

**THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIO-RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM  
(PROLADES)**

**A Directory of Religious Groups in  
Latin America and the Caribbean:  
Argentina**

**General Editor, Clifton L. Holland  
Director of PROLADES**

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**PROLADES**

Apartado 1524-2050, San Pedro, Costa Rica

Telephone: (506) 283-8300

E-mail: [prolades@racsa.co.cr](mailto:prolades@racsa.co.cr)

Internet: [www.prolades.com](http://www.prolades.com)



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# PROFILE OF RELIGION IN ARGENTINA

Located on the southeastern part of the South American Continent, the Republic of Argentina is separated from its Western neighbor, Chile, by the Andes Mountains. Large indigenous groups inhabited both the Andean and the Patagonian regions at the time of the Spanish colonization. The influx of Christianity has all but wiped out the indigenous religion of the native peoples of Argentina, but it survives in the more remote areas along the Andes Mountains and along the border with Bolivia and Paraguay. In the last half of the twentieth century, shamans among the Guarani people (Misiones Province) have attained a status as alternative healers, and the sophistication of Guarani religious thought has been recognized by anthropologists.

In 1502, Americo Vesputio commanded the first ship of Spanish sailors to arrive at the mouth of the La Plata River. The Spanish first settled Argentina in 1516, and the first Catholic missionaries arrived by 1539. Argentina gained its independence in 1816 after the commercial bourgeois ousted the Spanish Viceroyalty of the River Plate. Most Argentines today are descendants of the European immigrants (mostly from Spain and Italy but also from Russia, Poland, Germany, England, Ireland, France, Portugal, Armenia, Lebanon and Turkey) who arrived between 1870 and 1950. Among them is found the largest Jewish community in South America and the fifth largest in the world. There are about 1,050,000 indigenous peoples mainly in the north and southwest, many of whom continue traditionalist religious practices. The current total population is estimated at 37,031,802 (April 2000).

The Roman Catholic Church was established in Argentina with the arrival of Franciscan monks in 1536. Their work was supplemented by the Jesuits in 1586. The Jesuits were especially active among the native people. The expulsion of the Jesuits in 1767 placed the church in a leadership crisis that was merely deepened by the forces that created an independent Argentina in 1810. The new ruling elite was both anti-Spanish and anti-clerical. Its opposition to the Catholic Church was manifested in an attempt (ultimately unsuccessful) to establish an independent Argentine Catholic Church. At the end of the nineteenth century, the country was reported to be 99 percent Catholic and Catholicism was the State religion.

The Catholic Church was strengthened by a century of heavy immigration (four million from 1850 to 1950) from predominantly Catholic European countries (Poland, Ireland, Italy and Spain). In addition, a number of Ukrainian Catholics also arrived and constitute the largest of the several Eastern Rite communities now present.

Today, freedom of worship is guaranteed for all Argentines by the constitution. The Roman Catholic Church maintains its official status, and adherence to Catholicism was a requirement for eligibility to the offices of president and vice-president of the republic until the constitution reforms of 1994. In 1995, the country was about 88 percent Catholic, the Protestant population totaled only about 3-5 percent, and other religious groups or the non-religious comprised about seven percent. In 1992, the Ministry of Cults and Foreign Affairs listed 2,986 registered religious groups in the country: 1,790 were Evangelical groups, about 400 were Catholic or Orthodox organizations (mainly religious orders and institutions), 382 were listed as "diverse spiritual cults," and 387 were of Afro-Brazilian origin.

The early presence of Protestantism (1800s) was due in large part to the immigration of English Methodists, Scottish Presbyterians, German and Scandinavian Lutherans, Italian Waldensians, Welsh Protestants, German-Russian and French-Swiss Baptists, Armenian Congregationalists, Dutch Mennonites and Dutch Reformed, among others. Today, at least nine branches of Eastern Orthodoxy exist, and there is a small Anglican presence. Missionary efforts by

Anglicans (Church of England) and Presbyterians (Church of Scotland) began in Argentina in 1824, ministering to English and Scottish immigrants in their own languages in Buenos Aires. The Anglican work is now incorporated into the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone. The Methodist Episcopal Board of Missions began work in Buenos Aires in 1836. In the 1850s, Anglican missionaries (later, the South American Missionary Society) began work among the Indians of the Patagonia and later of the Chaco in northern Argentina. During the late 1800s, new Protestant missionary efforts were begun among the Spanish-speaking population: Christian Brethren (1882), Salvation Army (1882), Seventh-Day Adventist Church (1894), Christian and Missionary Alliance (1895), South American Evangelical Mission (1895) and Regions Beyond Mission (1899).

Dozens of other Protestant mission agencies arrived during the early 1900s, notably the Southern Baptist Convention (1903), the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (1904), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (1905), the Mennonite Church (1917) and the Assemblies of God (1914).

In 1995, the estimated size of the Protestant non-Pentecostal denominations in Argentina was as follows: Seventh-Day Adventist Church (64,400 members), the Evangelical Baptist Convention (44,800), Christian Brethren (34,800), Evangelical Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod, 21,100), and the Anglican-Episcopal Church (11,000). All other non-Pentecostal Protestant denominations had less than 10,000 members in 1995.

In 2001, Pentecostals (about 65-70 percent) outnumbered all other Protestants in Argentina, due to substantial church growth resulting from revivals in the 1950s (Tommy Hicks Crusade) and the 1970s (the Charismatic Movement, called here La Renovación). The largest Pentecostal denominations in Argentina in 1995 were the following: National Union of the Assemblies of God (118,000 members), Vision of the Future (111,000), Swedish-Norwegian Assemblies of God (82,700), Italian Christian Assemblies (44,400), Chilean Evangelical Pentecostal Church (36,300), Foursquare Gospel Churches (28,100), Church of God (Cleveland, TN-22,200), Christian Pentecostal Church of God (21,100) and the United Evangelical Church of Argentina (20,500). All other Pentecostal groups had less than 20,000 members in 1995.

Many of the older Protestant churches had been involved in the multi-national Confederation of Evangelical Churches of the River Plate, which was replaced by the Argentina Federation of Evangelical Churches (known as FAIE) in 1958. Today, the churches associated with the larger Protestant ecumenical community are members of the Argentine Federation of Evangelicals, (ACIERA), which is related to the World Council of Churches (WCC). Many of the more Conservative Evangelical groups are related to the Federation Christian Alliance of Evangelical Churches in the Argentine Republic (FACIERA), which is affiliated with the World Evangelical Alliance (WEF).

Other non-Protestant Christian groups in Argentina include the Jehovah's Witnesses (1,630 kingdom halls with about 110,000 members), the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (550 temples with about 88,400 members), the Family (formerly known as Children of God), Christian Science, Unity School of Christianity, Light of the World Church (Guadalajara, Mexico), Voice of the Cornerstone Church (Puerto Rico), Growing in Grace Churches (Miami, FL), and the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (Brazil).

Like the Orthodox community, the Jewish community of Argentina is the largest in South America. The first Jews were Marranos, escaping from their hidden position in Spain, and Sephardic Jews still form a significant and visible portion of the community. Jews from Germany, North Africa and the Balkans began to arrive in large numbers in the 1860s, and the first Eastern European Jews arrived in 1889. Today, more than 300,000 Jews reside in Argentina, about two-thirds of whom live in Greater Buenos Aires. They have their center in the Representative Organization of Argentine Jews. Jews of Iberian origin (an estimated 60,000 to

100,000) have formed the Central Sephardic Community. Eastern European Jews (known as Ashkenazim) representing Conservative Judaism have formed the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary.

The same migrations from North Africa and the Middle East that brought Jews to Argentina also brought a minority of Muslims who formed mosques in Buenos Aires and Mendoza and have now adopted a missionary stance vis-à-vis the Spanish-speaking population.

Some of the other religions that exist in Argentina today include Buddhism, Hinduism, Baha'i and Japanese New Religions. Buddhism entered the country through the immigration of Japanese, which has steadily increased through the twentieth century. The following Buddhist groups are present in Argentina: Japanese Soto School (Tangen Daisetsu lineage), Sokka Gakkai Internacional, Internacional Zen Association (Paris, France), Buddhist Community Seita Jodo-Shinshu Honpa-Honganji, Kagyu Dak Shang Choling, Shobo An Zendo and the Tzong Kuan Buddhist Temple. Hindu groups include the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (Raja Yoga), Vendanta Society-Order of Ramakrishna, Krishnamutri Foundation, Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission (Science of Spirituality), Vaisnava Mission, International Society for Krishna Consciousness (also known as Hari Krishna), Ananda Marga Yoga Society (The Way of Perfect Happiness), and the Supreme Master Ching Hai Meditation Association. The Baha'i Faith has grown steadily in the last half of the twentieth century. Japanese New Religions are represented by The Church of Perfect Liberty (an independent international religion that claims no ties to Shintoism, Buddhism or Christianity) and The Church of World Messianity (a Shinto sect also known as the Johrei Fellowship and called Sekai Kyusei Kyo in Japanese).

Native Amerindian religions (Animist) have declined in recent years but are still practiced by the Chiriguano as well as by the Guaraní- and Quechua-speaking Bolivians who work on the sugarcane plantations in northern Argentina.

Several varieties of Afro-Brazilian religions (since the mid-1960s) are present, largely among Brazilian immigrants, including: the Center of African Religion (Ile Afonxa Xango e Oxum Leusa), the Xango Aganyu African Temple, Candomble and Umbanda.

Western Esoteric groups are commonplace in Argentina. The Panamerican Spiritualist Confederation (influenced by Frenchman Allan Kardec) was founded in Buenos Aires in 1946 and includes affiliated members in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Mexico. Other Ancient Wisdom-Psychic-New Age groups include: the Universal Gnostic Movement (founded by Samuel Aun Weor in 1977 in Mexico), the Grand Universal Fraternity (founded in Venezuela in 1948 by Serge Raynaud de la Ferriere), New Acropolis Cultural Association (founded by Jorge Angel Livraga Rizzi in 1957), Siloism (founded in the 1960s by Mario Rodríguez Cobo, known as Silo), the Basilio Scientific School (founded by Blanca Aubreton in 1917), Schools of the Fourth Way (influenced by George Gurdjieff), the True Spiritist Society, the Theosophical Society, the Anthroposophical Society (followers of Rudolf Steiner), the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (followers of Rev. Sun Myung Moon), the Church of Scientology, Raelian Religion (founded in France by Claude Vorilhon, known as Rael), and numerous Flying Saucer-Extraterrestrial Study groups.

Clifton L. Holland and J. Gordon Melton



## **INTERFAITH ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Argentine Parliament of Religions (Parlamento Argentino de Religiones, PAR)**

Formed in April 2000 in Buenos Aires, PAR includes about a dozen Christian and non-Christian religious groups that cooperate for the purpose of promoting freedom of worship and freedom of expression, as well as combating all forms of discrimination. Members include the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, the Basilio Scientific School Association (Disciples of Jesus), the Christian Apostolic Orthodox Church of Jerusalem, Messianic Jews, the Center of African Religion Ile Afonxa Xango and Oxun Leusa, the Temple of African Religion Xango Aganyu, the Independent Charismatic Lutheran Church, the God is Our Helper Evangelical Missionary Pentecostal Church, the Good News Evangelical Church, Islam and Hindu groups. (For reference, the Protestant groups mentioned above are indicated by \*\* in the text below.)

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

## **CHRISTIANITY**

### **CHRISTIAN INTRAFaITH ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches (Federación Argentina de Iglesias Evangélicas)**

The Federation cooperates with the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) and the World Council of Churches (WCC), which represents the liberal wing of the Protestant Movement.

Hq: Pres: Rev. Emilio N. Monti, José Maria Moreno 873, 1424 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 1 922 5356

#### **Fellowship of Argentine Evangelicals (Confraternidad Evangélica de Argentina)**

This association of churches represents the conservative-evangelical wing of the Protestant Movement in Argentina, which is affiliated with the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LCWE), and CONELA (Confraternidad Evangélica Latinoamericana).

