




A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC


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(last revised on June 6, 2003)



Historical Overview of the Dominican Republic:

Became First Spanish Colony:	1493
French occupy western part (known today as Haiti) of Island of Hispanola:	1659
All of Hispanola under Haitian Rule:	1802-1809, 1822-1844
Re-establishment of Spanish Rule on eastern part of Hispanola:	1861
Independence from Spain:	1865
Religious Freedom Established:	1865
U.S. military occupation:	1916-1924
Number of North American agencies in 1989:	57
Number of North American agencies in 1996:	44
Indicates European society*	



Significant Protestant Beginnings or Events:

- 1594 - Roman Catholic Archbishop alarmed at Protestant impact (see note #3).
- 1601 - 300 Protestant Bibles burned publicly by Roman Catholic authorities (see note #4).
- 1824 - 6,000 Afro-American (freed slaves) immigrants from America arrived at the invitation of President Jean Pierre Boyer; among them were many Protestants, including two ordained ministers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; the first Protestant services were celebrated in Puerto Principe and Samaná.
- 1824 - African Methodist Episcopal Church (English work among Afro-American immigrants)
- 1834 - *British Methodists begin English work among Afro-American immigrants
- 1834 - English-speaking Baptists from the Turk Islands in Puerto Plata.
- 1834 - *Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society: John Tindall in Puerto Plata.
- 1873 - *Moravian Church among West Indian immigrant workers (1907)
- 1889 - Independent missionary Samuel E. Mills (began Spanish work in Monte Cristi and Santiago)
- 1896 - Protestant Episcopal Church Foreign Board (English work)
- 1907 - Seventh-day Adventist General Conference
- 1907 - Free Methodist Church (incorporated the work of Samuel E. Mills in Monte Cristi and Santiago)
- 1916 - Pentecostal evangelists from Puerto Rico begin work in San Pedro de Macorís (Salomón Feliciano, affiliated with the Assemblies of God); later the church founded there became part of the Dominical Evangelical Church (1920s).
- 1919 - Alliance for Christian Service in Santo Domingo (see Note #5 below)

- 1920 - Plymouth Brethren Assemblies (known as “Templos Bíblicos” or Gospel Halls)
- 1920 - Dominican Evangelical Church (united with Wesleyan Methodists in 1932 and with the Moravian Church in 1960) organized by the Alliance for Christian service in Santo Domingo; it became an independent body in 1955.
- 1930 - Assemblies of God, Inc. (begun by national missionaries from Puerto Rico; now related to the Assemblies of God in the USA)
- 1933 - Church of God of Prophecy
- 1934 - Christian Assembly (a national Pentecostal body from Puerto Rico)
- 1939 - World Team (formerly, West Indies Mission; began in Cuba in 1935)
- 1940 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1943 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
- 1943 - UFM International (Christian Bible Churches)
- 1945 - The Missionary Church, World Partners
- 1946 - Evangelical Mennonite Church
- 1947 - Arc of Salvation Church
- 1950 - Church of the Apostolic Faith
- 1950 - Baptist Mid-Missions
- 1951 - Defenders of the Faith (a national Pentecostal body from Puerto Rico)
- 1962 - Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now International Mission Board)
- 1962 - Heifer Project International
- 1962 - International Child Care
- 1965 - United Pentecostal Church International
- 1968 - Bethany Fellowship Missions
- 1969 - Baptist International Missions
- 1969 - Christian & Missionary Alliance
- 1972 - Church of the Nazarene
- 1980 - American Baptist Churches, USA
- 1981 - Christian Reformed Church of North America (work with Haitian immigrants)
- 1981 - Mission to the Americas
- 1982 - Harvest
- 1985 - Floresta USA, Inc.
- 1986 - World Servants
- 1987 - International Children’s Care
- 1987 - Habitat for Humanity International
- 1987 - South American Missionary Society (SAMS)
- 1987 - World Indigenous Missions
- 1988 - Medical Ambassadors International
- 1988 - Mission Impossible
- 1989 - Kids Alive International
- 1989 - Young Life
- 1991 - United Church Board of World Missions
- 1991 - The Luke Society
- 1993 - Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
- 1994 - STEM Ministries
- 1996 - Bible Baptist Fellowship International
- 1996 - Mission Possible Canada

Date of Origin Unknown:

Christian Aid Mission
 Christian Church and Churches of Christ
 Conservative Baptist Home Mission Society

Dominican Baptist Convention
Haitian Baptist Convention
Church of Christ Mi-el (Misión Elim) from Guatemala
Pentecostal Church of God
Presbyterian Church, USA
Youth With A Mission (YWAM)



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.
- (3) In 1594 The Archbishop of Santo Domingo reported to the Spanish King that Protestant influence and Spanish Bibles had eliminated the differences between Protestants and Catholics on the North Coast (Bosch 1971:53).
- (4) The Bibles with Lutheran notes were collected from homes and burned in the public plaza by the Archbishop (Gonzales Roca, 1969).
- (5) The Alliance for Christian Service (or Board of Christian Work) was a joint ministry of the Presbyterian, Methodist and United Brethren Churches.

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) Daryl L. Platt, ***Nueva Esperanza para Santo Domingo*** (Publicaciones CETEC, 1981)
- (3) PROLADES (Latin American Socio-religious Studies Program), international headquarters in San José, Costa Rica: www.prolades.com, prolades@racsa.co.cr
- (4) Dayton Roberts and John Siewert, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas*** (MARC 1989).
- (5) John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas*** (MARC 1997).
- (6) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, ***The Reformed Family Worldwide*** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).
- (7) Justo L. González, ***The Development of Christianity in the Latin Caribbean*** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1969).