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**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:
RELIGION IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

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Religion in the Cayman Islands

Country Summary

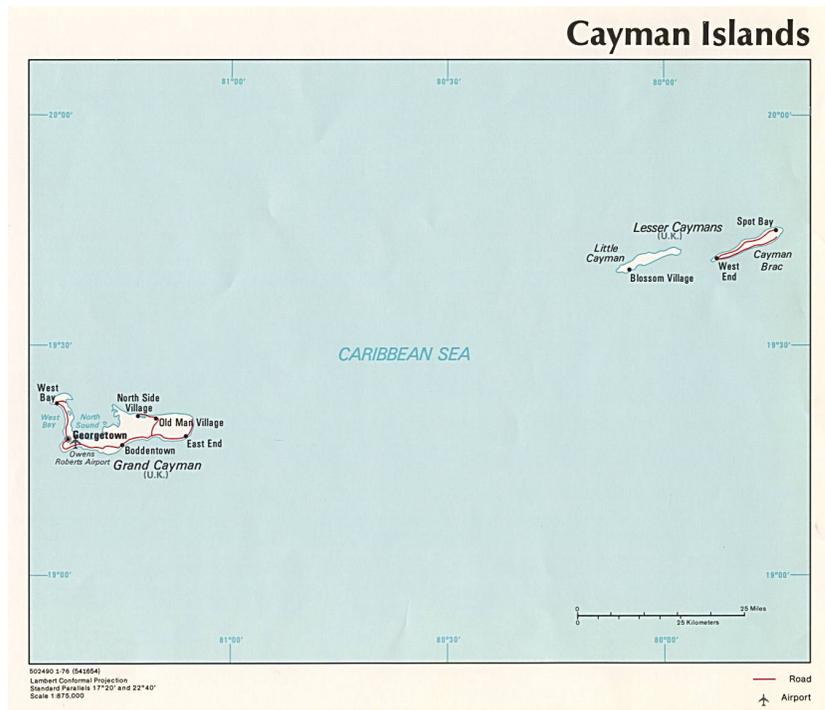
The three islands that constitute the present-day Cayman Islands (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman) are located in the Caribbean Sea, 240 km (150 miles) south of Cuba and 268 km (180 miles) northwest of Jamaica. The total area of the three islands is about 100 square miles. The capital of the Cayman Islands is George Town (pop. 23,000), which is located on the southwest coast of Grand Cayman. George Town, as well as the rest of Grand Cayman, is served by nearby Owen Roberts International Airport. Cayman Brac is served by Gerrard Smith International Airport and Little Cayman is served by Edward Bodden Airfield.

The population of the Cayman Islands was 49,035 (July 2009), with most people living on Grand Cayman. The racial composition was Black, 20 percent; White 20 percent, mixed 40 percent, expatriates of various ethnic groups and nationalities 20 percent. Languages spoken are English (about 95 percent of the population), Spanish 3.2 percent, and others 1.8 percent. The official language of the Cayman Islands is English, although the Caymanians accents retain elements passed down from English, Scottish and Welsh settlers. Cayman Islanders of Jamaican origin speak in their own vernacular, called Jamaican Creole.

Grand Cayman (76 sq miles) is approximately 22 miles long and 8 miles at the widest point wide. The highest elevation is about 60 feet above sea level and the most striking topographical feature is the North Sound, a shallow reef protected lagoon with an area of about 35 square miles.

Cayman Brac lies (14 sq miles) about 90 miles east northeast of Grand Cayman. It is about 12 miles long and a little over a mile wide. The Bluff is the island's most outstanding feature, rising along the length of the island and reaching a height of 140 feet at the eastern end then falling in a shear cliff to the sea.

Little Cayman (10 sq miles) is five miles west of Cayman Brac and is ten miles long and two miles at its widest point. It is the flattest of the three islands with its highest elevation being 40 feet. To the west, a seven mile channel separates Cayman Brac from Little Cayman.



The Cayman Islands were colonized from Jamaica by the British during the 18th and 19th centuries and were administered by Jamaica after 1863. In 1959, the islands became a territory within the British Federation of the West Indies. When the Federation dissolved in 1962, the Cayman Islands chose to remain a British dependency.