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

## **\*CHRISTIAN CHURCHES: OLDER LITURGICAL TRADITION**

\*Arranged in alphabetical order, English name first with Spanish name in parenthesis

### **Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church (Iglesia Apostólica Ortodoxa de Armenia)**

The Church of Armenia, in continuity with the ancient Christian community of the Kingdom of Armenia, dates to the first century C.E., when the apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew are believed to have brought the Christian message. Christianity became the state religion in 301 with St. Gregory the Illuminator as head of the national church. Following the persecution by the Turks in 1915, many Armenians fled to the Americas, and some settled in Argentina. Currently, the Church of Armenia is led by the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Vasken I. It is a member of the World Council of Churches.

Hq: c/o Archbishop Kissak Mouradian, Primate of Argentina, Acevedo 1369, 1369 Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 772-2326

Fax: (54) 1 776-2810

Or

Int'l Hq: c/o Holy See, Etchmiadzin, Armenia

Internet: [www.100anniversary.com](http://www.100anniversary.com)

### **Christian Apostolic Orthodox Church of Jerusalem (Iglesia Ortodoxa Apostólica Cristiana de Jerusalén)**

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### **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America (Arquidiócesis Ortodoxa Griega de América Norte y Sur)**

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, headquartered in New York City, is under the ultimate authority of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, headquartered in Istanbul, Turkey.

Hq: c/o Rt. Rev. Grennadios Chrysoulakis, Bishop of Buenos Aires, Avenida Figueira Alcorta 3187,  
Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 4802-3204

Or

Diocesan hq: 8-10 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 570-3500

Fax: (212) 861-2183

Internet: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Or

Int'l hq: Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, Rum Patrikhanesi, Fener, Istanbul

Tel: (90) 212-525-5416

Fax: (90) 212-534-9037

### **Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch (Patriarcado Ortodoxo Griego de Antioquía)**

Hq: c/o Bishop Kyrillos Doumat, Metropolitan of Buenos Aires, Canning 1261, Buenos Aires

Or

Int'l hq: Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antiochea, c/o H. H. Hazim, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, B. P. 0009, Damascus, Syria

Tel: (963) 11-542-4400

Fax: (963) 11-542-4404

### **Roman Catholic Church (Iglesia Católica Romana)**

The Roman Catholic Church consists of those believers worldwide in communion with the Bishop of Rome, residing in Vatican City (an independent state in Italy).. The church is organized into dioceses headed by a bishop or archbishop and the bishops in a single country or region cooperating in an episcopal conference.

Hq: c/o Mons. Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Conferencia Episcopal Argentina, Calle Suipacha 1034, 1008 Buenos Aires

Tel: (011) 4343-3925, 4343-4107 and 4343-0812

Fax: (011) 4334-8373

Internet: [www.cea.org.ar](http://www.cea.org.ar)

Or

Int'l hq: Vatican City

Official Vatican Internet site: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Also see: Catholic Information Center of the Internet: [www.catholic.net](http://www.catholic.net)

### **Roman Catholic Church-Armenian Rite (Eparquía Armenia de la Iglesia Católica Romana)**

Hq: c/o Vartan Waldir Boghossian, Bishop of San Gregorio de Narek en Buenos Aires, Charcas 3529, 1425 Buenos Aires

Tel: (011) 4821-1419 and 4824-4518

Fax: (011) 4827-1975

Or

Int'l hq: Patriarchate of Cilicia, c/o Patriarch Jean-Pierre XVIII Kasparian, Rue de l'Hospital Libanais, Jeitawi, 2400 Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: 1-329-391

### **Roman Catholic Church-Maronite Rite (Eparquía Maronita de la Iglesia Católica Romana)**

The first Lebanese Maronite missionaries arrived in Buenos Aires in 1901 and founded the first Maronite Mission outside of Lebanon. Later, other Maronite Missions were founded: Mendoza in 1921; Tucumán in 1925; and Villa Lynch, San Martín, Province of Buenos Aires, in 1931. In 1990, John Paul II established the Eparquía Maronita de San Charbel in Buenos Aires.

Hq: c/o Charbel Merhi, Bishop of San Charbel en Buenos Aires

Eparquía Maronita, Paraguay 834, 1057 Buenos Aires

Tel: 311-7299

Fax: 321-8348

E-Mail: [sanmaron@impsat1.com.ar](mailto:sanmaron@impsat1.com.ar)

Or  
Int'l hq: Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, c/o Patriarch Nasrallah Pierre Sfeir, Bkerké,  
Lebanon  
Tel: (961) 9915-441  
Fax: (961) 9938-884

**Roman Catholic Church-Ukrainian Rite  
(Eparquía Ucraniana de la Iglesia Católica Romana)**

Hq: Mons. Miguel Mykycej, Bishop of Santa María del Patrocinio en Buenos Aires, Ave. Ramón  
Falcón 3950, Casilla 28, 1407 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 4671-4192  
Fax: (54) 4674-2895

**Russian Orthodox Church  
(Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa)**

The Russian Orthodox Church is under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Moscow (Russia)..

Hq: c/o Archbishop Platón, Archbishop of Argentina and South America, Bulnes 1743, Buenos  
Aires  
Tel and Fax: (54) 1823-6534

**Russian Orthodox Church Abroad Under Bishop Alexander, Diocese of South America  
(Iglesia Ortodoxa Rusa bajo el Obispo Alexander, Diócesis de Sudamérica)**

Hq: Cathedral of the Resurrection, Nuñez 3541, 1430 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (5411) 4541-7691  
Fax: (5411) 4768-5476  
Or

Int'l Hq: Russian Orthodox Church Abroad under Bishop Alexander, 2049 Argyle Avenue, Los  
Angeles, California  
Tel: (323) 466-4845  
Fax: (323) 466-3557  
Internet: [www.fatheralexander.org](http://www.fatheralexander.org)

## **CHRISTIAN CHURCHES: PROTESTANT TRADITION**

**Anglican Church, Province of the Southern Cone  
(Iglesia Anglicana del Cono Sur de América)**

The Anglican Province of the Southern Cone is a member of the worldwide Anglican community of churches in communion with the Church of England. The Province includes two dioceses within Argentina and extends to the countries of Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The Presiding Bishop resides in Chile. The Church is a member of the World Council of Churches.

Mission work began in Argentina in 1825, when members of the Anglican Church and the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) were given permission by the government to conduct worship services in their own languages. British Captain Allan Gardiner organized an expedition to evangelize the Patagonian Indians in 1851, which led to the formation of the South American Missionary Society (SAMS) of the Anglican Church. However, most Anglican efforts in Argentina have been among the immigrant English population in the major cities. In 1995, there were 73 churches and about 11,000 members (baptized adults and children) in Argentina.

Hq: c/o Rt. Rev. Maurice Sinclair, Casilla 187, 4400 Salta  
Fax: (54) 8722-.0790

Or

c/o Bishop Rt. Rev. David Leake, CC.4293, 1000 Correo Central, Buenos Aires  
Fax: (54) 1 331-02.34

Or

c/o Bishop Rt. Rev Colin F. Bazely, Casilla 50675, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile  
Tel: 2 639-1509  
Fax: 2 639-4581

#### **Apostolic Assembly of Faith in Jesus Christ (Asamblea Apostólica de la fe en Cristo Jesús)**

A Pentecostal church of the "Jesus Only" tradition, founded in Southern California in the 1910s by Mexican immigrants who became Pentecostals in the aftermath of the Azusa Street Pentecostal Revival in Los Angeles, California (Apostolic Faith Mission, 1906). The date of origin in Argentina is unknown, but the first church in Buenos Aires was established in 1960.

Hq: c/o Cirilo Ojeda, Guardia Vieja 3846, 1192 Almagro, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 89-5377

#### **Argentine Evangelical Baptist Convention (Convención Evangélica Bautista Argentina)**

The first Baptist congregation in Argentina was organized in 1864 among Welsh Protestants in the Patagonia, though permanent Baptist work did not begin until 1881 among French-Swiss immigrants in Esperanza, Santa Fe. A young French-Swiss pastor, Pablo Benson, came from France to lead the congregation for a year, then in 1883 he went to Buenos Aires and founded the Central Baptist Church for French-speaking immigrants.

When the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board entered Argentina in 1903, its missionaries discovered the work begun by Benson, which later became affiliated with the Southern Baptists. Also, German Baptists of Russian origin (1870s) organized a German-speaking church in General Ramírez, Entre Ríos, in 1894, which is now part of the Argentine Baptist Convention, organized in 1908. The International Baptist Seminary was founded in Buenos Aires in 1912.

During the 1930s, hundreds of Slavic Baptists from Russia, the Ukraine and Poland immigrated to Argentina and founded their own churches in the provinces of Misiones, Santa Fe and Mendoza and in Buenos Aires. These churches joined the Convention in 1948. The Convention is a member of the Baptist World Fellowship.

In Argentina, the Southern Baptists, Conservative Baptists and Baptist General Conference (Swedish Baptists) have a general cooperative agreement. In 1995, the Convention reported 390 churches and 44,800 members.

Hq: Rivadavia 3461, 1203 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 1 888-92

**Armenian Evangelical Church  
(Iglesia Evangélica Armenia)**

Hq: c/o Enoc Martín Elmassian, Carabobo 743, 1406 Flores, Buenos Aires

**Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church  
(Iglesia Evangélica Congregacional de Armenia)**

Hq: c/o José Balian, Avellaneda, Av. 2538/40, 1408 Flores, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 613-9793

**Assembly of Christian Churches  
(Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas)**

The date of origin on this Pentecostal denomination in Argentina is unknown, but in 1995 there were 110 churches with 7,440 members.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Assemblies of God  
(Asambleas de Dios)**

This fellowship of churches was founded by Pentecostal missionaries from Sweden and Norway, beginning in the 1920s. The mother church in Buenos Aires has about 10,000 members. In 1995, this association reported 550 churches and 82,700 members in Argentina.

Hq: c/o Iglesia Cristo La Solución, Av. Juan B. Alberdi 2260, 1406 Flores, Buenos Aires

**Association of Churches of God  
(Asociación de las Iglesias de Dios)**

The Church is a member of the World Council of Churches.

Hq: Miralla 453, 1408 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 1642-9298

**Baptist Bible Fellowship International  
(Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Internacional)**

The Baptist Bible Fellowship entered Argentina in 1961 and soon joined forces with the Rev. Beuchamp Vick and former members of the World Baptist Fellowship that had began work in 1950. In 1995, there were 16 churches with 1,780 members.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition  
Or

Int'l hq: c/o Sam Davison, President, Box 191, Springfield, MO 65801  
Tel: (417) 862-5001  
Fax: (417) 865-0794  
Internet: [www.bbf.org](http://www.bbf.org)

### **Baptist General Conference of Argentina (Conferencia Bautista General de Argentina)**

In 1957 the Baptist General Conference (Swedish Baptists origins in the USA) began work in northern Argentina in the provinces of Santiago del Estero, La Rioja and Catamarca. See article under: **Argentine Evangelical Baptist Convention.**

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### **The Brethren Church in Argentina (Ashland, Ohio) (Iglesia de Los Hermanos en La Argentina)**

This fellowship of churches is related to The Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio), which was organized in 1883 as a progressive reform movement among the German Baptist Brethren (known as Dunkers). Most of the Dunkers, who developed out of the wave of radical Pietism in early 18<sup>th</sup> century Germany and shared many characteristics with the Mennonites, immigrated to the Pennsylvania Colony and established their first congregation in Germantown in 1723. The Brethren Church was organized in 1883 after many of the more “progressive” members of the German Baptist were excommunicated by the Mother Church. After its formation, The Brethren Church began to move toward an educated and salaried ministry, modern dress and sending missionaries around the world, including Argentina.

