work in the Department of Jutiapa, Guatemala, in 1927, as an extension of their ministry in El Salvador.</p>	USA
1929	<p><b>German Lutheran Church</b> - Iglesia Luterana Alemana</p>	GERMANY
<b>1930-1939</b>		
1932	<p>On 13 de April 1932, it was reported that the "Pentecostal Fire" descended on members of a small Primitive Methodist Church in Totonicapán while the Furmans and Pullins were in the USA on furlough; from Totonicapán, the flames of the Pentecostal revival spread throughout the countryside and into nearby towns and villages.</p>	

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1934 In October 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Furman joined the **Church of God (Cleveland, TN)** at the invitation of J. H. Ingram of the Church of God Foreign Mission Board, and returned to Guatemala as that denomination's first missionaries in that country. Furman proceeded to visit PMC churches and encourage the leaders to join him in the ranks of the Church of God, which resulted in 14 PMC churches switching their affiliation to the Church of God. The Full Gospel Church of God marks its founding date as 1932, the year when Furman's Guatemalan co-workers experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. USA

## 1940-1949

1940 **Emmanuel Church Association - Asociación Iglesia Emmanuel**

1944 **Inter-denominational Evangelical Mission - Misión Evangélica Interdenominacional**

1945 **World Gospel Mission - Misión Evangélica Mundial** USA

1946 **Baptist Convention of Guatemala** - affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in the USA USA

1947 **Continental Missionary Crusade** (Iglesias El Calvario) - founded by the Rev. Norman Parish, Sr.; in August 1963, this denomination began to experience Pentecostal revival that began during a pastoral retreat at a campground in Santa María Cauqué, which lasted about 11 years (1974); this was considered the precursor of the Charismatic Renewal Movement in Guatemala that began in 1969. USA

1947 **Church of God of Anderson, Indiana** (Iglesia de Dios Galilea) USA

1947 **Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod** - Iglesia Luterana, Sínodo de Misuri USA

## 1950-1959

1950-1951 **Universal Church of God of Prophecy - Iglesia de Dios de la Profecía Universal** (Rev. Ramón Ruano Peña) USA

1952 **United World Mission - Misión Mundo Unido** USA

1952 **Defenders of the Faith - Iglesia Defensores de la Fe** (Gonzálo Dávila) USA

1952 **Bethesda Church of God - Iglesia de Dios Bethesda** (Felipe Muñoz)

1953 **Apostolic Church of Faith in Jesus Christ - Iglesia Apostólica de la Fe en Cristo Jesús** (Oneness Pentecostals) MEXICO

1956 **The Prince of Peace Evangelical Church Association** was founded by José María ("Chema") Muñoz in Guatemala City, among a group of believers that had left the Central Assembly of God.

1956 **International Church of the Foursquare Gospel - Iglesia Internacional del Evangelio Cuadrangular** USA

1956 **International Evangelical Church Soldiers of the Cross of Christ - Iglesia Evangélica Internacional Soldados de la Cruz de Cristo** CUBA

1956 **Palestine Pentecostal Church - Iglesia Pentecostal Palestina**

1957 **Missionary Church of God - Iglesia de Dios Misionera** (Víctor Hugo Matta)

1959 **Independent churches of Christ - iglesias de Cristo** (independientes, no es una denominación) USA