Current Religious Situation

Most of the population of the Cayman Islands is affiliated with Christian churches representing various denominations. According to the 1999 Census, the religious affiliation was as follows: Church of God (several denominations), 26 percent; United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (Presbyterian and Congregational), 11.8 percent; Roman Catholic, 11 percent; Baptist, 8.7 percent; Seventh-Day Adventist, 8.2 percent; Anglican, 5.7 percent; Pentecostal, 5.3 percent; other Christian denominations, 2.7 percent; non-denominational, 5.8 percent; other religions, 3.8 percent; none, 9.8 percent; and unspecified, 1.1 percent. The estimated size of the Protestant population is 68.4 percent (includes Church of God, United Church, Baptist, Adventist, Anglican, Pentecostal and other Christian denominations and independent churches).

Historical Overview of Social, Political and Religious Development

The Cayman Islands were uninhabited prior to their sighting by Christopher Columbus in May 1503 on his fourth and final voyage to the New World. He named the islands *Las Tortugas* after the numerous sea turtles he discovered there. The first recorded English visitor to the islands was Sir Francis Drake, who landed in 1586 and named them the Cayman Islands after the Amerindian term for the alligator, caiman.

The Cayman Islands remained largely uninhabited until the 17th century. A variety of people settled on the islands, including pirates, refugees from the Spanish Inquisition, shipwrecked sailors, deserters from Oliver Cromwell's army in Jamaica, and African slaves. The majority of Caymanians are of African and English descent, with considerable interracial mixing.

Privateering officially came to an end with the Treaty of Utrecht (1713-1714). As a result of this treaty, France and Spain ceased hostilities towards other European countries, including Britain, and the islands are then reported to have become hideouts for these out-of-work pirates. With the islands now safe from attack, settlers returned and records show permanent settlers in 1734 when land was granted to several families. The descendants of some of those settlers reside here still.

Though Spain formally ceded the islands to the British (along with Jamaica) in 1670 by the Treaty of Madrid, it was not until 1833 that a settlement on Grand Cayman was established by Jamaicans. The land remained a Jamaican dependency until 1959, when it became a British dependent territory. It retains its relationship to the United Kingdom despite some local efforts to attain full independence.

From the earliest days of settlement economic activity was hindered by isolation and a limited natural resource base of the Cayman Islands. The harvesting of sea turtles to resupply passing sailing ships was the first major economic activity on the islands, but local stocks were depleted by the 1790s. Agriculture, while sufficient to support the small, early settler population has always been limited by the scarcity of available land. Fishing, shipbuilding and cotton production

boosted the economy during the early days of settlement. In addition, the settlers scavenged shipwreck remains from the surrounding coral reefs.

There are records of a census taken in the islands in 1802 showing 933 persons of which 545 were slaves and slavery was a part of life until 1833 when the British Parliament passed a law freeing slaves in British colonies after a five to seven year apprenticeship. In 1835, the Emancipation of slavery meant an outright end of slavery except for registered slaves under the apprenticeship scheme. No Cayman Islander slaves were actually registered because the nearest registration office was in Jamaica, and this caused slave owners to petition the British government for compensation.

In 1832, the first representative government system was formed in the Cayman Islands with the introduction of the Legislative Assembly. It consisted of eight Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The islands were formally annexed to Jamaica in 1863 and this later led to improved mail service to the islands via Jamaica via the many schooners that now travelled between the two islands. Jamaica finally appointed a Commissioner in the Cayman Islands to oversee the affairs of the country because it was becoming difficult to do from Jamaica. Under these first Commissioners the islands began to develop, with schools, a bank, a small hospital, and a public works program that began road construction and built an office for the Commissioner.

Long known for their mastering of the seas as fishermen and turtlers, in the early 1900's many Caymanian men took to the seas as sailors aboard merchant ships that sailed the Caribbean, to North America and Central America. The tradition continued until well into the 20th century and Cayman sailors sailed to many countries including Japan, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Many of these seamen became captains and chief engineers on ships, but the tradition has dwindled and the present generation stays closer to home.

Probably the most memorable event in the history of the Cayman Islands was the devastating hurricane of 1932. It hit Grand Cayman on 7 November with winds estimated at 150 mph and a storm surge of about 30 feet, then passed over Cayman Brac a day later with winds of 200 mph and a storm surge of 32 feet. The islands were completely devastated and Cayman Brac was hit the hardest with 69 lives lost compared to only one lost on Grand Cayman. Many homes were washed out to sea and most lives were lost due to drowning. Some people escaped death by climbing trees to escape the water and stories abound of heroic rescues. It took many years for the islands to recover and many of the older residents can still remember vividly the horrific events of that storm.

