

**A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT ORIGINS IN MEXICO**

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**Historical Overview of Mexico:**

Spanish Conquest under Hernán Cortés:	1520
Independence from Spain Declared:	1810
Independent Republic Established:	1822
Period of Civil Wars -- fifty different administrations:	1822-1917
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ends Mexican-American War: (Half of national territory ceded to the U.S., including Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California)	1848
Mexican Revolution:	1910-1917
Separation of Church and State First Established:	Constitution of 1857
Separation of Church and State reestablished:	Constitution of 1919
Number of North American Agencies reported in Mexico in 1985:	209
Number of North American Agencies reported in Mexico in 1996:	178
*Indicates European Mission Agency	

**Significant Protestant Beginnings: mission agencies and national denominations**

**1800-1849 (two groups)**

1824 - Independent Bible colporteur, John Brigham

1827 - \*British and Foreign Bible Society colporteur, James Thomson

**1850-1899 (20 groups)**

1850 - "Mexican Church of Jesus", an autonomous Catholic breakaway movement led by Catholic priests, in Mexico City; later affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA (1873).

1855 - Independent school work, Melinda Rankin (a Presbyterian who later joined American and Foreign Christian Union)

1861 - \*German Lutheran Congregation in Mexico City (the first organized Protestant church in Mexico)

1864 - Independent Baptist church organized by James Hickey and Thomas Westrupp in Monterrey.

1868 - American and Foreign Christian Union (later the Protestant Episcopal Church) absorbed "The Mexican Church of Jesus" in Mexico City under Henry Riley.

1870 - American Baptist Home Mission Society (absorbed Hickey's work in Monterrey)

1871 - American Friends Church (Religious Society of Friends, Richmond, VA) in Matamoras

1872 - American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (Congregational Church) in Guadalajara; now affiliated with the United Church Board for World Ministry of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

1872 - Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (Northern) in Zacatecas with Phillips and Thomson, and Mexico City with Pitkin and Hutchinson; now affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in the USA.

1873 - Methodist Episcopal Church (North) in Mexico City with William Butler; both the Northern and Southern Methodist Churches are now affiliated with the United Methodist Church, World Program Division, and the World Methodist Council.

1873 - Methodist Episcopal Church (South) in Mexico City with Bishop Keener.

1873-1874 - Presbyterian Church (Southern) in Matamoras with Antonio T. Graybill; now affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in the USA.

1875-1979 - Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church in Tampico with the Rev. Neil E. Pressly.

1876 - The Protestant Episcopal Church takes over the work of the American and Foreign Christian Union in the Valley of Mexico and Morelos under Bishop Riley.

1878 - American Bible Society Agency established in Mexico City with the Rev. Arthur Gore, taking over the work began earlier by the British & Foreign Bible Society.

1880 - Southern Baptist Convention begins work in Muzquiz-Coahuila with the Rev. John Westrupp, and in Saltillo with the Rev. William Powell.

1888 - Cumberland Presbyterian Church begins work in Guanajuato and Aguascalientes with the Rev. H. Sharp.

1890-1892 - \*Christian Missions in Many Lands (Plymouth Brethren) begins work in Orizaba.

1893 - Seventh-Day Baptist General Conference (Charlotte, NC) begins work in Guadalajara.

1895 - Christian Women's Board of Missions (Christian Church-Disciples of Christ) begins work in Ciudad Juárez and Monterrey with the Hoblits and Masons.

### **1900-1949 (45 groups)**

1902 - Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) begins work in Mexico City.

1903 - Church of the Nazarene, World Mission Division, begins work in Mexico City with the Straffors and Millers.

1904 - Protestant Episcopal Church Foreign Mission Society

1906 - Peniel Missionary Society (Pilgrim Holiness Church)

1914 - Apostolic Church of Faith in Jesus Christ-Iglesia Apostólica de la Fe en Cristo Jesús (a national body in the "Jesus Only" or "Oneness" Pentecostal tradition)

1915 - Assemblies of God (1921)

1917 - "The Cincinnati Plan" (mission "comity" plan among major denominations that assigned mission agencies to different geographical areas of Mexico to avoid duplication of efforts)

1917 - Free Methodist Church

1919 - \*Swedish Free Mission (Philadelphia Swedish Pentecostal Churches, Axel Andersson) - known today as Sharon Independent Evangelical Church in Mexico City

1920 - Church of God (Seventh Day)

1920 - Church of God in the Mexican Republic-IDRM (split from Assemblies of God)

