

**A CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS
IN HISPANIC MINISTRY IN THE USA, 1829-1995**

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Historical Overview of U.S. relations with Spain and Mexico:

Spanish “conquistador” Hernando Cortés begins the exploration and conquest of Mexico:	1519
Alvarez de Pineda explores the Gulf Coast:	1519
Cortés conquers the Aztecs in Teotihuacán (Mexico City) and establishes Spanish rule:	1521
Pánfilo de Narvaez begins the exploration of Florida and Texas:	1528
The Viceroyalty of New Spain established over Mexico and the western part of what is now the United States of America:	1535
Cabeza de Vaca explores the territory of Texas:	1535
Spanish explorations in the territory of Arizona and New Mexico:	1539
Francisco Vásquez de Coronado explores what is now the Southwestern U.S. and parts of the Great Plains states:	1540
Hernando de Soto explores Florida and other Southern states and discovers the Mississippi River:	1539-1541
Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo discovers the territory of California:	1542
Spanish colonization of New Mexico begins:	1548
St. Augustine founded by the Spanish in Florida:	1565
Santa Fe founded by the Spanish in New Mexico:	1609
Spanish colonization of the territory of Arizona begins:	1687
Spain begins the colonization of Alta California:	1769
Los Angeles founded by the Spanish in Alta California:	1781
Spanish forces withdraw from the eastern seaboard of what is now U.S. territory, Mexico becomes independent of Spain, and Anglo-Americans begin to colonize Texas:	1821
Texas becomes independent of Mexico:	1836
Texas becomes the 28 th state of the Union:	1845
California declares its independence from Mexico:	1846
Mexican-American War, U.S. occupies Northern Mexico:	1846-1848
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico cedes to U.S. the territories of California, Arizona, New Mexico and other large fragments of its territory; also approves the prior annexation of Texas:	1848
The Gadsden Purchase, U.S. takes possession of southern Arizona and New Mexico:	1853
Spanish-American War, U.S. occupies Cuba and Puerto Rico:	1898
The Mexican Revolutions brings tens of thousands of refugees and migrants to the U.S.	1910-1920
Number of known Protestant denominations working with Hispanics in 1930:	22
Number of known Protestant denominations working with Hispanics in 1960:	32
Number of known Protestant denominations working with Hispanics in 1990:	79
Number of known Protestant denominations working with Hispanics in 2000:	



Significant Hispanic Protestant Beginnings or Events, 1829-1995

1829 – 1844 Sumner Bacon, called “a colorful and controversial Cumberland Presbyterian evangelist,” was the first Presbyterian to begin missionary work among Hispanics in Texas; he began his ministry as an itinerant evangelist among the Anglo Americans of east and central Texas and later became a colporteur with the American Bible Society in 1833; he distributed Spanish Bibles and New Testaments and shared the Gospel message with the Spanish-speaking people with whom he frequently came into contact; when he died in 1844, no one in his denomination was willing to continue his work among the Mexican population.

1839 - William C. Blair, an Old School Presbyterian clergyman, becomes the first person to receive a formal denominational appointment to evangelize Mexicans in Texas, when he began his ministry with the Assembly’s Board of Foreign Missions in Victoria, Texas; he had a long career in Texas and died in 1873.

1846 - Another Old School Presbyterian minister, John McCullough was assigned to work in San Antonio, Texas, by the Board of Foreign Missions, where he ministered to Anglos, Germans and Mexicans; in 1848, McCullough secured the services of a Spaniard who was a converted Roman Catholic, who came to San Antonio under the auspices of the Evangelical Society of New York to minister to the Mexican American population; McCullough later moved to Galveston, Texas, where he died in 1870.

1849 - The Rev. Hiram W. Read arrives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to begin Hispanic ministry for the Southern Baptist Convention; his first convert in Albuquerque was Blas Chávez who became a Baptist preacher and served for fifty years.

1852 - Melinda Rankin (1811-1888), an independent Presbyterian missionary and school teacher, arrived in Texas to begin her ministry among Mexicans in Texas and Mexico; she made several frustrating attempts at establishing a school for Mexican girls in Brownsville, which she finally accomplished in 1858; Rankin’s sister arrived to help her in 1855, supported by the nondenominational American and Foreign Christian Union.

1853 - The Methodist Episcopal Church (North) begins Hispanic ministry in New Mexico under the ministry of the Rev. Benigno Cárdenas, a former Roman Catholic priest in Santa Fe.