In 1959, the Cayman Islands got their first constitution and it provided for 12 elected members, along with two or three nominated members and two or three official members. There was also an Executive Council comprised of two elected members, one nominated member, and two official members. The Commissioner was replaced by an Administrator who presided over the Legislature and Executive Council and he would consult with the Executive Council when exercising his powers. He was not bound to take advice from them and could act on his own in the best interest of the country.

In 1962, Jamaica became independent and the Cayman Islands opted to remain under British rule. This meant separating from Jamaica, and the power of the Governor of Jamaica over these islands was transferred to the local Administrator. This title was changed to Governor in 1971, and in 1972 a new constitution was adopted. It provided for a legislature of 12 elected members with no nominated members and three official members appointed by the Governor: the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, and the Attorney General. The Executive Council consisted of four elected members and three official members and each member of the Executive Council had a portfolio of responsibilities.

The Cayman Island Investment Bureau, a government agency, has been established with the mandate of promoting investment and economic development in the territory. The boom in the Cayman Islands' international finance industry can be attributed to the British overseas territory having no direct taxation, which helped create a thriving financial services industry ("offshore banking"), second only to the Bahamas in the Caribbean. More than 68,000 companies were registered in the Cayman Islands as of 2003, including almost 500 banks, 800 insurers, and 5,000 mutual funds. A stock exchange was opened in 1997. The tourism sector accounts for about 70 percent of GDP and 75 percent of foreign currency earnings. The tourist industry targets the luxury market and caters mainly to visitors from North America. Unspoiled beaches, duty-free shopping, scuba diving, and deep-sea fishing draw millions of visitors to the islands each year, many on cruise ships. Total tourist arrivals exceeded 2.1 million in 2003, with about half from the USA. Due to the well-developed tourist industry, many citizens work in service jobs in that sector. About 90 percent of the islands' food and consumer goods must be imported. The Caymanians enjoy one of the highest outputs per capita and one of the highest standards of living in the world.

With its success in the tourism and financial service industries, the Cayman Islands have attracted many international businesses and citizens to relocate. The largest numbers of expatriates living in the Cayman Islands (as of the 1999 Census) were from Jamaica (8,320), the United Kingdom (2,392), the United States of America (2,040), Canada (1,562), and Honduras (873). Approximately 3,300 residents were citizens of various other countries. While the government does not restrict foreign land ownership, it does strongly enforce its immigration laws. Businesses are required to grant access to job openings to Caymanian citizens first; however, if none of them are suitable, the employers may then seek employees from other countries. In order to work in the Cayman Islands, foreigners must have a job offer before immigrating.

Education is compulsory to the age of 16 and is free to all Caymanian children. Most schools follow the British educational system. Ten primary schools, one special education school, a high school and a middle school (junior high school) are operated by the government, along with three private high schools. In addition, there is a law school, a university-college and a medical school.

The Cayman Islands have had many encounters with devastating hurricanes over the past two centuries of recorded history. Although the hurricane season runs from June 1st to November 30th, the months of September, October and November are typically the most active for major storms in the southwestern Caribbean. The recent major hurricanes to directly impact the Cayman Islands were Gilbert in September 1988, Mitch in October 1998, Michelle in November 2001 and, the most devastating of all, Ivan in September 2004.

The island of Grand Cayman, which lies largely unprotected at sea level, was hit by Hurricane Ivan on 11–12 September 2004. The resulting storm surge completely washed over Grand Cayman, and an estimated 95 percent of the buildings on the island were either damaged or destroyed. Electrical power, water and communications were disrupted in some areas for months. Ivan was the worst hurricane to hit the islands in 87 years. Grand Cayman began a major rebuilding process. Within two years, its infrastructure had nearly returned to pre-hurricane levels. Due to the location of the islands, more hurricanes and tropical storm systems have affected the Cayman Islands than any other region in the Caribbean basin. The Cayman Islands have been brushed or directly hit by major storms, on average, every 2.23 years.

The Cayman Islands are a British overseas territory, listed by the UN Special Committee of Twenty-Four as one of the last non-self governing Dependent Territories. A fifteen-seat Legislative Assembly is elected by the people every four years to handle domestic affairs. Of the elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, five are chosen to serve as government Ministers in a Cabinet headed by the Governor. The Cabinet is composed of two official members and five elected members, called Ministers; one of whom is designated Premier, who is the head of government. The official members are the Deputy Governor and the Attorney General. They are appointed by the Governor in accordance with Her Majesty's instructions. Although they have seats in the Legislative Assembly under the 2009 Constitution, they do not vote.