1922 - Wesleyan Church World Missions

- 1922 - Pentecostal Evangelical Christian Church in Pachuca, Hidalgo (Andrés Ornelas)
- 1923 - Mexican Union Conference of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- 1923 - Independent Congregational Church (Estevan Chávez Escoto)
- 1924-1925 - Reformed Church in America, World Ministries
- 1926 - Spiritual Evangelical Christian Church (Pentecostal, split from Apostolic Church)
- 1927 - Interdenominational Christian Church (Portales)
- 1929 - Bethel Church of Tacubaya (Jesús Huerta Romero)
- 1930 - Movement of Independent Evangelical Pentecostal Churches-MIEPI (Valente Aponte González)
- 1930 - Metropolitan Church Association
- 1930s - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1931 - Ephesus Church in Puebla (Miguel Leal Rojas)
- 1933 - Independent Christian Church (Raymundo Ramírez)
- 1934 - America's Keswick
- 1936-1937 - The Salvation Army, USA
- 1935 - Pentecostal Apostolic Universal Christian Church of Jesus (Palemón Moreno Rivera)
- 1935-1936 - Wycliffe Bible Translators (first field started), also known as Summer Institute of Linguistics
- 1938 - Church of New Victory (Iglesia de la Nueva Victoria)
- 1942 - Pentecostal Church of God
- 1943 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
- 1943 - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Mission Board

1943 - World Mission Prayer League

1944 - Church of God of Prophecy

1944 - Churches of Christ in Christian Union

1945 - Mexican Mission Ministries

1946 - Evangelical Covenant Church

1946 - Evangelical Methodist Church Missions

1946 - Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)

1946 - Missionary Aviation Fellowship

1947 - Pentecostal Holiness Church Missions

1947 - Independent Presbyterian Church (a split from the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico)

1947 - Christian Fellowship Union, Inc.

1949 - Air Mail from God (now, Trans World Missions)

1949 - Missionary Revival Crusade

1949 - Pentecostal Church of God

### **1950-1969 (61 groups)**

1950s - National Conservative Presbyterian Church of Mexico (a split from the National Presbyterian Church, led by Eleazar Z. Pérez of the El Divino Salvador parish in Mexico City; a conservative and fundamentalist body influenced by Carl McIntire in the USA)

1950 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International

1950 - Mennonite Brethren Missions

1950 - Mennonite Mission Board of the Pacific

1950 - General Conference Mennonite Church

1950 - Mexican Border Missions

1950 - World Gospel Mission

1951 - Church of God of Apostolic Faith

1951 - Grace Brethren Foreign Missions

1951 - Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod Mission

1951 - Baptist General Conference

1951 - Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Conference

1951 - United Missionary Fellowship

1952 - International Pentecostal Church of Christ

1952 - Conservative Baptist Home Mission

1953 - World Baptist Fellowship Mission

1953 - Baptist Missionary Association of America

1953 - World Baptist Fellowship Mission

1954 - Christian and Missionary Alliance

1955 - American Baptist Association

1956 - Gospel Missionary Union

1956 - Mexican Christian Mission

1957 - Christians in Action

1957 - Next Towns Crusade, Inc.

- 1958 - Franconia Mennonite Conference Mission
- 1959 - Central American Mission (CAM International)
- 1959 - Bethany Missionary Association
- 1959 - World Missions, Inc.
- 1960 - Baptist Mid-Missions
- 1960 - BCM International, Inc.
- 1960 - National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
- 1960 - World-Wide Missions International
- 1960 - Youth Enterprises, Inc.
- 1961 - Mexican Border Missions
- 1961 - Project Partner with Christ
- 1962 - Campus Crusade for Christ
- 1962 - Christian Reformed World Missions
- 1962 - Elim Fellowship
- 1962 - Source of Light Ministries International
- 1962 - World Literature Crusade
- 1963 - Apostolic Church of Pentecost
- 1963 - Congregational Holiness Church Missions
- 1963 - World Vision International
- 1964 - Gospel Recordings, Inc.

1964 - New Life League

1964 - Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Churches

1964 - YUGO Ministries (Youth Unlimited Gospel Outreach)

1965 - Baptist International Missions

1965 - Bible Missionary Church

1965 - Open Bible Standard Missions

1965 - Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

1966 - The Navigators

1967 - Luis Palau Evangelistic Association

1967 - Evangelical Friends Mission

1967 - Church of God (Holiness) Mission

1967 - Foundation for His Ministry

1967 - Missions of Baja, Inc.

1967 - Vacation Samaritans (affiliated with Church of God, Anderson, IN)

1968 - Christian Nationals Evangelistic Commission

1968 - Christian Reformed World Relief

1968 - Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Missions

### **1970-1979 (31 groups)**

1970 - Latin America Mission (MILAMEX, Latin America Mission of Mexico)

1971 - Bethany Fellowship Missions

1971 - Baptist World Missions

1971 - Globe Missionary Evangelism

1971 - UFM, International (USA)

1972 - Children's Haven International

1972 - Missionary Air Transport, Inc.