The first missionary, Dr. Carlos F. Yoder, went to Argentina in 1908 and began working in the State of Cordoba. This group is known today as ***La Iglesia de Los Hermanos de La República Argentina.***

While Dr. Yoder was on furlough, during 1939, the Brethren Church in the U.S.A. suffered a split, and a new group was formed known today as Grace Brethren with headquarters in Winona Lake, Indiana. The Brethren missionary work that began in 1908 in Argentina is affiliated with this denomination.

In 1941, Yoder returned to Argentina and began new work in other areas of the country under the Missionary Board of The Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio). This group is known today as ***La Iglesia de Los Hermanos en La Argentina.*** At present, this denomination has 27 organized churches, 20 preaching points and many cell groups. It also operates social programs to provide food for needy children in some of the churches.

As part of its missionary efforts, the denomination began work in and provided the workers for the Republic of Paraguay. At the same time, it has sent mission workers to Colombia under the sponsorship of The Missionary Board of The Brethren Church, and to Spain under another mission agency.

There are two Campgrounds: Diquecito in the high mountains of the state of Cordoba, and one in Soldini, state of Santa Fe, serves both the denomination and many other groups in these facilities.

The South American Theological Seminary, which is in the process of receiving accreditation from ASIT (the Association of Theological Seminaries), provides theological education both by extension as well as in a resident program. The program is operated from the city of Colon in Buenos Aires province, and serves The Brethren Church as well as the interdenominational community.

#### **HQ: La Iglesia de Los Hermanos en La Argentina**

Address: c/o José Rivero, O'Higgins 3162, 1429 Nuñez, Buenos Aires

Tel/FAX: 4701-5183

E-mail: [iha@pinos.com](mailto:iha@pinos.com)

Or

Int'l hq: Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio), 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805

Tel: (419) 289 1708

FAX: (419) 281-0450

E-mail: [brethren@brethrenchurch.org](mailto:brethren@brethrenchurch.org)

Web page: [www.brethrenchurch.org](http://www.brethrenchurch.org)

**Central Presbyterian Church of Buenos Aires  
(Iglesia Presbiteriana Central de Buenos Aires)**

The Central Presbyterian Church is the focus of a missionary effort begun in 1985 by missionaries representing the Korean Presbyterian Church of America.

Hq: Calle Castaños 1435, 1406-Parque Cahcabuco, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 921-0509

Fax: (54) 921-8860

Or

Int'l hq: Korean Presbyterian Church of America, P. O. Box 457, 280 Fairfield Pl., Morganville, NJ 07751.

Tel: (908) 591-2771

Fax: (908) 591-2260

**Che-IL Korean Presbyterian Church**

The Korean Presbyterian Church dates to 1969 and the missionary effort of Hong Jong Jin and Key Hwa Sam of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (Hap Dong).

Hq: c/o Kwang-Un Choi, Carabobo 1295, 1045 Flores, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 631-1788

**Christian Assembly  
(Asamblea Cristiana)**

A Pentecostal fellowship of churches founded among Italian immigrants in the 1910s, predominantly in Buenos Aires. In 1995, there were 220 churches with 44,400 members.

Hq: c/o Ciro Pablo Crimi, Del Carril, Salvador M. Av. 5069, 1419 Devoto, Buenos Aires

Tel: 503-5072

**Christian Churches and Churches of Christ  
(Iglesias Cristianas y Iglesias de Cristo)**

The Christian Churches and Churches of Christ is a decentralized movement derived from the Restoration Movement (the restoration of New Testament pattern and practice) initiated in the U.S. during the 1830s by Barton Stone, Thomas and Alexander Campbell (former Presbyterians), and Walter Scott (a former Baptist). Until 1849, the independent Christian Churches and Churches of Christ were an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), but controversies arose over organizational structures, instrumental music in the churches and other differences between conservatives and progressives. Since the 1850s, these conservative congregations gradually separated from the Disciples of Christ and have adhered to a strictly congregational polity. Beginning in 1889, some of these congregations began to separate from others over the use of musical instruments as a "test of fellowship," and formed "fellowships" of instrumental and non-instrumental (a cappella) churches.

The history and present membership of these churches in Argentina is unknown.

Hq: No central address. For information contact:

c/o Greg & Dawn Waddell, Envoy Christian Mission, Florida 386, 1888 Florencio, Buenos Aires

Or

Iglesia de Cristo Centro, Bacacay 989, Buenos Aires (Casilla de Correo 1590-1000, Buenos Aires)

Tel: 439-8749

E-mail: [esteban@srala.satlink.com](mailto:esteban@srala.satlink.com)

Internet: [iglesia-de-cristo.org/congregaciones/argentina/](http://iglesia-de-cristo.org/congregaciones/argentina/)

**Christian Church-Disciples of Christ  
(Iglesia Evangélica de los Discípulos de Cristo)**

The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ is one of several large groups that form the Restoration Movement in the USA that began in the 1830s by Barton Stone, and Thomas and Alexander Campbell in Virginia. When the Disciples of Christ began to organize state and national conventions and missionary societies in the 1830s-1840s, many Christian Churches and Churches of Christ separated from the mother church and became independent congregations. In 1968, the Disciples of Christ reorganized themselves as a denomination into a “representative government” at three levels: local, regional and nationally (general assembly and general board). The Church is a member of the World Council of Churches.

The Christian Women’s Board of Missions began work in the Belgrano district of Buenos Aires in 1906 and cooperated for many years with the Methodists in a variety of educational programs, such as the Colegio Americano and the Union Seminary. However, in 1965, there were only 426 communicant members in Argentina. The current membership is unknown.

Hq: Terrada 2324, 1416 Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 503.36.74

Or

Int’l hq: 222 S. Downey Ave., Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Tel: (317) 353-1491

Internet: [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

**Christian Community  
(Comunidad Cristiana)**

A fellowship of Charismatic churches founded in the 1970s as part of the Argentina Renewal Movement, predominantly in the Buenos Aires metro area.

Hq: c/o Dionisio González, Condarco 1440, 1416 Flores, Buenos Aires

Tel: 581-1821

**Christian and Missionary Alliance  
(Alianza Cristiana y Misionera)**

An evangelical fellowship of churches in the Holiness tradition, founded in 1887 under the leadership of Presbyterian minister Dr. A. B. Simpson of the New York Gospel Tabernacle. Mission work began in Buenos Aires in 1895. By 1991 Overseas Ministries reported 1.9 million members in 14,941 churches in 53 countries. In Argentina, there were 70 churches with 4,290 members in 1995.

Hq: c/o Salvador Lizzio, Cañada de Gómez 1350, 1440 Mataderos, Buenos Aires

Tel: 687-8763

**Christian and Missionary Movement  
(Movimiento Cristiano y Misionero)**

A Pentecostal fellowship of churches founded by Eduardo Raúl Sorenson, beginning in the 1960s.

Hq: Centro Evangélico Metropolitano, Av. Avellaneda 4073, 1407 Floresta, Buenos Aires

**Christian Pentecostal Church of God  
(Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal Cristiana)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Church of God, General Council (Anderson, IN)  
(Iglesia de Dios de Anderson, Indiana)**

An evangelical church in the Holiness tradition founded in 1880 under the leadership of Daniel Warner in Anderson, IN. Work began in Argentina during the 1960s.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Church of God (Cleveland, TN)  
(Iglesia de Dios del Evangelio Completo en Argentina)**

A fellowship of Pentecostal Holiness churches related to the Church of God of Cleveland, TN, founded in the mountains of Georgia and Tennessee in 1903 under the leadership of Ambrose J. Tomlinson (1865-1943) in the USA.

In 1943 missionary J. H. Ingram joined forces with Marcos Mazzucco in Buenos Aires to launch the work of the Church of God (Cleveland, TN) in Argentina, which reported 9,680 members in 1967. In 1995, this organization reported 111 churches and 22,200 members.

Hq: Catamarca 474, 1213 Balvanera, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 855-4867

**Church of the Nazarene  
(Iglesia del Nazareno)**

An evangelical church in the Holiness tradition that traces its origin to the pastoral ministry of Phineas Breeee in Los Angeles in 1885; several small Holiness bodies merged in 1908 to form the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. In 1919, the word "Pentecostal" was dropped from its name to avoid confusion with the expanding Pentecostal movement, because the Church of the Nazarene is a non-Pentecostal body. Mission work began in Buenos Aires in the 1920s. In 1995, the Nazarenes reported 85 churches and 5,720 members in Argentina.

Hq: c/o David Juan Mastronardi, Conde 1422, 1426 Colegiales, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 552-8198

**Evangelical Christian Church (Brethren Assemblies or Plymouth Brethren, also known as Bible Assemblies)  
(Iglesia Evangélica Cristiana o Hermanos Libres o Asambleas Bíblicas)**

This fellowship of churches represents part of the Plymouth Brethren movement in Argentina that began in 1882 when evangelist J.H.L. Ewen began his travels in a horse-powered "Bible Coach" across the pampas. Ewen had studied in the Missionary School in London, which was founded by Grattan Guinness, prior to his arrival in Argentina. He was supported by Plymouth Brethren assemblies in England, as were many of the colleagues that soon joined him: Payne, Torre, Clifford and Langran, among others. Many of the "Open Brethren" assemblies in Great Britain and the USA channeled their support for missionary work in Argentina through the organization Christian Brethren in Many Lands (which is not a traditional Mission Board but a coordinating agency).

The first formal meeting in the characteristic Brethren style began in Buenos Aires in 1889, which evolved into the first permanent Brethren Assembly in Argentina in 1903. By 1915 there were at least 40 local assemblies in the whole country, but most of the leadership was still in the hands of the English missionaries. During the 1920s, thousands of Syrians immigrated to Argentina and many of them were attracted to the Brethren Assemblies. Today the leadership of the Brethren Assemblies is multi-national with Dutch, French-Swiss, Scotch, English, Anglo-Argentine and Argentine racial elements. Evangelistic activities and church growth among the Brethren Assemblies continued to be strong until about 1945. During the 1940s many of the older missionaries retired and almost no young men came from England, Canada and the USA to replace them due to the difficulties of World War II.

By 1967, there were about 25,000 affiliated members in the Brethren Assemblies in Argentina, which made this one of the strongest evangelical movements in the whole country. As in most countries, the Brethren Assemblies are traditionally divided between the "Open Brethren" (fellowship with other evangelicals and open communion) and "Closed Brethren" (no fellowship with outsiders and closed communion) traditions. However, some of the Brethren Assemblies have become part of the Renovation Movement (as the Charismatic Movement is known in Argentina) that began in the late 1960s and early 1970s in Buenos Aires.

In 1995, it was estimated that the Brethren Assemblies had about 780 churches with 34,800 members in Argentina.

Hq: c/o Lino Cortéz, San Juan 3371, 1407 Boedo, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 97-9118

### **Evangelical Church of the River Plata (Iglesia Evangélica del Río de la Plata)**

German Lutheran immigrants began arriving in Argentina in the 1840s and settled in the River Plata valley. Originally related to the Prussian State Church, today their descendents form part of the Evangelical Church of the River Plata. The Church is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, and Latin American Council of Churches. This association of German-speaking churches also has congregations in Paraguay and Uruguay, and today it is one of the largest Lutheran bodies in Argentina with 60 churches and 9,500 members (1995).

Hq: c/o [Rev. Juan Abelardo Schvindt](#), Mariscal Antonio Sucre 2855, 3° piso, 1428 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 11-4787-0436  
Fax: (54) 11-4787-0335  
E-mail: [ierp@ierp.org.ar](mailto:ierp@ierp.org.ar)

### **Evangelical Congregational Church in Argentina (Iglesia Evangélica Congregacional Argentina)**

This denomination was founded in Argentina in 1924 by separation from the German Evangelical Synod of the River Plata (now the **Evangelical Church of the River Plata**), composed mainly of German-speaking Russian immigrants. It became affiliated with the Congregational Church in the USA, and it is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. In 1968, there were 90 congregations with 7,229 communicant members in Argentina, but in 1995 there were only 6,150 members among 115 churches.