## 1960-1969

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1960	<b>New Jerusalem Church of God - Iglesia de Dios Nueva Jerusalén</b> (Gabriel de León Tum)	
1962	<b>Assemblies of Christian Churches - Asambleas de Iglesias Cristianas</b> (Félix Ramos)	USA
1962	<b>The Elim Christian Mission</b> began as a house church in 1962 in Guatemala City, led by a well-known medical doctor and radio personality, Dr. Otoniel Ríos, who became an evangelical during the Evangelism-in-Depth campaign in 1961.	
1962	<b>The Episcopal Church - La Iglesia Episcopal</b>	USA
1962	<b>Mission of the Holy Spirit of the Sanctuaries of Mount Sinai - Mision Evangélica del Espíritu Santo de los Santuarios del Monte Sinai</b> (Noé Reyes del Aguila)	
1963	<b>Door to Heaven Pentecostal Church - Iglesia Pentecostal Puerta al Cielo</b>	USA
1963	<b>Christian &amp; Missionary Alliance - Alianza Cristiana y Misionera</b>	USA
1964	<b>Hispanic-American Mission</b> (Misión Hispanoamericana), affiliated with the <b>Spanish-American Inland Mission</b> of Erie, PA; a split from the Continental Missionary Crusade in rejection of the Charismatic renewal movement that strongly impacted the Iglesias Evangélicas El Calvario.	
1964	<b>Evangelical Mennonite Church - Iglesia Evangélica Menonita</b>	USA
1965	<b>Pentecostal Church of God of America - Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal de América</b>	USA
1968	<b>Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities -Junta Menonita Oriental de Misiones y Caridades</b>	USA
1968	<b>World Baptist Fellowship - Compañerismo Bautista Mundial</b>	USA
1968	<b>Mount Bashan Evangelical Churches - Iglesias Evangélicas Monte Basán</b>	
1968	<b>Voice of God Evangelical Church - Iglesia Evangélica Voz de Dios</b>	
1969	The <b>Charismatic Renewal Movement (CRM)</b> is reported to have begun in Guatemala during 1969-1970 with small group meetings among both Catholics and Protestants, some of which were led by Tim Rovenstine of World MAP.	
<b>1970-1980</b>		
1970	<b>Pentecostal Baptist Church - Iglesia Bautista Pentecostal</b>	NICARAGUA
1972	<b>Springs of Living Water Church - Iglesia Fuentes de Agua Viva</b>	
1972	<b>Church of the Apostles and Prophets - Iglesia de los Apostles y Profetas</b> (1935, El Salvador)	EL SALVADO
1972	<b>Pentecostal Church of God of New York - Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal de Nueva York</b>	USA
1972	<b>Bethany Evangelical Mission - Iglesia Evangélica Betania</b>	
1975	<b>Baptist Bible Fellowship - Compañerismo Bíblico Bautista</b>	USA
1975	<b>Open Bible Standard Churches - Iglesias de la Biblia Abierta</b>	USA
1976	<b>Final Call Ministries</b> , founded by Otto René Azurdia - <b>Ministerios Llamada Final</b>	
1976	<b>The Salvation Army (1878, England) - El Ejército de Salvación</b>	Great Britain
1976	<b>The John 17:21 Fellowship</b> was established by U.S. Charismatic pastors Robert Thomas, Paul Northrup and Bill Finke (all former missionaries in Latin America), together with local leaders, in Guatemala City after the destructive 1976 earthquake, which resulted in massive relief and development operations by local and international service organizations.	USA

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1976	<b>Word Christian Church - Iglesia Cristiana El Verbo</b>	USA
1976	<b>Strong earthquake hits Guatemala and causes great destruction</b>	
1977	<b>Hebron Ministries</b> , affiliated with Elim Fellowship in Lima, NY	USA
1978	The <b>Christian Fraternity of Guatemala</b> (Fraternidad Cristiana de Guatemala) was founded by pastor Jorge H. López in 1978 with 22 members from Iglesias El Calvario who were "sent out" to begin this new ministry within the Charismatic Renewal movement. Rovenstine was instrumental in bringing Catholics and Protestants together in the beginnings of the CRM in the early 1970s, aided by visiting members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship (FGBMF), members of the Word of God Community in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Father Francis MacNutt and his team of Charismatic leaders that included Methodist pastors Joe Petree and Tommy Tyson.	
1978	<b>Center of Faith, Hope and Love - Centro de Fe, Esperanza y Amor</b>	
1980	<b>Jesus Christ is Lord Church - Iglesia Jesucristo es el Señor</b> (Gamaliel Duarte)	

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