A Governor is appointed by the British Government to represent the monarch. The Governor can exercise complete executive authority if he/she wishes through blanket powers reserved for them in the Constitution. They must give Royal Assent to all legislation, which allows them the power to strike down any law the legislature may see fit for the territory. In modern times, the Governor usually allows the country to be run by the Cabinet and the civil service to be run by the Deputy Governor, who is the Acting Governor when the Governor is not able to discharge his usual duties for one reason or another. The current Governor of the Cayman Islands is Duncan Taylor and the current Deputy Governor is Donovan Ebanks.

The five Ministers are voted into office by the 15 elected members of the Legislative Assembly. One of the Ministers, the leader of the majority political party, is appointed Premier by the Governor. After consulting the Premier, the Governor allocates a portfolio of responsibilities to each Cabinet member. Under the principle of collective responsibility, all ministers are obliged to support in the Assembly any measures approved by Cabinet.

Since 2000, there have been two official major political parties: **United Democratic Party (UDP)** and the **People's Progressive Movement (PPM)**. While there has been a shift to political parties, many candidates who campaign for public office do so as independents.

Almost 80 departments, sections and units carry out the business of government, joined by a number of statutory boards and authorities set up for specific purposes, such as the Port Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Immigration Board, the Water Authority, the University College Board of Governors, the National Pensions Board, and the Health Insurance Commission.

Public security is the responsibility of the United Kingdom. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service provides public security in the country. The Cayman Islands Cadet Corps was formed in

March 2001. Immigrant labor and illegal drugs provided the main political issues. More than three-fourths of all thefts and burglaries committed during the 1990s were attributed to the illegal drug trade.

Christian Denominations

Picturesque little churches cover the Cayman Islands' landscape, and they are as varied as they are numerous. Since the first Christian missionaries arrived in the 1830s, religion has played a vital role in the life of the islands; there are now more than 90 local churches, representing many Protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic Church, and other religions.

The first Protestant missionaries to the Cayman Islands arrived in the 1830's. The first resident clergyman, an **Anglican Church** deacon, used buildings in which the local Anglican residents had been worshipping for some years. However, two hurricanes in 1837 destroyed these structures, and the work of the Anglican Church paused for a century.

The Rev. James Atkins of the **Wesleyan Methodist Church** was commissioned by the British Government in 1837 to carry out a census of the Cayman Islands. He reported that no church buildings existed. Two years later, the first resident Wesleyan Methodist minister arrived, and the first chapel was built at Boatswain's Beach in 1841 on Grand Cayman.

Grand Cayman's oldest church building, **Elmslie Memorial Church**, was built to replace the Anglican structure destroyed by hurricanes. It was named after the first Presbyterian missionary to the Cayman Islands, the Rev. James Elmslie, and is now home to the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands**.

The Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, representing Scottish settlers, began work on Grand Cayman in 1846 and for more than a century dominated the religious life of the islands. The Presbyterian Church of Jamaica, in 1830, decided to send missionaries to preach the Gospel in Africa, but it was not until 1845 that the first missionaries set out for Calabar in Nigeria; however, they did not get beyond the Cayman Islands because their ship was wrecked there on a reef. The Rev. Hope Waddell was one of the ministers on board the ill-fated ship, and when he discovered that there was no organized church on the islands he appealed to the Presbyterian authorities in Jamaica for ministerial help. The Rev. William Niven, a Scottish Presbyterian missionary then serving in Jamaica, also passed through Grand Cayman that year, and from then on passionately prevailed upon the **Church in Scotland** and Jamaica to extend its mission to the Cayman Islands.

In 1846, the Synod meeting at Goshen in St. Mary's Parish decided that someone should be sent to the Cayman Islands. The joint objectives were the development of Christianity and education. The Rev. James Elmslie, pastor of Green Island Church in Jamaica, heard of the plight of the Caymanians and at the age of 50 he volunteered to serve in the Cayman Islands and to establish the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Elmslie, a Scotsman, travelled all over Grand Cayman on horseback, by boat and on foot, planting churches, eventually in all the main settlements of Grand Cayman.