Hq: c/o Rev. Erhard Serfas, Urquiza 1038, 3200 Concordia, Entre Ríos  
Tel./fax: +54.345 421 1721

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina  
(Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Argentina)**

This body (originally German-speaking) is affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the USA, founded in 1847. Work began in Argentina in 1905 among German and Russian colonists in San Juan, Entre Ríos, with the arrival of the Rev. H. Wittrock. In 1918, the Argentine Mission was organized, and in 1928 the present name was adopted. By 1968, there were 42 parishes in Argentina, with 172 local congregations and 13,197 baptized members. In 1995, 250 congregations were reported with 21,100 members.

Hq: Ing. Silveyra 1639/41, Villa Adelina, Buenos Aires  
Tel & Fax: (54-1) 766-7948

**Evangelical Mennonite Church of Argentina -Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities  
(Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Argentina)**

Mennonite work began in Argentina in 1917 with the arrival of two missionary families, Shank and Hershey, in Buenos Aires that had been sent out by the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities from Pennsylvania. The missionaries decided to concentrate their efforts on the area served by the Western Railroad, between Buenos Aires and Santa Rosa, located about 400 miles to the west in the rich cattle and grain-producing region, known as the Pampas, among the sons of immigrant farmers. The first Mennonite Conference was organized in 1923 in Trenque Lauquen with 44 members. In 1995, there were 31 congregations with about 1,740 members.

In 1943 Mennonite work began among the Toba Indians in the northern Chaco region through the establishment of agricultural colonies. By 1962, this work had grown to 24 congregations and about 4,000 members, and it was organized as an independent Mennonite-sponsored body, **The United Evangelical Church**, composed entirely of Toba Christians.

Hq: c/o Juan Angel Gutiérrez, President  
Mercedes 149, 1407 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-1) 676-207

**Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina  
(Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Argentina)**

The roots of the Methodist Church in Argentina can be traced to the 1830s, when the Methodist Episcopal Board of Missions began work in Buenos Aires among English-speaking immigrants. Since 1843 the Methodist Church has had a permanent presence in the nation. It is a member of the World Methodist Council and the World Council of Churches. By 1911, there were 3,817 communicant members in Argentina, and by 1967 there were 7,382 full members and 3,208 probationary members. In 1995, the conference reported 93 churches with 8,111 communicant members. The **Bible Methodist Church** also exists in Argentina, but no information is available about its origin or development; in 1995 this denomination reported 17 churches and 1,660 members.

Hq: Rivadavia 4044, 3° piso, 1205 Buenos Aires  
Tel. (54-1) 982-6288  
Fax: (54-1) 981-0885

**Evangelical Pentecostal Church (Chilean)  
(Iglesia Evangélica Pentecostal de Chile)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
(Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana)**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is one of several Korean evangelical efforts active in Argentina.  
Hq: c/o Rev. Sung Woo Lee, Senillosa 1769, Parque Chacabuco, Buenos Aires.

**Free Methodist Church  
(Iglesia Metodista Libre)**

The Free Methodist Church is a Holiness body founded in 1960 in western New York.

Hq: c/o Argentina Mission District, Bishop David M. Foster

Or

Int'l hq: World Ministries Center, 770 N. High School Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46214, USA

Tel: (317) 244-3660

Fax: (317) 244-1247

Internet: [www.fmcna.org](http://www.fmcna.org)

**General Association of Baptist Churches of Northwest Argentina  
(Asociación General de Iglesias Bautistas del Noroeste de Argentina)**

The Association was organized in 1974. It grew out of the work of Conservative Baptist missionaries who first came to Argentina in 1947 and built on efforts of earlier Baptist missionaries of the San Pedro Mission among Tupi-Guarani Indians in San Pedro, Jujuy, beginning in 1900. In 1995, this association reported about 100 churches with 5,330 members.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Buenos Aires  
(Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche Buenos Aires)**

This group is related to Lutheran churches in Germany.

Hq: Casilla de Correo 4106, Correo Central 1000, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 751-1718

**\*\*God is Our Helper Pentecostal Missionary Evangelical Church  
(Iglesia Evangélica Misionera Pentecostal Dios es Nuestro Amparo)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**\*\*Good News Evangelical Church  
(Iglesia Evangélica Buenas Nuevas)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Grace Brethren Church (Winona Lake, IN)  
(La Iglesia de Los Hermanos de La República Argentina)**

This fellowship of churches is related to The Grace Brethren Church (Winona Lake, Indiana), which was organized in 1883 as a progressive reform movement among the German Baptist Brethren (known as Dunkers). Most of the Dunkers, who developed out of the wave of radical Pietism and the Reformed Church in early 18<sup>th</sup> century Germany and shared several characteristics with the Mennonites, immigrated to the Pennsylvania Colony and established their first congregation in Germantown in 1723. The Brethren Church was organized in 1883 after many of the more "progressive" members of The German Baptist Brethren were excommunicated by the mother church. After its formation, The Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio) began to move toward an educated and salaried ministry, modern dress and sending missionaries around the world, including Argentina.

The first missionary, Dr. Carlos F. Yoder, went to Argentina in 1908 and began working in the State of Cordoba, in the very center of the country. Another missionary, Clarence Sickel, joined him sometime later. While Yoder was on furlough during 1939, The Brethren Church in the USA suffered a split, and a new group was formed. Today this group is known as The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, with headquarters in Winona Lake, Indiana.

As a result of this USA split in 1939, eventually two Brethren "branches" were formed in Argentina. The group organized in 1908 is now related to the Grace Brethren group. From Córdoba, the Grace Brethren "branch" has extended to other States in Argentina and now have churches in three states: Córdoba, Buenos Aires and Santa Fe. In addition, there are preaching points in others states: Santiago del Estero, Tucumán and Chaco. Currently, there are 20 churches and 10 preaching points with about 600 members in Argentina affiliated with Grace Brethren.

About 1988, Grace Brethren Church in Argentina began a missionary work in Uruguay, where there is now one organized church and several preaching points. Since 1998, a missionary family has been sent to Chile to begin a new missionary project.

Hq: Iglesia de Los Hermanos de la República Argentina  
Address: Rivadavia 433, 5800-Río Cuarto (Córdoba), República Argentina  
Tel: 4259-6401

Or

Int'l hq: Grace Brethren International Missions, P.O. Box 588, Winona Lake, IN 46590  
Tel: (219) 268-1888  
Fax: (219) 267-5210

### **Greater Grace in Argentina (Mayor Gracia en Argentina)**

Hq: c/o Pastor Skip Wood, Lisandor de la Torre 4036, 1667 Totugitas, Provincia de Buenos Aires

### **Hungarian Reformed Church (Iglesia Reformada Hungara)**

The work began in 1938 by Hungarian missionary Daniel Háry. Today the church has about 60 members.

Hq: Calle Ramón Freire, Cap. Gral. 1739, 1428 Belgrano, Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 1 5512-4093

### **\*\*Independent Charismatic Lutheran Church (Iglesia Luterana Carismática Independiente)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**International Church of the Foursquare Gospel  
(Iglesia Internacional del Evangélico Cuadrangular)**

This church association was founded by Sister Aimee Semple McPherson (1890-1944) in 1921 as an outgrowth of her flamboyant radio and preaching ministry at Angeles Temple in Los Angeles, California. Originally called the Echo Park Evangelistic Association, the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (ICFG) was incorporated in 1927 and represents the “Finished Work of Christ” Pentecostal tradition. In 1994, this organization reported a worldwide membership of 1.95 million in 31,564 churches in 72 countries, including Argentina. In 1995, the ICFG reported 270 churches in Argentina with about 28,100 adult members.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**International Messianic Jewish Alliance  
(Alianza Mesiánica Judía Internacional)**

Hq: c/o Alberto Victor Faur, President, J. F. Aranguren 2922, 1406 Buenos Aires

**Korean Presbyterian Church  
(Iglesia Presbiteriana Coreana)**

There are a variety of Korean Presbyterian churches in Argentina, probably now more than 50, that are probably related to various Presbyterian groups in Korea and the USA, while others are independent congregations. One is listed below:

Hq: Iglesia Presbiteriana Coreana (Yang-Mun), Vernet Av. 269, 1424, Parque Chacabuco, Buenos Aires

**Mennonite Evangelical Alliance  
(Alianza Evangélica Menonita)**

Hq: c/o Juna Carloa Acosta, Gascón 2861, 1609 Boulogne, Prov. of Buenos Aires

**Messianic Jewish Congregations  
(Congregaciones Judios Mesianicas)**

There are several Messianic Jewish congregations in the Buenos Aires metro area; one is listed here:

Hq: Congregación Beth Shalom Hamasha, c/o Alberto Victor Faur, Gaona Av. 3244, 1416 Villa Gral. Mitre, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 612-6876

**[also see: International Messianic Jewish Alliance (Alianza Mesiánica Judía Internacional)**

Hq: c/o Alberto Victor Faur, President, J. F. Aranguren 2922, 1406 Buenos Aires]

**Mission Church of the Lord  
(Misión Iglesia del Señor)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Mui Presbyterian Church  
(Iglesia Presbiteriana Mui)**

This church began in 1991 as a missionary effort by Taiwanese pastor Chuang Chiou Wei.

Hq: Marcos Sastre 2875, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 503-8662

Fax: (54) 1 503-8662

**National Union of the Assemblies of God  
(Unión Nacional de las Asambleas de Dios)**

A fellowship of Pentecostal churches in the “Finished Work of Christ” tradition related to the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the USA, founded in 1914 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. In 1989, this organization reported a worldwide membership of 16.4 million in 118 countries.

Pentecostal work began in Argentina in 1909 through the efforts of independent missionary Miss Alice C. Woods in the settlement of 25 de Mayo on the pampas of Buenos Aires province. Woods became affiliated with the Assemblies of God in 1914 and served in Argentina for fifty years. The National Union of the Assemblies of God in Argentina was organized in 1950 in partnership with the Assemblies of God in the USA and Canada. By 1951 there were nine U.S. missionaries serving in the whole country with only 174 active adult church members. However, following the 1954 Tommy Hicks evangelistic crusade in Buenos Aires, which lasted about two months, the total membership of the Assemblies of God grew to 2,000 in 1956 and to 4,582 in 1966. By 1995, this denomination reported 825 churches with about 118,000 baptized members.

Hq: c/o Rodolfo Polignano, Ministerio Dios Restaurara, Av. Teodoro García 3238, 1426 Colegiales,  
Buenos Aires

Tel: 552-4430

**New Apostolic Church  
(Iglesia Nueva Apostólica)**

The origin and development of this denomination is unknown, but in 1995 it reported 140 churches with about 36,400 members.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Old Colony Mennonites  
(Altkolonier Mennonitengemeinde)**

The Old Colony Mennonites are descendants of German Mennonites who migrated to Canada from the Old Colony of Chortitza in Russia in the 1870s, and also to Argentina and Paraguay.

Hq: c/o Johann Fehr, No. 5, c.d.c. 100-631, Gutraché, La Pampa

Or

International hq: c/o Bishop John P. Wiebe, Box 601, Winkler, MB, Canada R0G 2X0

**Pentecostal Church of God, International Mission  
(Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal, Misión Internacional)**

This organization was founded by Puerto Ricans who became Pentecostals in Hawaii in 1912 and returned to their homeland in 1916 to establish Pentecostal churches under the leadership of Juan L. Lugo

and Francisco D. Ortiz, Sr. The first national convention was held in 1921 in Arecibo and chose the name Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal de Puerto Rico (IDPPR).. Until 1947, this group had a working relationship with the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri, and its missionaries served in Puerto Rico under the auspices of the IDPPR. Since 1947, the IDPPR has been an autonomous organization with a sister denomination of Puerto Ricans in the USA, the Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal de Nueva York (IDPNY) . Both of these bodies belong to the “Finished Work of Christ” Pentecostal tradition.

