A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: BRAZIL

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Historical Overview of Brazil:

Independence from Portugal: 1822
Period of Brazilian Monarchy: 1822-1889
Independent Republic Established: 1889
Religious Liberty Established: 1891

Number of North American agencies in 1989: 165
Number of North American agencies in 1996: 124
Indicates European society*

Significant Protestant Beginnings:

1555-1566 - *French Huguenot colony (Calvinists) established under French commander Villegaignon; the first Protestant worship service was held in Brazil on March 10, 1557; the French were expelled by the Portuguese in 1566.
1624-1654 - *Dutch colony (Calvinists) and mission efforts on N.E. coast at Recife; the Dutch were expelled by the Portuguese in 1654.
1817 - *British and Foreign Bible Society colporteurs
1835 - Methodist Episcopal Church of USA (permanent work 1874)
1854 - American Bible Society Agency established (1876)
1858 - Independent Congregational Church, Scottish missionary doctor Robert Reid Kelley – Igreja Evangélica Fluminense; today this church is known as Union of Congregational Churches of Brazil.
1859 - Presbyterian Church USA (Northern), missionary Ashbel Green Simonton; established the first Brazilian Presbyterian Church in the city of Rio de Janeiro in 1863.
1861 - *Basel Missionary Society among German immigrants
1869 - Presbyterian Church (South)
1870 - Southern Baptist Convention (1881 permanent work), now under International Mission Board
1871 - *South American Missionary Society (SAMS-Anglican tradition)
1874 - Methodist Episcopal Church (South)
1880 - Methodist Episcopal Church (North)
1889 - Protestant Episcopal Church
1892 - *Evangelical Union of South America (Help for Brazil)
1894 - Seventh-day Adventist General Conference
1900 - Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
1903 - The Presbyterian Church of Brazil became divided and a new denomination was formed: The Independent Presbyterian Church.
1905 - Reformed Church of Colombo
1907 - Christian Missions in Many Lands (Plymouth Brethren)
1910 - Swedish Pentecostals (Gunnar Vingren and Daniel Berg from South Bend, Indiana, founded the Assemblies of God of Brazil; the Assemblies of God USA began work in 1925)
1910 - Italian Pentecostals (Louis Francescon from Chicago): founded the Christian Congregation in Platina, Paraná.
1911 - Gospel Missionary Union
1911 - Evangelical Reformed Churches of Brazil (Dutch immigrants)
1913 - South America Indian Mission (now, South America Mission), also Canadian South American Mission
1916 - German Baptist Church
1920 - Evangelical Congregational Churches of Brazil (established by missionaries from Argentina)
1922 - The Salvation Army, USA
1922 - United Church Board for World Ministry
1923 - Church of God (Anderson, IN)
1923 - Baptist Faith Missions
1925 - Assemblies of God, USA
1924 - Baptist Faith Missions
1927 - Central Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo (Armenian immigrants)
1928 - Free Methodist Church of North America
1928 - Caluá Evangelical Mission, formed by American missionaries Albert Sidney and Mabel Maxwell to reach the Amerindian peoples.
1931 - Unevangelized Fields Mission, now UFM International
1932 - Christian Reformed Church of Brazil (Hungarian immigrants)
1933 - Reformed Evangelical Churches in Brazil (Dutch immigrants)
1934 - The Evangelical Confederation of Brazil formed
1935 - Pentecostal Missionary Union for Great Britain and Ireland
1935 - Baptist Mid-Missions
1939 - Brazil Gospel Fellowship Mission
1940 - Conservative Presbyterian Church of Brazil (a split from the Independent Presbyterian Church)
1941 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
1942 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelization (ABWE)
1944 - Mennonite Brethren Missions
1945 - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
1946 - New Tribes Mission
1946 - Mennonite Brethren Missions and Services
1946 - Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, now CBInternational
1948 - Pilgrim Fellowship Inc.
1948 - Christian Church and Churches of Christ
1948 - Pilgrim Fellowship, Inc.
1949 - Grace Brethren International Missions
1950 - OMS International, Inc.
1950 - Youth For Christ, USA
1951 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
1952 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International
1953 - Baptist Missionary Association
1954 - Arabic Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo (Lebanese immigrants)
1955 - Brazil for Christ founded by Manuel de Melo
1955 - Baptist General Conference
1955 - World Partners Missionary Church
1955 - Mennonite Board of Missions
1956 - Wycliffe Bible Translators
1956 - United Pentecostal Church International
1956 - Fundamentalist Presbyterian Church (led by Dr. Israel Gueiros, northeastern region)
1957 - CMF International
1957 - WEC International
1957 - Grace Ministries International
1957 - Missionary Aviation Fellowship
1958 - Swiss Evangelical Church (Swiss immigrants) in Sao Paulo
1958 - Church of the Nazarene
1958 - Wesleyan World Missions
1958 - Free Will Baptist Association
1958 - Evangelical Lutheran Church
1958 - Things To Come Mission, Inc.
1958 - Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Bahia (Japanese immigrants, affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Koza, Japan)
1958 - Apostolic Christian Church
1958 - Christians in Action
1958 - World Baptist Fellowship Mission
1960 - Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society
1960 - Christian & Missionary Alliance
1960 - World-Wide Missions
1960 - Central Presbyterian Church of Formosa in Brazil (Taiwanese immigrants, has ties with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan)
1960 - God Is Love Pentecostal Church, founded by David Miranda in Sao Paulo; this church is considered by many Evangelicals to be a Christian sect because of its syncretistic tendencies.
1960 - Bethany Fellowship Missions
1961 - The Navigators
1961 - OC International, Inc. (formerly known as Overseas Crusades)
1961 - Fellowship International Mission
1961 - Korean United Presbyterian Church of Sao Paulo (Korean immigrants, linked to the Presbyterian Church of South Korea)
1961 - General Conference Mennonite Church
1961 - Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
1965 - Church of God of Prophecy
1965 - Pocket Testament League
1966 - North American Baptist Conference
1966 - United World Mission
1966 - Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo (Japanese immigrants)
1967 - Baptist International Missions
1967 - Berean Mission, Inc.
1968 - Campus Crusade for Christ
1968 - Mennonite Central Committee
1969 - Maranatha Baptist Mission
1969 - Korean Presbyterian Church of Brazil (Korean immigrants, has ties to the Presbyterian Church Hapdong of South Korea)
1969 - Partners International
1970 - Shield of Faith Mission International
1970 - Apostolic Church In Canada
1970 - Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
1971 - Macedonia World Baptist Missions
1972 - The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM)
1973 - Global Outreach Mission, USA & Canada
1973 - Mission to the World, Presbyterian Church of America
1975 - Renewed Presbyterian Church: Pentecostal tradition, a merger of the Christian Presbyterian Church (founded in 1968) and the Independent
Renewed Presbyterian Church (founded in 1972).