In keeping with its second objective, shortly after it began its ministry in Cayman in 1846, the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica began to champion education, taking steps to provide elementary education throughout Grand Cayman, and to press the government to expand the education services across the country. At its centennial celebrations in Grand Cayman in 1946, the Presbyterian Church decided to begin providing secondary education, offering the internationally recognized Senior Cambridge Examinations. Thus began Cayman High School as it was then called, with its Preparatory Department and also a Commercial Department. This institution, founded in 1949, later became the Cayman Prep and High School. The role of the Presbyterian Church in education is no doubt reflected in the fact that the two government high schools are named in memory of two of the Presbyterian Church's ministers and educators, the Rev. John Gray and the Rev. George Hicks.

In 1965, the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman and the Congregational Union of Jamaica merged to form the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands**. Another merger in 1992 with the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ of Jamaica resulted in the denomination's current blend of traditions. This denomination is found in every District of Grand Cayman, with more than one congregation in some Districts, for a total of nine churches. The United Church adherents constitute about 11.8 percent of the population.

The Institute for Theological and Leadership Development (ITLD) in Grand Cayman, founded and administered by the United Church, offers a B.A. program in Guidance and Counseling, which is accredited by the University Council of Jamaica; a B.A. and Diploma programs in Theology; a Master of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling in conjunction with St. Stephens College in Canada; Certificate level program; and other training programs for the Church and general public. Many teachers and others responsible for the care and guidance of both children and adults have furthered their training through these programs.

The first Baptists arrived in the Cayman Islands in 1870 from Jamaica, and Baptists are now the country's fourth-largest religious group with about 8.7 percent of the population. The London-based **Baptist Missionary Society** and the **Jamaican Baptist Missionary Society (JBMS)** played an important role in establishing Baptist work on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman islands, beginning in the 1870s, especially among Blacks and Mulattos who were the most receptive to their message. The **Cayman Baptist Association** was formed in 1886, which is considered the founding date for organized Baptist work in the Cayman Islands. Between 1885 and 1933, a number of JBMS missionaries served in the islands, mainly on Cayman Brac. By 1933, there were four organized Baptist churches on Cayman Brac and one on Little Cayman.

Although the existing Baptist churches declined in strength over the years, during the 1960s they experienced spiritual renewal mainly through sacrificial efforts of a **Southern Baptist lay missionary**, M. Lee King, a U.S. Merchant Marine who had prepared himself for ministry at a Bible institute in Florida. King arrived in the Cayman Islands in 1965 and became a catalyst for a variety of new Baptist ministries, including digging water wells, establishing youth centers, organizing a nursing home for senior citizens, and even helping to construct the harbor for Cayman Brac. King also mobilized U.S. Baptist high school and university students to spend their summer vacations in the Cayman Islands to hold Vacation Bible Schools for children. He collaborated with the existing Baptist churches on Cayman Brac and started a new Baptist church

on the sparsely populated island of Little Cayman. In 1986, the Baptists of the Cayman Islands held their Centennial celebration of the founding of Baptist work in the country.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (FMBSBC) had contact with the Baptists of the Cayman Islands as early as 1967 and helped with projects sponsored by King, it was not until 1975 that the first FMBSBC missionary was appointed there, Carl Schooling, a missionary journeyman who served from 1975 to 1977. With the arrival of Herbert and Jackie Neely in 1977, FMBSBC work began on Grand Cayman. The First Baptist Church of Grand Cayman was organized in 1981. Since then, groups of Baptist volunteers from the U.S. and Jamaica have participated in short-term mission projects in the Cayman Islands. By 2004, there were about 1,000 Baptist church members in seven organized churches among Caymanian, Jamaican, North American and Fundamentalist Baptist groups in the Cayman Islands, with about half of all Baptist adherents residing on Cayman Brac. One of the independent Baptist congregations is Calvary Baptist Church in George Town, Grand Cayman.

Anglicans have come to the Cayman Islands over the years, and today there are three Anglican congregations, which are part of the **Church of the Province of the West Indies** (now headquartered in the Bahamas); Anglicans represent about 5.7 percent of the population. The **Roman Catholic Church** has three congregations attached to the Archdiocese of Kingston (Jamaica); Catholics represent about 11 percent of the population.