Hq: Avenida Batlle y Ordoñez 6374, 1439 Villa Lugano, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 601-0684

**International Pentecostal Holiness Church  
(Iglesia Santidad Pentecostal Internacional)**

This is one of the oldest and largest Pentecostal groups in the USA, with roots in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Holiness movement. The International Pentecostal Holiness Church is a merger of three denominations between 1911 and 1915: the Fire-Baptized Holiness Church (founded in 1895), the Holiness Church of North Carolina (founded in 1900), and the Tabernacle Pentecostal Church (founded in 1898). By 1985, the worldwide membership was reported to be 1.5 million in 32 nations, including Argentina. In 1995, there were 94 congregations with 8,810 members in the country.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Pentecostal Union of Chubut  
(Unión Pentecostal de Chubut)**

The origin and development of this denomination is unknown, but in 1995 it reported 66 churches with 4,370 members in Argentina.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Presbyterian Church of Argentina  
(Iglesia Presbiteriana Argentina)**

This church was founded in 1988 in Rosario in association with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in the USA. It is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. The work consists of one congregation of about 300 members.

Hq: c/o [Rev. Antonio Andrés Gomez](#), Amenabar 5549, 2000 Rosario, Santa Fe  
Tel: (54-341) 432 9408  
Fax: (54-341) 432 9408  
E-mail: [ipacristoelrey@yahoo.com](mailto:ipacristoelrey@yahoo.com)

**Protestant Society in Tandil  
(Sociedad Protestante en Tandil)**

A Lutheran church body.

Hq: Maipu 599, 7000 Tandil  
Tel: (54) 293 273-31

**Protestant Society in Southern Argentina  
(Sociedad Protestante en Argentina del Sur)**

A Lutheran church body.

Hq: Av. Moreno 114 Oficina 5, 7500 Tres Arroyos, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 983 262-86

**Protestant Society of the South-East  
(Sociedad Protestante del Sur-Este)**

A Lutheran church body.

Hq: Calle 51 No. 2966, Necochea, 7630 Buenos Aires

Tel & Fax: (54) 262 313-45

**Reformed Churches in Argentina  
(Iglesias Reformadas en la Argentina)**

This denomination traces its roots to Dutch Reformed immigrants who arrived in Argentina during the 1890s. It is affiliated with the Reformed Ecumenical Synod and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and it maintains close ties to the **Waldesian Church of the River Plata**. Some 20 Welsh families living in the Patagonia, former members of the Welsh Reformed Church (now dissolved), have joined the Reformed Churches in Argentina. Today, this denomination has 13 congregations with about 500 members.

Hq: c/o Rev. Roberto H. Jordon, Falucho 155, 7500 Tres Arroyos, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 2983-422-397

Fax: (54) 2983-423-113

E-mail: [rhjordon@3net.com.ar](mailto:rhjordon@3net.com.ar)

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
(Iglesia Presbiteriana de San Andrés)**

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church dates to 1829 when churches were established to serve Scottish settlers in Argentina. It now serves as the Argentine affiliate of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a conservative body founded in the USA in 1981. Today there are 13 congregations with about 500 members.

Hq: c/o Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés, Casilla 1636, Acasusso 1131, Olivos, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 790-0974

Fax: (54) 1 792-2983

Or

Int'l hq: Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Office of the Evangelical Assembly, 29140 Buckingham Ave., Suite 5, Livonia, MI 48154

Tel: (313) 261-2001

Fax: (313) 261-3282

Internet: [www.epc.org](http://www.epc.org)

**The Salvation Army  
(Ejército de Salvación)**

The Salvation Army is a Holiness church with a strong tradition of social service, founded in 1865 by Methodist preacher William Booth while ministering in the slums of East London, England. Booth developed the military organizational model as a means to most efficiently meet what he saw as the world's overwhelming needs. The East London Christian Mission evolved into the Salvation Army in 1868 and spread throughout Great Britain by 1870. In 1880, the Salvation Army began work in New York City, and in 1882 started an open-air mission in London, Ontario, Canada. Work began in Argentina 1889.

Hq: Rivadavia 3257, 1203 Buenos Aires

Or

Casilla 2240, 1000 Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 864-0621/23

Fax: (54) 865-4345

Or

International Hq: 101 Queen Victoria St., London EC4P 4EP, England

Tel: (44) 171-236-5222

Internet: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/)

### **Seventh-Day Adventist Church (Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día)**

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church grew out of the ministry of Baptist preacher William Miller in New York state, who predicted the Second Advent of Christ on October 22, 1844. After the failure of this prophecy (known as "The Great Disappointment"), many believers who were attracted to his message reorganized themselves into independent Adventist churches. Some of the Adventists who accepted sabbath worship found new leadership in Ellen G. White and her husband, James White, in Washington, New Hampshire; in 1855, the Whites moved their headquarters to Battle Creek, Michigan. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church was formally organized in 1863. By 1987, this organization had work in 185 countries with more than 5 million reported members.

Work in Argentina began in 1891 through the Seventh-Day Adventist Board of Foreign Missions, who appointed three colporteurs (Snyder, Nowlin and Stauffer) to engage in door-to-door literature distribution and evangelism. The first ordained Adventist pastor assigned to Argentina was the Rev. F. H. Westphal, who arrived in 1894 to begin his ministry among the German immigrant communities in Entre Ríos. From this bridgehead, Adventist work was spread throughout the country. By 1987, this organization had grown to 14,103 members, and by 1995 to 64,400 members among 270 local churches.

Hq: c/o Austral Union Conference, Calle Echeverría 1452, Florida, 1602 Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 760-0236

Fax: (54) 1 760-9092

Or

Int'l hq: 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Tel: (301) 680-6000

Fax: (301) 680-6090

Internet: [www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)

### **Shield of Faith Christian Mission (Misión Cristiana Escudo de la Fe)**

Hq: Murguiondo 4315, 1439 Villa Lugano, Buenos Aires

Tel: 602-7271

**Taiwanese Presbyterian Church (Sin-Heng)**  
**(Iglesia Presbiteriana Taiwanesa Sin-Heng)**

The small (about 70 members) Taiwanese Presbyterian missionary effort began in 1982 in Buenos Aires under the leadership of Pastor Lin.

Hq: c/o Chin Chun Lu, Mendoza 1660, Belgrano, Buenos Aires  
Tel: (540 1 781-8809  
Fax: (54) 1 501-5552

**United Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**(Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida)**

The first church of this denomination was founded in 1920 in Villa del Parque, Buenos Aires. The first missionaries to arrive were the Rev. S. D. Daugherty (1908) and E. Muller (1919) from the United Lutheran Church in America, now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA, created by merger in 1988). The Argentine Lutheran Synod was organized in 1948. It is a member of the World Council of Churches, Latin American Council of Churches, and the Lutheran World Federation. In 1968, there were 25 churches with 2,632 members, and in 1995 there were 38 churches with 6,040 members.

Hq: c/o President Angel Furlan, Marcos Sastra 2891, 1417 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54) 1 501-3925  
Fax: (54) 1 504-7358

**United Evangelical Church of Argentina**  
**(Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Argentina)**

In 1943 Mennonite work began among the Toba Indians in the northern Chaco region through the establishment of agricultural colonies. By 1962, when this work had grown to 24 congregations and about 4,000 members, it was organized as an independent Mennonite-sponsored body, The United Evangelical Church, composed entirely of Toba Christians. The church relates to the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities in the USA.

Hq: Casilla 196, 3600 Ciudad Formosa, Formosa Province

**United Lutheran Church**  
**(Iglesia Luterana Unida)**

This Church is affiliated with the Lutheran Church in America.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**United Pentecostal Church**  
**(Iglesia Pentecostal Unida)**

This church is part of the "Jesus Only" tradition among Pentecostals. The main church in Buenos Aires was founded in 1967.

Hq: Fonrouge 76, 1408 Liniers, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 641-1688

**Vision of the Future Church  
(Iglesia Visión del Futuro)**

Founded by Omar Cabrera (the mother church is located in the former Cuyo Cinema in downtown Buenos Aires), the movement claims to have a network of churches in 160 cities and towns with a total attendance of about 85,000.

Hq: c/o Carlos Olah, Avenida Boedo 836, 1718 Boedo, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4931-9506

**Waldensian Evangelical Church  
(Iglesia Evangélica Valdense)**

Formed among Italian immigrants who established agricultural colonies in the River Plate region of Uruguay and Argentina (Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, Córdoba, Chaco and Santiago del Estero) in the 1850s. Originally from the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, the Waldensians trace their origin to the pre-Reformation itinerant preaching ministry (1170s-1218) of Peter Waldo (Valdes), a prosperous merchant from Lyon, France. After the Protestant Reformation began in Europe, the Waldensians became affiliated with the Reformed Church movement in Switzerland and France (1530s) and are now part of the World Presbyterian Alliance. The first Waldensian church in Argentina was organized in 1887 in Colonia Belgrano, Santa Fe. The first official conference of Waldensian churches was organized in 1905. By 1967, there were 6,460 baptized members in Argentina, but by 1995 the membership had declined to 4,260 in 26 congregations.

Hq: Jacinto Arauz (Hucal), La Pampa  
Or  
C/o Iglesia Evangélica Valdense, Mariscal Antonio Sucre, 2855-2, Buenos Aires

**Waves of Love and Peace Pentecostal Church  
(Iglesia Pentecostal Ondas de Amor y Paz)**

Founded by Héctor Anibal Giménez in Buenos Aires about 1982, the movement claims to have 120,000 members in Argentina with about 13,000 in the mother church.

Hq: Ondas de Amor y Paz, Avenida Rivadavia 3753, 1204 Almagro, Buenos Aires  
Tel:

## **MARGINAL CHRISTIAN GROUPS**

NOTE: These are groups that claim to be Christian but are not part of the Older Liturgical Tradition (Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic), nor are they part of the Protestant Tradition. These are groups that Protestant church leaders refer to as being "sects," although Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox leaders usually refer to all Protestant groups as being "sects" as well.

**Children of God or Family of Love or The Family  
(La Familia-La Familia de Amor-Niños de Dios)**

A radical discipleship movement founded by David Brandt Berg (known as Moises David, Mo, Father David or Dad to his followers) in Huntington Beach, CA, in 1968 among the Hippie generation. Berg (1919-1994) incorporated the Hippie lifestyle and the anti-establishment ideology of the larger counterculture

rebellion into his movement's organization and structure. Due to their lifestyle, aggressive and controversial proselytizing activities (including "sexy evangelism"), and radical Biblical prophecies concerning the End Times, Berg and his disciples left South California to engage in itinerant preaching and form other groups in other states and countries, including Argentina in 1977 where The Family had problems with local authorities in 1977, 1989, 1992 and 1993. Many of the group's members left Argentina in 1993 for Chile and Brazil, but, at the end of 1994, its presence was reported in the province of Córdoba.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
(Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Últimos Tiempos)**

The movement, the main body resulting from the ministry of Joseph Smith Jr., the church's first prophet/president, emerged in the USA in the 1830s. Following Smith's martyrdom in 1844, the followers moved from Illinois to Utah and there established their international headquarters. The Latter-day Saints draw upon the Protestant Christian tradition as interpreted through the revelations of Joseph Smith, Jr., in several new scriptures, primarily the **Book of Mormon**.

Hq: Argentina Temple, Autopista Richieri y Puente 13, 1778 Ciudad Evita, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 487 1520

Or

Int'l hq: 50 E. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 (USA)

Internet: [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)

**First Church of Christ, Scientist  
(Primera Iglesia de Cristo, Cientista)**

The Church of Christ, Scientist, known for its unique teachings on spiritual healing, was founded in 1879 (reorganized in 1892) by Mary Baker Eddy in Boston, MA.