1972 - New Tribes Mission

1972 - Shield of Faith

1972 - Totonac Bible Center, Inc.

1973 - Macedonian Missionary Service

1973 - Presbyterian Church in America

1974 - Evangelical Congregational Church

1975 - AMG International

1975 - International Orphanage Association

1975 - Trinity International Baptist Missions

1976 - Mission SOS

1976 - Mennonite Board of Missions

1976 - Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society

1977 - Bible Missionary Church

1978 - Icthus International

1978 - Wycliffe Associates, Inc.

1979 - Brethren Church Mission Board

1979 - Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

1979 - American Messianic Fellowship

1979 - Compassion International

1979 - Food for the Hungry

1979 - Logoi, Inc.

1979 - O.C. Ministries (Overseas Crusades)

1979 - United Pentecostal Church International

1979 - We Go, Inc.

**1980-1995 (66 groups)**

1980 - Christian Missionary Fellowship (Indiana), now CMF International

1980 - Christian Union Mission

1980 - Global Outreach with the Gospel

1980 - Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship

1981 - Harvest

1981 - Mennonite Central Committee

1981 - World Indigenous Missions

1982 - Blessings International

1982 - Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference, Canada

1982 - Frontier Ministries International

1982 - Calvary Missionary Fellowship

1982 - Calvary Commission, Inc.

1982 - The Missionary Church, Overseas Ministries (World Partners)

1983 - Christian Faith Ministries

1983 - Maranatha Baptist Mission

1983 - New Covenant Evangelical Ministries

1983 - Pocket Testament League

1983 - Priority One International

1983 - Reach Ministries International.

1983 - Self Help Foundation

1983 - World Salt Foundation

1983 - Childcare International

1983 - Mission Ministries, Inc.

1984 - Mexico Inland Mission

1984 - Fellowship of Independent Missions (Fellowship International Mission?)

1984 - All Peoples Baptist Mission

1984 - Pocket Testament League

1984 - Presbyterian Reformed Church of Mexico (in fellowship with the Christian Reformed Church of North America)

1984 - VELA Ministries International

1985 - In-Depth Evangelism Associates (IDEA Ministries)

- 1985 - Independent Faith Mission
- 1985 - Christian Advance International
- 1985 - Precious Seed Ministries
- 1986 - Calvary International
- 1986 - International Outreach Ministries
- 1986 - Global Strategy Mission Association
- 1986 - Mazahua Mission
- 1987 - Advent Christian Church, World Missions
- 1987 - Liberty Baptist Mission
- 1987 - Habitat for Humanity International
- 1988 - TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)
- 1990 - Brethren in Christ World Missions
- 1990 - OMS International, Inc. (USA and Canada)
- 1990 - Medical Ambassadors Mission
- 1990 - Impact International
- 1990 - Kids Alive International
- 1990 - WEC International
- 1990 - World Teach (formerly, West Indies Mission)
- 1991 - Association of Baptist for World Evangelism (ABWE)
- 1991 - Action International Ministries

1991 - AMF International

1991 - International Partnership Missions

1992 - International Gospel Outreach

1992 - North American Baptist Conference

1992 - The Master's Harvest

1992 - World Servants

1993 - Evangelical Mennonite Church

1993 - Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1995 - Christ for the City International (affiliated with Latin America Mission)

1995 - Living Water Teaching International

1995 - Mission Society for United Methodists

1995 - Privative Methodist Church USA

1995 - Ripe for Harvest, Inc.

1995 - The Master's Mission, Inc.

1995 - Walk Thru The Bible Ministries

1996 - International Family Missions

**DATE OF ORIGIN UNKNOWN:**

AmeriTribes

Christian Aid Mission

Full Gospel Grace Fellowship

Glad Tidings Missionar Society, Canada

Gospel Fellowship Association

In Touch Mission International

Operation Mobilization

United Evangelical Churches

Youth For Christ, USA

## **TOTALS: 234 GROUPS**

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### **NOTES:**

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

(2) With the separation of church and state in 1857 church lands were confiscated and privileges demolished. Historical data taken from the **Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean** (Collier, Blakemore and Skidmore 1985:217,302-303).

### **SOURCES:**

(1) Daryl Platt, "Who Represents The Evangelical Church 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, 1991; modifications by Clifton L. Holland, 1997-2001.

(2) North American Agencies include U.S. and Canadian (Roberts and Siewert, **Mission Handbook: North American Protestant Ministries Overseas**, MARC 1989).

(3) John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, editors: **Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas** (MARC 1997).

(4) Additional historical information was derived from personal interviews in Mexico conducted by Clifton L. Holland, and from published sources in Spanish that are now part of his personal library--including books, articles, letters and other documents.

(5) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, **The Reformed Family Worldwide** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).