During the 20th century, two U.S.-based Holiness denominations had a significant impact on the inhabitants of the Cayman Islands: the **General Assembly of the Church of God in the Cayman Islands** is affiliated with the **Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)**; and the **Church of God (Holiness)**, with headquarters in Overland Park, Kansas, which arrived in the 1930s. These two denominations have a combined constituency of 26 percent of the population who worship in 10 or more local churches. In addition, the **Wesleyan Church/ Pilgrim Holiness** began work in the islands in 1911 and have several congregations.

Due to population growth in the Cayman Islands since World War II related to its development as a tourist and banking, a variety of other U.S.-based Protestant denominations have established local congregations, including the following: Churches of Christ (two *a capella* congregations founded in the 1970s), Christ Lutheran Church, Grace Tabernacle, *Iglesia Embajadores de Dios* (Ambassadors of Christ Church), the Moravian Church, Open Bible Church, Open Door Christian Church, the Presbyterian Church in America, and Safe Harbour Lutheran Church. Statistically, adherents of other Christian denominations” represented 2.7 percent of the total population, whereas those listed in the Census as “non-denominational” were 5.8 percent.

In addition, all **Pentecostal adherents** represented 5.3 percent of the population, which includes the following denominations and independent churches: Agape Family Worship Centre (Charismatic, nondenominational, founded in 1954 as a “church of Christ” and became part of the Charismatic movement in 1974), the Assemblies of God (founded in 1992), Church of God Full Gospel Hall, Church of God of Prophecy (Victory Tabernacle), Church of the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith (with headquarters in Philadelphia, PA), Faith Cathedral Deliverance Centre, New Testament Church of God (aka Church of God – Cleveland, TN), Power of Faith Deliverance Ministry, the United Pentecostal Church, as well as several independent congregations.

The Adventist Tradition is represented by the **Seventh-Day Adventist Church** (Adventist adherents represent 8.2 percent of the population) with 16 local churches, and the **Church of God (Seventh Day)** with one congregation. According to Adventist historian, Jeffrey K. Thompson, "We [Adventists] are one of the largest denominations in the Cayman Islands and we have a good working relationship with the government." About 3,300 people in the country's population of 45,000 were **Seventh-Day Adventist Church** adherents in 2007. Source: <http://news.adventist.org/2007/06/book-chronicles-adventist-church-history-of-cayman-islands.html>

The nucleus of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the Cayman Islands commenced in the year **1894** after Gilbert McLaughlin, a Caymanian sea captain was converted and accepted the tenets of Adventism in Bonacca, Honduras, and returned at East End, Grand Cayman, and donated land for the first church.

At about the same time, two literature evangelists, F.I. Richardson and B.B. Newman from the United States arrived in Grand Cayman to do medical missionary work and remained until **1897**, where they conducted evangelistic meetings in George Town.

Pastor Frank Hall, a Jamaican, became the first ordained Adventist minister to set foot on the island of Grand Cayman in **1905**. By the end of his tenure in **1909**, a total of 20 persons were baptized and Sabbath Schools were established in George Town and East End.

Meanwhile, the seed for Adventism in Cayman Brac was sowed in the **1890's** when Torebo Lazzari, a Caymanian seaman (known as Uncle Tebbie), was exposed to the church in Bonacca, Honduras. Thus, in **1929**, 16 candidates were baptized in Cayman Brac by Pastor H.P. Lawson of Jamaica who also organized the first church in Creek, Cayman Brac.

The decade of the **1930's** was ushered in with Pastor I.G. Knight stationed in Grand Cayman at the helm of the work. Pastor Knight was successful in building three churches, namely East End, George Town and Creek (Cayman Bac). The combined membership stood at 60 persons coupled with six Sabbath Schools at the end of his tenure in **1931**.

However, during the **1940's**, Brother George Merren, a Caymanian layman, took the responsibility of leading the Seventh-day Adventist work island-wide when there were no pastors or president. Brother Theophilus Bodden of the East End church also played a vital role in the local leadership of the church.

Nevertheless, the decade of the **1950's** dawned with Pastor O. Schneider as president of the Cayman Islands Mission. By **1952** the mission was placed under the aegis of the West Jamaica Conference and Pastor B.E. Hurst was the leader. But by **1954** the Cayman Islands was moved under the umbrella of West Indies Union.

Moreover, the decade of the **1960's** got off the ground with Pastor Ghantz serving as president in **1963**. He was followed by Pastor G. Weideman who took office in **1964** and served for three years, the membership stood at **298** at the end of his term.