Hq: Ayacucho 349, Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 953-6650

Or

Int'l hq: Christian Science Center, 175 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115

Tel: (617) 450-3321

Fax: (617) 450-7397

Internet: [www.tfccs.com](http://www.tfccs.com)

**Growing in Grace Churches  
(Iglesias Creciendo en Gracia)**

Founded in Miami, Florida, by José Luis de Jesús, known as "The Apostle," as a movement to purify the existing Evangelical churches of secular tendencies and unbiblical teachings. However, the group's doctrines are limited to the 14 epistles written by the Apostle Paul in the New Testament, and there is a strong condemnation of other churches. Its followers believe that this is the one, true Church, faithful to Jesus Christ and committed to the New Covenant. The Church reports affiliated groups in 20 countries of the Americas, with headquarters in Miami Lakes, FL.

Hq: Pastor Vicente Martín Rueja, Ruta 3 km 22, Isidro Casanova (Altos Pizzería La Nueva Monte

Carlo), Buenos Aires

Tel: 4694-2344

E-mail: [buenosaires@creciendoengracia.com](mailto:buenosaires@creciendoengracia.com)

Or

Int'l hq: Ministerio Internacional Creciendo en Gracia, 16255 NW 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami Lakes, FL 33014 or P.O. Box 4846, Miami, FL 33014

Tel: (305) 627-9040

Fax: (305) 627-9050

E-mail: [elapostolado@creciendoengracia.com](mailto:elapostolado@creciendoengracia.com)

Internet: [www.creciendoengracia.com](http://www.creciendoengracia.com)

**Jehovah's Witnesses  
(Los Testigos de Jehová)**

The Jehovah's Witnesses emerged out of the Bible Student movement begun by Charles Taze Russell who founded the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in the 1880s. The organization assumed their present name in 1931.

Hq: Casilla de Correo 83 (Suc. 27B), 1427 Buenos Aires

Or

Int'l hq: 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tel: (718) 625-3600

Fax: (718) 560-5619

Internet: [www.watchtower.org](http://www.watchtower.org)

**Light of the World Church  
(Iglesia Luz del Mundo)**

The official name of this church is "Iglesia de Dios Vivo, Columna y Apoyo de la Verdad, La Luz del Mundo" (The Church of the Living God, Column and Strength of the Truth, the Light of the World). It was founded in Monterrey, Mexico, in 1926 by Eusebio Joaquín González (1896-1964, known as "Aarón") based on a series of visions and prophecies the leader claimed to have received from God. Eventually, Aarón established his headquarters in Colonia Hermosa Provincia in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he built up a segregated community of followers and a large, central church, now seating over 10,000 people. Since the 1960s, the movement has spread to many other countries, including Argentina.

Hq: Alem #857, Colonia Constitución, San Rafael, Mendoza 5600

Tel: 304-48

Or

Int'l hq: Glorieta Central No. 1, Colonia Hermosa Provincia, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Tel: (916) 608-1870 and 608-1742

E-mail:

Internet: [www.laluzdelmundo.net.org](http://www.laluzdelmundo.net.org)

**The Voice of the Cornerstone  
(La Voz de la Piedra Angular)**

Founded by William Soto Santiago in Cayey, Puerto Rico, as La Carpa Corporation. The founder claims that he is "The Angel of Jesus Christ" and "The Voice of the Chief Cornerstone," and his message and theology is patterned after that of William Branham who was branded as a "heretic" by other Pentecostal leaders in the USA. The movement lists affiliated groups in about 20 countries of the Americas, including the U.S. and Canada.

Hq: Casilla de Correo 848-5000, Córdoba

Tel: (54) (51) 940-768

Or  
Int'l Hq: La Carpa Corporation, P.O. Box 372620, Cayey, Puerto Rico 00737  
Tel: (787) 738-2651  
Fax: (787) 738-4778  
Internet: [www.carpa.com](http://www.carpa.com)

**Unity School of Christianity  
(Escuela Unidad del Cristianismo)**

The Unity movement was founded in the 1880s by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. It teaches a Christian form of New Thought metaphysics, and finds its life structured through two closely related organizations, the Unity School of Christianity and the Association of Unity Churches.

Hq: Centro Unity de Mendoza, Spiritual Leader Angel Caruso  
Maipu 460, San Martin, 5570 Mendoza

Or  
Int'l hq: 1901 N.W. Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO 64065 (USA)  
Tel: (816) 251-3580  
Internet: [www.unityworldhq.org](http://www.unityworldhq.org)

Or  
c/o Association of Unity Churches, Box 610, Lee's Summit, MO 64063 (USA)  
Tel: (816) 524-7414  
Fax: (816) 525-4020  
Internet: [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org)

**Universal Church of the Kingdom of God  
(Iglesia Universal del Reino de Dios)**

Founded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by Edir Macedo Becerra in 1977 with a small group of followers, this movement now exists in at least 45 countries in the Americas, Europe and Africa, plus India and Japan. In 1995, a Brazilian newspaper reported that the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (also known as "Fervent Prayer to the Holy Spirit") had more than 2,000 congregations in Brazil with over three million members. Although its official doctrinal statement contains most of the fundamental beliefs of the majority of Pentecostal denominations, other Christian leaders claim that this movement practices fraud and extortion in the way it raises money from its members, and that it has a heavy dose of exorcism, magical formulas (curanderismo) and Afro-Brazilian religious practices, mainly based on Umbanda, one of the dominant religions in Brazil. This movement spread to Paraguay in 1985, and by 1990 had added work in Argentina, Portugal and the USA.

Hq: Lavalle 940, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4393-9931

## **BUDDHISM**

**Association Zen Internationale-AZI  
(Zen Dojo Esquel, Asociación Internacional Zen)**

The Association is an outpost of the international association of Zen centers founded in Paris, France, by the late Tai-sen Deshimaru-Roshi (1914-1982). There are at least 5 AZI centers in Argentina.

Hq: Auda Fontana 487, 9200 Esquel, Chubut  
Teacher: Carlos Diego Brand  
Tel: (54) 945-2762

Or

International Hq: Association Zen Internationale, 175 rue de Tolbiac, 75013 Paris, France  
Internet: [www.azi.org](http://www.azi.org)

**Zen Center of Latin America  
(Centro Zen de América Latina)**

This is one of 16 Zen Buddhist centers in Argentina, 11 of which are affiliated with the Japanese Soto Zen School of Taisen Deshimaru lineage. The Zen Center of Latin America is related to the European Zen Center.

Hq: Medrano 269, Buenos Aires  
Teacher: Kosen Thibaut  
Tel: (541) 963-0186  
Fax: (541) 983-0186  
E-mail: [schium@datamarkets.com.ar](mailto:schium@datamarkets.com.ar)  
Internet: [www.njnet.or.jp](http://www.njnet.or.jp)

**Honpa-Honganji Temple of Buenos Aires  
(Templo Honpa-Honganji de Buenos Aires)**

In Japan, the Honpa Hongwanji is the largest of the Buddhist groups, as well as in the USA where it is known as the Buddhist Churches of America. This tradition is known as Pure Land or Shin Buddhism.

Hq: Sarandi 951, 1222 Buenos Aires  
Teacher: Carlos Taniguchi  
Tel: (11) 4941-0262  
Fax: (11) 4308-4550

**Shrine of Straw  
(Ermita de Paja)**

Affiliated with the Japanese Soto Zen School of Tangen Daisetsu lineage and related to Bukkoju-ji in Japan.

Hq: Honduras 5765, 1414 Buenos Aires  
Teacher: Jorge Bustamante  
Tel: (54-11) 4771-7366  
E-mail: [info@zazen.com.ar](mailto:info@zazen.com.ar)  
Internet: [www.zazen.co.ar](http://www.zazen.co.ar)

**Garden of Mahayana Buddhism  
(Jardín del Budismo Mahayana/Kagyü Tekchen Chöling)**

Founded in Buenos Aires in 1992 as part of the Vajrayana (Karma Kagyu Lineage) Tibetan Buddhist tradition, associated with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Argentine lamas have helped to develop similar Buddhist centers in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Peru.

Hq: Nuñez 2751, 1429 Buenos Aires

Lamas: Sangye Dorye and Rinchen Kandro  
Tel: (54-11) 4702-9723  
E-mail: [lama\\_sangye@hotmail.com](mailto:lama_sangye@hotmail.com)  
Internet: [www.kagyuarjentina.org](http://www.kagyuarjentina.org) and [www.diamondway-buddhism.org](http://www.diamondway-buddhism.org)

**Magazine of Buddhist Studies  
(Revista de Estudios Budistas)**

Hq: Casilla 1819 Correo Central, 1000 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-1) 782-6939

**Shobo An Zendo**

Hq: Avenida San Martín 620, La Quebrada, 5111 Córdoba  
Tel: (54) 543-52717  
Fax: (54) 543-52717  
E-mail: [tanraku@rocketmail.com](mailto:tanraku@rocketmail.com)  
Internet: [www.buddhanet.net](http://www.buddhanet.net)

**Soka Gakkai International in Argentina  
(Soka Gakkai Internacional de la Argentina)**

A Nichiren Buddhist movement founded in Japan in 1930 and dedicated to Friendship, Peace, Culture and Education. Soka Gakkai International is composed of 76 worldwide constituent organizations with headquarters in Japan. Soka means "value creation" and Gakkai means "society" or "the society for the creation of values."

Hq: Auditorio de la Paz - Donado 2150, Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Telefono: (54-11) 4545-6000  
Fax: (54-11) 4545-0063  
Or  
Int'l hq: 32 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo 160-8583, Japan  
Tel: (03) 3353-7111  
Internet: [www.en.sokagakkai.or.jp](http://www.en.sokagakkai.or.jp)

## **JAPANESE RELIGIONS**

**Church of Perfect Liberty-Kyodan  
(Iglesia de la Libertad Perfecta-Kyodan)**

A totally independent international religion founded in Japan, with roots in the 1800s. It claims to be unrelated to any other religion, such as Christianity, Shintoism or Buddhism. Its basic slogan is "Life is Art" (freedom of mind or personal freedom: self-realization). In South America, missions have been established in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Peru.

Hq: Buenos Aires Central Church of Perfect Liberty-Kyodan, H. Yrigoyen 2532-38, 1090 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-1) 951-4873  
Or

International Hq: Church of Perfect Liberty, 2172-1 Shindou, Tondabayashi, Osaka 584-8651, Japan  
E-mail: [pl-info@perfect-liberty.or.jp](mailto:pl-info@perfect-liberty.or.jp)  
Internet: [web.perfect-liberty.or.jp/sadir.html](http://web.perfect-liberty.or.jp/sadir.html)

**The Church of World Messianity (Sekai Kyusei Kyo or Johrei Fellowship)  
(Iglesia Mesianica Mundial)**

This Shinto sect was founded by Mokichi Okada (1882-1955) in Japan as Kai Nihon Kannon Kai (Japan Kannon Society) in 1934, based on his spiritual revelations that led him to see himself as a channel for the light of God (Johrei) for the purification of the spiritual body. He believed that such purification would lead to the elimination of "spiritual clouds," resulting in health, prosperity and peace, which would ultimately create an ideal world, a paradise on earth. After a series of name changes, the movement assumed its present name, Sekai Kyusei Kyo, in 1957, two years after the founder's death. He was succeeded by his wife Yoshi who served as Spiritual Leader until her death in 1962; their daughter Itsuki Fujieda has served as Spiritual Leader until the present. Since the end of World War II, the movement has spread to more than 40 countries, including the USA, Korea, Thailand, Brazil and Argentina.

Hq: Avenida F. Lacroze 2025, Buenos Aires

Tel: 4771-5512

Or

USA Hq: Church of World Messianity (or Johrei Fellowship), 960 S. Kenmore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006.

