



A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: COLOMBIA


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Historical Overview of Colombia:

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| Spain conquered northern South America, later called New Granada: | 1536-1539 |
| First Roman Catholic diocese established: | 1534 |
| Independence from Spain declared: | 1819 |
| Gen. Simón Bolívar liberated New Granada (included the modern countries of Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador) from Spain: | 1819 |
| The Federation of Gran Colombia formed: | 1822 |
| Ecuador and Venezuela become independent republics: | 1829-1830 |
| Republic of New Granada (included the Province of Panamá) established: | 1830 |
| New Granada renamed Colombia: | 1863 |
| Religious Liberty granted: | 1886 |
| Concordats with Rome established: | 1887, 1974 |
| War of a Thousand Days fought: | 1899-1901 |
| Republic of Panama becomes independent of Colombia: | 1903 |
| Religious/civil war <i>La Violencia</i> : | 1948-1958 |
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| Number of North American Protestant Mission Agencies in 1989: | 92 |
| Number of North American Protestant Mission Agencies in 1996: | 70 |
| Indicates European Mission Society or Service Agency * | |



Significant Protestant Beginnings:

1629 - *Puritan colonists settle on San Andrés and Providencia islands (Caribbean Sea) under British rule until 1786 (Treaty of Versailles), when the islands reverted to Spanish control.

1824 - *British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) colporteur James Thomson established a short-lived Colombian Bible Society

1853 - *Two Swiss evangelicals visited Bogotá, taught Bible studies and distributed New Testaments.

1855 - The Rev. Ramón Montsalvatge began evangelical work in Cartagena (1855-1867).

1856 - *London Bible Society agency established in Bogotá, A.J. Duffield

1856 - Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Henry Barrington Pratt in Bogotá

1860 - Jamaican Baptists begin work on San Andrés and Providencia islands.

1908 - Gospel Missionary Union (USA and Canada) in Buenaventura and Cali

1915 - Seventh-Day Adventists begin work on San Andrés and Providencia islands.

1918 - *The Evangelical Alliance Mission (Scandinavian Alliance Mission) in Cucúta

1918 - *British and Foreign Bible Society colporteur (BFBS), Segundo Pazmiño in Samaniego.

1921 - General Conference Seventh-Day Adventists

1921 - All Bible Society work in Colombia transferred to the American Bible Society (ABS)

1923 - Christian and Missionary Alliance (in Ipiales and Cali)

1923 - The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM)

1923 - Protestant Episcopal Church in Cartagena and Santa Marta (English work)

1927 - Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Cali

1929 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE)

1930 - Independent Baptist missionaries from Brazil begin work in Puerto Leticia.

1930 - Independent missionary in La Cumbre, near Cali

1932 - The Assemblies of God in Sogamoso

1933 - *Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC International) in Cundinamarca y Meta

1933 - United Brethren in Nariño

1934 - South American Indian Mission in La Guajira Peninsula (among the Guajiro, Motilón and Aruaco), now known as South American Mission (SAM)

1934 - Canadian South American Mission

1936 - Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Boyacá

1936 - Pentecostal Assembly (became United Pentecostal Church in 1945)

1937 - Calvary Pentecostal Holiness Mission in Magdalena

1937 - *Latin America Mission (LAM, Scottish Presbyterian roots, USA and Canada) begins work in Bolívar.

1938 - Independent Pentecostal missionaries in Bogotá and Cundinamarca

1939 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelization

1939 - Andes Evangelical Mission in Boyacá

1941 - Southern Baptist Convention in Atlántico y Bolívar (now, Southern Baptist International Mission)

1941 – Wesleyan World Missions (Wesleyan Methodist Church World Mission) in Antioquía

1942 - *South American Evangelical Union in Magdalena (among Motilones)

1942 - International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

1943 - Child Evangelism Fellowship

1943 - Oriental Missionary Society, now known as OMS International

1944 - Evangelical Lutheran Church

1944 - New Tribes Mission (USA and Canada)

1944 - The Inter-American Missionary Society (Inter-American Association of Evangelical Churches)

1945 - General Conference Mennonite Church

1945 - Mennonite Brethren Missions Services

1950 - The Evangelical Confederation of Colombia (CEDEC, an alliance of Evangelical groups: denominations and para-church organizations)

1954 - By this date, the following new groups existed: Assemblies of Jesus Christ (United Pentecostal Church), Evangelical Churches of the Caribbean (LAM), Independent Evangelical Tabernacles of the Casanare, and the United Evangelical Tabernacles of Colombia.

1954 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN),

1956 - Pan-American Mission

1958-60 - Hispanic American Crusade, Pentecostal Church of God, Christian Brethren, World-Wide Missions, South American Mission Society, and the Society of Friends.