1975 - Reformed Episcopal Church Board of Missions
1975 - Janz Team Ministries
1976 - PAZ International
1977 - Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, founded in Rio de Janeiro by Bishop Edir Macendo; this church is also known as “Fervent Prayer to the Holy Spirit” and is considered by many Evangelicals to be a Christian sect because of its syncretistic tendencies.
1978 - National Federation of Presbyterian Churches (affiliated with the United Presbyterian Church USA)
1979 - Baptist World Mission
1980 - Christian Church of North America
1981 - Emmanuel International, Canada
1984 - Antioch Presbyterian Church (Korean immigrants, has ties to the Presbyterian Church of Kora, TongHap, Korea)
1985 - ALM International
1985 - Latin America Mission (Institute of In-Depth Evangelization of Brazil)
1985 - HCJB World Radio Missionary Fellowship
1986 - Evangelical Free Church of North America
1987 - BCM International
1987 - Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
1987 - InterVarsity Mission
1987 - Habitat for Humanity International
1988 - Walk Thru The Bible Ministries
1989 - Global Outreach, Ltd.
1990 - Pioneers, Canada
1991 - Reformed Church of Brasolandia (Dutch immigrants in Minas Gerais, central region)
1991 - Action International Ministries
1991 - Young Life of Canada
1991 - Christ for the Island World
1992 - International Street Kids Ministry
1993 - Traditional Presbyterian Church of Brazil (central region)
1994 - Reformed Church of Brazil (has ties to the Canadian Reformed Churches)
1994 - Churches of God General Conference
1994 - Literacy & Evangelism International
1994 - SIM USA (a merger of several mission societies)
1995 - Reformed Church of Colombo (Dutch immigrants)
1995 - Christ for the City International (affiliated with Latin America Mission)

Date of Origin Unknown:

Brethren Assemblies (Plymouth Brethren), USA & Canada
Christian Aid Mission
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Evangelical Bible Mission
Gospel Fellowship Association
Operation Mobilization
Teens Mission International
Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

NOTES:

(1) Dates listed indicate the earliest ministry or in case of discrepancies, the date most frequently indicated by the sources.
(2) North American Agencies include U.S. and Canadian.
SOURCES:


(2) PROLADES (Latin American Socio-religious Studies Program), international headquarters in San José, Costa Rica: www.prolades.com, prolades@racsa.co.cr