## HINDUISM

**Ananda Marga ("Way of Perfect Happiness")  
(Ananda Marga = "Senda de la Felicidad Perfecta")**

Founded in India in 1955 by Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar, known by his followers as "Baba" (God), this Hindu movement is based on the teachings of the tantra and yoga. Although this movement is presented in the West as spiritual and peaceful, its history in India is filled with political intrigue and murder. In the 1970s its leaders organized several rebellions against the government, and they were accused of several political assassinations. The government prohibited the movement in 1970 and jailed its maximum leader, and in 1975 more than 1,500 members of Ananda Marga were arrested. In 1976, a group of the movement's sympathizers committed mass suicide in a public square as a form of protest against the government for jailing their prophet. In the late 1970s or early 1980s, members of the movement arrived in Buenos Aires and in several inland cities, but the groups are small and non-growing.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)  
(Sociedad Internacional para la Conciencia Krishna)**

The Society was founded by Indian Vaishnava teacher A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada in 1965 in New York: The international Governing Body Commission is now headquartered in Alachua, Florida. ISKCON, popularly known as Hari Krishna, has an extensive presence in Argentina with centers across the country, including six rural farm communities in Buenos Aires, Rosario, Córdoba and Mendoza provinces.

Hq: Centro Bhaktivedanta, Andonaegui 2054, 1431 Buenos Aires

Tel: (541) 521-5567 or 523-4232

Fax: (541) 523-4504

E-mail: [daityesa@sminter.com.ar](mailto:daityesa@sminter.com.ar)

Or

USA hq: ISKCON Governing Body Commission, c/o GBC Journal, P. O. Box 1119, Alachua, FL 32616  
Tel: (904) 331-7257

Internet: [www.harekrishna.com](http://www.harekrishna.com) and [www.webcom.com/ara/spanish/centros/latino.html](http://www.webcom.com/ara/spanish/centros/latino.html)

Or

Int'l hq: Secretary, Governing Body Commission, P. O. Box 16146, Circus Avenue Office, Calcutta  
70017, India

### **Krishnamurti Foundation (Fundación Krishnamurti)**

The foundation exists to protect and disseminate the teachings of Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986), a spiritual teacher who emerged into prominence early in the twentieth century, and carried on a unique independent teaching ministry until his death in 1986.

Hq: Casilla de Correo 3621, Correo Central, 1000 Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 448-9120

E-mail: [director@kargentina.cjb.net](mailto:director@kargentina.cjb.net)

Internet: [www.krishnamurti.com.ar/main.htm](http://www.krishnamurti.com.ar/main.htm)

Or

Int'l hq: Krishnamurti Foundation of India, Vasnata Vihar, 64-65 Greensway Road, Madras  
600 028, India

### **Vendanta Society (Sociedad Vendanta)**

The Vendanta Society grew out of the vision of Sri Ramakrishna (1836-1886) and the work of his prime disciple, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), who founded the Ramakrishna Order in Hawrah, West Bengal, India. [Note: article #1924 of EAR, as well as the web page below, lists a mission in Argentina]

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

Or

Int'l Hq: Ramakrishna Order, Mangaladevi Road, Mangalore 575001, India

Tel: (0824) 423-412

Fax: (0824) 420-097

E-mail: [office@ramakrishnamath-mlore.org](mailto:office@ramakrishnamath-mlore.org)

Internet: [ramakrishnamath-mlore.org](http://ramakrishnamath-mlore.org)

### **Vaisnava Mission (Misión Vaisnava)**

Hq: c/o Radha Govinda Das A., Av. Rivadavia 7116, Barrio Flores, Buenos Aires.

Tel: 611-2379

## SIKHISM-SANT MAT

### **Master Ching Hai Meditation Association (Asociación Meditación de Master Ching Hai)**

The Association is build around the teachings of Master Ching Hai Wu Shang Shih, a teacher of Shabd Yoga of the second current, who has placed her teachings in a multi-religious context. She was born in Vietnam of Roman Catholic parents, but lived for many years in Europe after age 18. Later, she went on a quest for spiritual enlightenment that led her to northern India, where she was initiated into the teachings of masters of the Radha Soami tradition. She moved Taiwan in the early 1980s and taught the Quan Yin Method of Yoga. During the 1990s, her movement spread worldwide (over 100 centers) with followers in South Africa, Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and El Salvador), Europe and the Asian-Pacific Rim, from Japan and Korea to Australia and New Zealand.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

Or

Int'l hq: Post Office Box 9, Hsi Hu, Miao Li Hsien, Taiwan, R.O.C.

### **Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission-Science of Spirituality**

The Mission claims to continue the work of the Ruhani Satsang movement that was originally founded in 1951 by Kirpal Singh but split into three groups after Kirpal Singh's death. It recognized the succession of Darshan Singh (1921-1990), Kirpal Singh's son, and Rajinder Singh, the present head of the Mission.

Hq: c/o of Luis & Diane Majluf, Alfredo Palacios N1063, 3364 San Vicente Misiones

Tel: (54) 0755-60121.

Or

Int'l hq: Kirpal Ashram, 2 Canal Rd., Vijay Magar, Delhi, India 110009

Internet: [www.sos.org](http://www.sos.org)

## JUDAISM

While the first Jews in Argentina were Maranos who arrived in the sixteenth century, the present community derives from immigration into Argentina that began in the mid-19th century from Germany, the Balkans, and North Africa. Today, the great majority of Jews (estimated at between 220,000 and 300,000) reside in Buenos Aires. The minority of Sephardic Jews have separate communal structures and synagogues. Of the 100 synagogues in Argentina, 80 are Orthodox. There is one Reform congregation and several Conservative congregations.

### **Delegation of Israelite Associations of Argentina (a representative organization of Argentine Jews) (Delegación de Asociaciones Israekllitas de Argentina, DAIA)**

Hq: Pasteur 633, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Buenos Aires

Tel.

### **Editorial Kehat Lubavitch Sudamericana**

Hq: Agüero 1092, 1171 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (011) 4963-7171  
Internet: [www.kehot-lubavitch.com.ar](http://www.kehot-lubavitch.com.ar)

**Israelite Congregation of the Argentine Republic  
(Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina)**

Hq: Libertad 785, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4371-8929

**Israelite Union of Benevolence and Worship  
(Unión Israelita de Beneficencia y Culto)**

Hq: J.A. García 2250, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4582-4825

**Jabad Lubavitch Argentina (Hasidic Judaism)**

Hq: Agüero 1164, 1425 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (011) 4963-1221  
Internet: [www.jabad.org.ar](http://www.jabad.org.ar)

**Kabbalah Learning Centre**

The Kabbalah Learning Centre was founded in 1922 by Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag (1886-1955) who attempted to open the study of the Jewish mystical system to a larger lay audience.

Hq: Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-1) 381-0025

Or

International Hq: 25 Burgrashov St., Tel Aviv 63342, Israel  
Internet: [www.kabbalah.com](http://www.kabbalah.com)

**Latin American Rabbinical Seminary [Conservative]  
(Seminario Rabiniano de América Latina)**

Hq: José Hernández 1750, Buenos Aires

**Neve Schalo Synagogue and School  
(Sinagoga Neve Shalo y Escuela)**

Hq: Gándara 342, PB, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4522-8417

**Sephardic Israelite Association  
(Asociación Israelita Sefaradi)**

Hq: Olleros 2884, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4552-6730

## ISLAM

### **Islamic Organization for Latin America (OIPAL) (Organización Islámica Para América Latina, OIPAL)**

Hq: Av. Belgrano 258-Piso 7, Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-1) 331-7243/7447  
Fax: (54-1) 331-7442  
E-Mail: [info@islamerica.org.ar](mailto:info@islamerica.org.ar)  
Internet: [www.islamerica.org.ar](http://www.islamerica.org.ar)

### **Office of Islamic Culture and Difusion (OIPAL) (Oficina de Cultura y Difusion Islámica, OIPAL)**

Hq: Av. Belgrano 258 7º Piso, 1092 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (54-11) 4331-7243/7447  
Fax: (54-11) 4331-7242  
Internet: [www.islamerica.org.ar](http://www.islamerica.org.ar)  
E-Mail: [info@islamerica.org.ar](mailto:info@islamerica.org.ar)

### **Arab Islamic Association of Argentina (Asociación Árabe Argentina Islámica)**

Hq: Bogotá 3449, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4611-2087  
Internet: [www.proinet.com.ar/aaai](http://www.proinet.com.ar/aaai) and [www.geocities.com/athens/ithaca/3705/digis.htm](http://www.geocities.com/athens/ithaca/3705/digis.htm)  
Spain: [www.islam-shia.org](http://www.islam-shia.org)

## **Islamic and Islamic Inspired Organizations**

### **Ahmadia Association of Islam (Asociación Ahmadiya del Islam)**

The Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam was founded in 1889 by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. It differs from Orthodox Islam in that the members believe Ahmad to be the Messiah promised by Islam and other faiths.

Hq: Pte Mitre 96, Manzana 6, 1430 Buenos Aires  
Or  
Int'l Hq: Rabwah, Pakistan  
Internet: [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org)

**At-Tauhid Mosque  
(Mezquita At-Tauhid)**

Hq: San Nicolás 674, 1407 Buenos Aires  
Tel /Fax: 4672-7440  
E-mail : [islam@sinectis.com.ar](mailto:islam@sinectis.com.ar)

**Al-Ahmad Mosque  
(Mezquita Al-Ahmad)**

Hq: Alberti 1541, Buenos Aires

**House for the Diffusion of Islam  
(Casa para la Difusión del Islam)**

Tel: 4488-3787

**Islamic Group of Social Assistance  
(Agrupación Islámica de Ayuda Social-AIAS)**

Hq: San Nicolás 674, 1407 Buenos Aires  
Tel/Fax: 4672-7440

**Schools of the Fourth Way  
(Escuelas del Cuarto Camino)**

A movement founded by esoteric master Georgei Gurdjieff (born in the 1870s near the Turkish-Armenian border, and died in 1949), who founded the Institute for the Harmonious Development of Man in Paris in 1922. His Russian disciple Pyotr Demainovitch Ouspensky taught that man's only hope is to study the teachings of Gurdjieff (based on the Masters of Turkish Sufism), become his disciples, and progress in discipleship until reaching the Seventh Level of knowledge, the highest level of mankind. Gurdjieff developed a series of dance-like exercises (Gurdjieff movements) and a teacher-student relationship that became known as "The Fourth Way," which was symbolized by an enneagram, a nine-pointed design in a circle. In Argentina, followers of this movement established the Nagual Foundation (master Mehir) and the School of Yoga Foundation (master Juan Percowich) in Buenos Aires.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

Or

USA hq: Gurdjieff Foundation, 85 St. Elmo Way, San Francisco, CA 94127

**Subud Argentina**

In his writings, Georgei Gurdjieff alluded to a Prophet of Consciousness as a person yet to come. Some felt that Bapak Subuh, an Indonesian teacher, fit the description and sponsored his travel to the West. Integral to his teachings was the practice of *latihan*, surrendering to the power of God.

Hq: c/o Chair: Andrés Paglayan, Bogado 4446, 1083 Capital Federal  
Tel: (54-1) 862-8552

Fax: (54-1) 472-076

Or

Int'l hq: International Subud Committee, c/o A. A. Gde Munin Jaya, Jalan Tegal Harum #1, Denpasar  
80237, Bali-Indonesia

Tel: (62) 361-461-381

Fax: (62) 361-463-667

Internet: [www.subud.org](http://www.subud.org)

## **ANIMIST**

According to the Office of Religious Affairs of the Argentine government, there are hundreds of Afro-Brazilian spiritist groups (mainly practitioners of Umbanda and Candomblé) in Argentina, principally among Brazilian immigrants, but many of these groups are now attended by native Argentines. The first Umbanda temple was registered in Argentina in 1961, and this syncretic religion (a mixture of African, Indian and Catholic beliefs) has grown mainly among the lower classes. Also, Native American Indian religions (Animistic) are still practiced among some of the remaining indigenous peoples. Two representative groups of organized Animist believers are listed below:

### **Center of African Religion Ile Afonxa Xango and Oxun Leusa (Centro de Religión Africana Ile Afonxa Xango e Oxun Leusa)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

### **Temple of African Religion Xango Aganyu (Templo de Religión Africana Xango Aganyu)**

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

## **ANCIENT WISDOM-METAPHYSICAL-NEW AGE**

### **Anthroposophical Society in Argentina (Sociedad Antroposófica en la Argentina)**

The Anthroposophical Society began in 1912 when Rudolf Steiner, the head of the German Section of the Theosophical Society, led a revolt that resulted in most of the Section reorganizing under his leadership. The Society adheres to the voluminous teachings of Steiner, one of the most learned and impressive of modern occult teachers.