Next, in **1964**, Maxine Gouldbourne made history by becoming the first Caymanian Secretary/Treasurer of the Cayman Islands Mission. Mrs. Gouldbourne also acted as president during her 26 years of service.

Likewise, Sister Gleeda Forbes, a contemporary of Mrs. Gouldbourne, was the premier Adventist education pioneer in the Cayman Islands. She taught hundreds in her school, which became the nucleus of Cayman Academy.

On the other hand, the decade of the **1970** can be termed “the decade of evangelism” because Pastor L.V. McMillan succeeded Pastor L. Lyle as president of the Cayman Islands Mission and set a new record in evangelism by baptizing 117 souls, which was a first for Caymanian. Elder McMillan launched a strong program of stewardship coupled with development program. The present George Town church was built during his administration. Pastor S.G. Cole succeeded him in **1974** and also placed a lot of emphasis on evangelism.

Otherwise, by **1977**, Pastor Trevor Thompson became president and the membership stood at 505. Elder Thompson led the mission in building. For example, an apartment complex was built to accommodate three pastoral families. Next a new ultra modern school was built (Edmer). A new church in East End was built and dedicated.

Thus, in **1984**, Pastor N.E. Scavella succeeded Pastor T.W. Thompson. Some of the accomplishments of Pastor Scavella’s administration included the building of a new Mission Headquarters, establishment of the North Side church, and acquisition of prime raw land for the mission.

Furthermore, the last decade of the second millennium mushroomed with Dr. Jeffrey K. Thompson being elected to presidency of the Cayman Islands Mission. He succeeded Pastor N. E. Scavella. Dr. Thompson led out in two evangelistic campaigns in 1991 and 200 souls were baptized collectively. In fact, in **1992**, the Cayman Islands Mission became the first field in the world church to reach its global mission goal. Dr. Thompson was instrumental in planting four new congregations coupled with launching the *ECHO* magazine. Additionally, in 1996, Dr. Thompson led the mission in establishing the Cayman Adventist Television Network in association with Three Angels Broadcasting Network. The station is on the air 24 hours daily.

More importantly, on **June 12, 2004**, the Cayman Islands Mission became the Cayman Islands Conference. The following officers were elected: Dr. Jeffrey K. Thompson, president; Pastor Wilton McDonald, Secretary; and Mrs. Sheila Woods, Treasurer. There were 11 churches in the Cayman Islands and approximately 3,000 members.

Similarly, on **September 1, 2004**, Cayman Academy, which operated as an elementary school, was upgraded to a junior high school. Each year a new grade will be added in an effort to achieve full high school status. In fact, over 176 students are currently enrolled at Cayman Academy.

Source: http://www.caymanadventist.org/home8/caymanad/public_html/about/our-history/

Ecumenical relations: Religious leaders representing approximately 30 different churches are working together to increase cooperation between the various denominations in the Cayman Islands (source: <http://www.caymanchamber.ky/relocation/religion.htm>).

The Cayman Ministers' Association was founded in 1988 to give an agreed voice on public issues; to promote fellowship among the pastors, and thus the churches, in the Cayman Islands; and to facilitate interdenominational ministries of evangelism, discipleship and social action.

Other Religions: adherents represent about 3.8 percent of the population.

Marginal Christian groups include the following. The **Jehovah's Witnesses**, who began work in the 1930s, reported four congregations with about 270 members in 2008. **The Church of God (Universal)** adheres to the historic doctrinal position of the Worldwide Church of God under the leadership of Herbert W. Armstrong. The **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** (Utah Mormons) began holding sacramental meetings in November 1982; their one center is attached to their larger work in Jamaica. In 2009, this denomination reported one church with 154 members. There is also a small work supported by the **Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** (Missouri Mormons): **Community of Christ - The Peace Chapel**.

Hinduism is probably the smallest religion in the Cayman Islands. There were only 98 Hindus in the Caymans according to the 2000 Census (about 0.25 percent of the population). Even the **Bahá'í community** was three times larger at 0.77 percent, and the **Jews** accounted for 1.77 percent of the population. There were approximately 35 Jewish families on Grand Cayman but no synagogue; religious services were held in private homes. According to a 2009 Pew Research Center report, **Muslims** constitute approximately 0.2 percent of the population of the Cayman Islands. Also, a few **Buddhists** are known to exist among the expatriate population.

There is also a small **Rastafarian** community. The Caribbean Rastafari Organisation has members throughout the English, French, Spanish and Dutch Caribbean.

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