1961 - Church of God (Anderson, IN)

1961 - Assemblies of God (USA)

1962 - Christian Church and Churches of Christ

1962 - Wycliffe Bible Translators (USA and Canada)

1963 - Overseas Crusades, now known as OC International, Inc.

1964 - Mennonite Church

1964 - Elim Fellowship World Missions

1967 - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada

1968 - The Body of Christ Church separated from the Pan-American Mission

1960s - Evangelical Association of Colombia (ACECOL, a Charismatic-oriented confederation of churches)

1968 - Evangelism-In-Depth nationwide campaign, led by members of the LAM.

1968 - Evangelical Covenant Church

1968 - World Baptist Fellowship Mission

1969 - FEBInternational (Canada)

1970 - Emmaus Evangelical Church

1970 - Church of God of Prophecy (separated from Church of God, Cleveland, TN)

1970 - Christian Church of North America

1970 - Christians In Action, Inc.

1970 - Deaf Missions International

1970s - Catholic Charismatic renewal movement impacts the nation (many evangelicals participated in this movement as Bible study leaders, preachers and counselors, etc.)

1971 - Emanuel Evangelical Church separated from the Inter-American Church

1971 - American Baptist Association

1971 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International

1973 - Christian Literature Crusade

1973 - Church of God of Prophecy

1974 - *Philadelphia Evangelical Church (a Swedish Pentecostal mission)

1974 - Biblical Christian Churches of Caravans of the People of God (Charismatic Catholics that left the Roman Catholic Church and formed a group of Protestant churches).

1974 - Missionary Revival Crusade

1974 - Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1975 - The Christian Crusade Churches (Pentecostal-orientation) separated from the Colombian Evangelical Crusade Churches (when were the latter begun and by whom?)

1976 - Church of the Nazarene

1976 - Mission to the World, Presbyterian Church in America

1958-76 - The following national churches were founded in this period: Independent Baptist Churches, Christian Church of the North, Evangelical Christian Church, House of Prayer, Trinitarian Fundamental Church, Evangelical Mission of Colombia, Autonomous Baptist Church of Colombia, Union Church of Bogotá, and the International Charismatic Mission.

1974 - Spanish World Gospel Mission

1978 - World Vision International (relief and development organization)

1979 - CLADE I (First Latin American Conference on Evangelism, sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; the Latin American Theological Fraternity formed)

1979-92 - Formation of many (about 12) regional pastoral associations throughout Colombia, such as the Association of Evangelical Ministers of Medellín (1979), the District Association of Ministers of the Gospel in Bogotá (1989), etc.

1982 - The World Evangelical Crusade Churches separated from the Colombian Evangelical Crusade Churches

1983 - Maranatha Baptist Mission

1985 - Brethren in Christ World Missions

1985 - Reformed Baptist Mission Services

1986 - International Outreach Ministries

1987 - Formation of COMIBAM-Colombia (part of the Ibero-American Missionary Congress movement, which aims to train and send national trans-cultural missionaries from Latin America to the rest of the world)

1987 - Action International Ministries of Canada

- 1989 - Merger of CEDEC and ACECOL to form CEDECOL (Evangelical Confederation of Colombia)
- 1989 - Enterprise Development International
- 1989 - Team Expansion, Inc.
- 1990 - Action International Ministries, USA
- 1990 - Baptist International Missions
- 1990 - Impact International
- 1991 - Fellowship International Mission
- 1993 - Reformed Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia separated from the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia
- 1994 - Habitat for Humanity International
- 1994 - International Needs USA
- 1994 - Macedonia World Baptist Missions
- 1994 - The Sowers International
- 1995 - BCM International
- 1995 - Christ for the City International (affiliated with Latin America Mission)
- 1996 - Calvary International

Date of Origin Unknown:

- Baptist Missions to Forgotten
- Brethren Assemblies (USA)
- Christian Aid Mission
- International Teams USA
- Youth For Christ, USA
- 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) During "La Violencia" (1948-1958) more than forty-seven Evangelical churches and chapels were completely destroyed, many more damaged, and over 200 primary schools closed (Glover and Kane 1960:392).

(3) North American Agencies include U.S. and Canadian.

SOURCES:

(1) Daryl L. Platt, "Who Represents the Evangelical Churches in Latin America? A Study of the Evangelical Fellowship Organizations." Pasadena, CA: an unpublished Doctor of Missiology Dissertation, School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, June 1991. Used by permission of the author.

(2) Juana Burford de Buchanan, ***La Iglesia Evangélica en Colombia: Una Historia***. Santafé de Bogotá: WEC International (Asociación Pro-Cruzada Mundial), 1995.

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

(4) Dayton Roberts and John Siewert, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas*** (MARC 1989).

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