Hq: c/o Dr. J. Wolfram Schneider, Crisologo Larralde 22224, 1429 Buenos Aires

Tel: (54) 1 702-9872

Or

Int'l hq: Goetheanum, Postfach 98, CH-4143 Dornach, Switzerland

**Basilio Scientific School Association, Disciples of Jesus  
(Asociación Escuela Científica Basilio, Discípulos de Jesús)**

Founded in Argentina in 1917 by Blanca Aubreton, who was a disciple of Allan Kardec and French Spiritualism.

Hq: Bolivar 1525, Buenos Aires  
Tel: 4307-7989

**Church of Scientology International  
(Iglesia Internacional de Cientología o Dianética)**

The Church of Scientology, founded in 1954 by L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986), grew out of the foundation of Dianetics, a mental improvement process that Hubbard developed in the 1940s.

Hq: 1769 Santa Fe Avenida, Buenos Aires  
Or  
Int'l hq: 6331 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90028-6329 (USA)  
Tel: (213) 960-3500  
Fax: (213) 960-3508  
Internet: [www.scientology.org](http://www.scientology.org)

**Grand Universal Fraternity, Mission of Acuaris  
(Gran Fraternidad Universal, Misión de los Acuaris - known as GFU)**

Founded in 1948 by Frenchman Serge Justinien Raynaud ("de la Ferrière" was added later so that his name would sound more noble, according to his widow) in El Limón, Maracay, State of Aragua, Venezuela. The Grand Master of the GFU claimed to have an earned doctorate in philosophy from the Free University of Bruxelles (FUB), but his widow claims that he was never a student there and has no university degree, and officials of the FUB agreed with her. However, Raynaud (1916-1962) was a very literate man and authored many books on religion and philosophy, which were published by his own organization. He also claimed that the GFU was recognized by UNESCO, which also proved to be false. Many current and former members of the GFU have denounced Raynaud and his successor, Juan Víctor Mejías, for committing irregularities within the secret society, which is an authoritarian organization ruled by the Grand Master.

Hq: Consejo Ejecutivo de la GFU de Argentina, Av. Corrientes 1785, Piso 5 Dpto "I", 1042,  
Buenos Aires  
Tel.: (011) 4371-9023  
E-mail: [horaciope@datamarkets.com.ar](mailto:horaciope@datamarkets.com.ar)  
Or  
Int'l hq: Consejo Supremo de la GFU, Apartado 3987, Caracas, 1010-A, Venezuela  
Tel.: (2) 860-0280  
Fax: (2) 863-0906  
E-mail: [csgfu1@cantv.net](mailto:csgfu1@cantv.net)  
Internet: [www.gfufundacion.org](http://www.gfufundacion.org)

**Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity  
(Asociación del Espíritu Santo para la Unificación Mundial del Cristianismo)**

**Also known as:**

**Federation of Families for Peace and World Unification  
(Federación de Familias para la Paz y la Unificación Mundial)**

Founded in Korea in 1954 by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who claims that he is the promised Messiah of the New Testament. The movement is currently headquartered in New York, but the Unification Church has made large investments in neighboring Uruguay (a bank, two hotels, a newspaper and a printing company, among others) and, according to newspaper reports, has substantial influence in Argentina where groups of followers have been organized also.

Hq: Rincón 342, PB, Buenos Aires

Tel: 4952-2841

Or

Int'l hq: 4 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York City, New York 10036

Tel: (212) 997-0050

E-mail: [hsaintl@aol.com](mailto:hsaintl@aol.com)

Internet: [www.unification.org](http://www.unification.org)

**Flying Saucer Groups  
(Grupos de Platos Volantes)**

During the last few decades, Argentina has witnessed the appearance of dozens of Flying Saucer Groups, some quite small and others larger and well-organized, based on the phenomena of Ufology around the world. There are several special locations where these groups congregate in search of UFOs and extraterrestrial contacts: the hill of Uritorco in Córdoba province; the La Aurora estancia (ranch) in Salto, Uruguay; and the city of Victoria in Entre Ríos province. The most influential UFO groups in Argentina are: the Foundation for Cosmobiophysical Investigations (FICI), led by Pedro Romaniuk; the Alfa group, led by Francisco Checchi; the Foundation for Cosmic Encounter (FUPEC), led by Dante Franch; the Ashtar group; the Cosmic Fraternity, led by Eugenio Siragusa; and the Rama Mission of Sixto Paz Wells.

Hq: Addresses unavailable for this edition.

**New Acropolis Cultural Foundation  
(Fundación Cultural Nueva Acrópolis)**

Founded in 1957 in Buenos Aires by Jorge Angel Livraga Rizzi and his wife, Ada Albrecht, this organization is now in more than 40 countries, with international headquarters in Buenos Aires. Its ideology is a mixture of esoteric thought, theosophy, oriental philosophy, alchemy, astrology and Greek philosophy. However, it claims to be a humanist organization, independent of political and religious ties.

Hq: Amenabar 863, 1426 Buenos Aires

Tel: 54-1-784-7476

Fax: 54-1-784-7476

Internet: [www.acropolis.org](http://www.acropolis.org)

**Panamerican Spiritist Confederation  
(Confederación Espiritista Panamericana, CEPA)**

A Spiritualist organization in the Brazilian tradition of Allan Kardec, founded in Buenos Aires in 1946, which represents the organized Spiritist movement in the Americas. CEPA is a federation of Spiritist organizations in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico,

Puerto Rico, the USA and Venezuela. The countries with the largest group of member organizations are Argentina and Brazil. There are at least 20 affiliated Spiritist (Kardec) groups in Argentina.

Hq: Confederación Espiritista Panamericana, Sánchez de Bustamante, 463, 1173 Buenos Aires  
Tel: 862-6314  
Internet: [www.solsoft.com.ar/cepa/](http://www.solsoft.com.ar/cepa/)

### **Raelian Religion (Movimiento Raeliano de la Argentina)**

Founded in France in 1973 by Rael (real name unknown) who claimed that he had been contacted by an extraterrestrial being (called Yahvé Elohim) who dictated a series of messages for mankind and requested that an embassy be built in Jerusalem, where he would officially appear and bring with him prophets from other major religions. The Raelian Movement claims to have about 50,000 members in 85 countries.

Hq: Avenida J.C. Lamon 27, 6620 Chivilcoy, Provincia de Buenos Aires  
Or  
Int'l hq: P.O. Box 225, CH-1211, Geneva 8, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-79) 212-5005  
Fax: (41-22) 343-0656  
E-mail: [int.hq@rael.ch](mailto:int.hq@rael.ch)  
Internet: [www.rael.org](http://www.rael.org)

### **Siloism (Siloismo)**

Founded by Mario Rodriguez Cobo, also known as "Silo," this movement began in the 1960s and has used various names: Youth Power (Poder Joven), The Community (La Comunidad), Humanistic Party (Partido Humanista), Green Party (Partido Verde), and since 1988 as The Movement (El Movimiento). The basic philosophy of Siloism consists of "practicing various techniques of self-liberation" that allow people to be "reconciled with the past, present and future." To accomplish this seekers must accomplish "guided experiences" led by an instructor, which consist of exercises of meditation in search of liberation and reconciliation, one of which leads to the discovery of an "inner guide" that helps the seeker find "wisdom, goodwill and strength." Silo currently lives in the province of Mendoza.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

### **Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) (Tradición, Familia y Propiedad, TFP)**

A fanatical Catholic group, founded in the 1920s in Brazil by Plinio Correa de Oliveira, to promote the prophecies of the Virgin of Fátima in Portugal and to "personalize the name of Holy Mary Mother of God" among Catholics in Latin America. However, the movement was condemned by the Catholic bishops of Brazil because its principal activity during the 1960s-1980s was to fight against the spread of Marxism and against the teachings of the II Vatican Council, as well as against the documents approved at meetings of the Latin American Bishops Conference (called CELAM) in Medellín (Colombia) and Puebla (Mexico). The TFP movement also strongly defended the right-wing dictatorships in South America for holding the line against Communism, and it was accused of participating in secret activities that led to the disappearance of several Marxists and their sympathizers in Venezuela and other countries in the 1980s. This esoteric secret society has existed in Argentina since the 1960s, when it was founded by Cosme Beccar Varela, who was expelled from Argentina in 1991 because of a scandal regarding his humiliating treatment of group members.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

**True Spiritist Society  
(Sociedad "Espiritismo Verdadero")**

Hq: Guemes 257, 2300 Rafaela, Santa Fe  
Tel: (0492) 25-190  
E-mail: [sev@solsoft.co.ar](mailto:sev@solsoft.co.ar)  
Internet: [www.solsoft.com.ar/sev/index.html](http://www.solsoft.com.ar/sev/index.html)

**Theosophical Society  
(Sociedad Teosofista)**

The society is a branch of the international Theosophical Society with headquarters in Adyar, Madras (India). The Society, a fountainhead of occult groups in the West, was founded in New York in 1875 by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Col. Henry Steel Olcott, and William Quan Judge. The international headquarters was moved to India in the 1880s, and was eventually established in Adyar, Madras, in 1882.

Hq: c/o Mr. Jorge Cesano, Rivadavia 533, 2200 San Lorenzo, Santa Fe  
Or  
International hq: Adyar, Madras, India 600 020  
Internet: [www.theosophical.org](http://www.theosophical.org)

**Universal Christian Gnostic Movement  
(Movimiento Cristiano Gnóstico Universal)**

A movement founded in Mexico by Colombian-born Samuel Aun Weor in 1952, based on Theosophical and modernized Gnostic teachings, which include a lengthy period of discipleship (four years), learning "secret knowledge" from the ancients, and practicing "sexual yoga" or "sexual alchemy" based on Hindu tantric and Chinese Taoist sources. Weor, called the Grand Gnostic Master and Avatar of the Age of Acuario, taught that "the redemption of humanity is in the transmutation of the sexual energies." He published a series of books, including *The Perfect Matrimony* (1961), and lectured throughout Latin America and the USA. The movement spread to the USA within Spanish-speaking communities, and in 1970 centers were opened in Los Angeles and New York. USA headquarters are now in Los Angeles, where the movement is called the Gnostic Association of Cultural and Anthropological Studies. In 1988, the association reported more than 15,000 members in the USA and Canada, with affiliated groups in 25 countries worldwide, including Argentina. However, the Samuel Aun Weor Foundation in Brazil claims to be the world headquarters of the movement.

Hq: Argentine address unavailable for this edition.  
Or  
Int'l hq: Fundación Samuel Aun Weor, Rua Visconde do Rio Branco 888, Curitiba, PR,  
Brazil 80410-001  
Tel: (55-41) 323-1882 and 372-6746  
E-mail: [fundasaw@fundasaw.org.br](mailto:fundasaw@fundasaw.org.br)  
Internet: [www.fundasaw.org.br](http://www.fundasaw.org.br)

**Universal Superior Alignment, known as LUS  
(Lineamiento Universal Superior, LUS)**

In 1984, Brazilian Valentina de Andrade founded her first group of disciples in La Plata, Argentina, based on her testimony of having received messages from extraterrestrial beings that gave her, and only her, "universal knowledge." Later, she wrote a book, called **God, the Great Farse**, that describes her beliefs and states that all children born after 1981 are "creatures of evil" that carry the mark of the Beast. In 1992, one of her followers was accused of the ritual murder of a seven-year-old child in Brazil, but the accusations were not proven and members of the group still have freedom of movement in Argentina and Brazil. Headquarters of LUS are at a farm near Buenos Aires, but the size of the group has apparently declined in recent years.

Hq: Address unavailable for this edition.

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