1860s - The Rev. Henry C. Riley, an Episcopalian, was reported to have pastored a Spanish-speaking congregation in New York City “for some time,” according to Melinda Rankin in 1868 (Rankin, 1875); in 1869, Riley was sent to Mexico by the American and Foreign Christian Union to organize nondenominational Protestant churches in Mexico City; in 1873, was appointed as “Bishop of the Valley of Mexico” for the Mexican Church of Jesus, which in 1904 became affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA.

1861 - The Texas Baptist Convention (part of the Southern Baptist Convention) appoints J.W.D. Creath as its first missionary worker among the Mexicans.

1869 - The Rev. Thomas Harwood reopens the New Mexico mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church and begins to train Mexicans for leadership in the Methodist church.

1871 - Alejo Hernández, a Roman Catholic seminary student in Aguascalientes, Mexico, is converted to Protestantism in Brownsville, Texas, where he became a licensed preacher with the Methodist Episcopal Church (South) and served in Laredo, Texas, and Mexico City from 1871-1875.

1874 - The West Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South) creates a Mexican border district.

1876 - The First Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) of San Antonio organizes a Mexican mission under the direction of Jacob Korman.

1877 - The first Mexican Presbyterian congregation in Texas was organized in Brownsville by the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern Presbyterians).

1879 - The Rev. Antonio Diaz began work among Mexicans in Los Angeles under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North); Diaz establishes a Spanish-speaking mission at the Fort Street Methodist Church; in 1884, Diaz became a Presbyterian minister and worked with the Rev. Carlos Bransby in established several Presbyterian missions among Mexicans in the Los Angeles area.

1881 - The official beginning of permanent Southern Baptist work in Texas at Laredo; in 1981, the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas celebrated 100 years of Hispanic Baptist work.

1885 - The New Mexico Spanish-speaking Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North) was organized in Peralta, New Mexico, under the leadership of Thomas Harwood.

1885 - The Methodist Episcopal Church (South) organizes the Mexican Border Conference; previously, ministry to Mexicans in Texas had been coordinated through two mission districts, one in San Diego (near Corpus Christi) and the other in San Antonio.

1888 - The Rev. A. Moss Merwin, a former missionary in Chile under the Presbyterian Board, begins his ministry among the Mexican population of Los Angeles; Merwin became the first Superintendent of Mexican Work in Southern California for the Presbyterian Church in the USA (Northern); Mary Merwin, Moss' daughter, became the Superintendent after Moss' death in 1905; by 1930, about 20 Spanish-speaking Presbyterian churches and missions had been established in Southern California.

1892 - Walter S. Scott of San Antonio, Texas, is ordained for the Presbyterian ministry and commissioned as "evangelist to the Mexican people" by the Presbytery of Western Texas of the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern).

1896 - The Rev. A. B. Case begins work among Mexicans in Southern California; he had previously served in Mexico as a missionary with the American Board of Commissioners for

Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church; several Spanish-speaking congregations were established by Case in Redlands, Chino, Santa Ana, San Bernardino and Piru; in 1897, Case and his supporters founded the interdenominational California Spanish Missionary Society (Case 1897).

1899 - The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ begins Hispanic ministry in San Antonio, Texas.

1901 - The First Baptist Church of Santa Barbara, California, establishes a Mexican mission, pastored by C.T. Valdivia, who also established a mission in Oxnard, CA, in 1903; these were the first two Spanish-speaking ministries of the Southern California Baptist Convention, affiliated with the American (Northern) Baptist Convention.

1905 - The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists begins Hispanic ministry in the Boyle Heights district of East Los Angeles; in 1980, the Hispanic membership in the North American Division was 28,400; in 1990, there were 65,402 members; in 2001, 115,244 members; in 2007, there were at 994 Hispanic Adventist churches and missions in the USA, with a total of 132,360 members.

1906 – The famous Azusa Street Pentecostal Revival (1906-1913) began in an industrial area on the eastside of downtown Los Angeles, under the leadership of Black holiness preacher William J. Seymour, who founded the Apostolic Faith Mission; according to historian Robert Mapes Anderson, Mexicans were present at the Apostolic Faith Mission early in its existence: within a decade Hispanic Pentecostal preachers had firmly planted Pentecostalism among migrant Mexican workers in many cities, towns and migrant camps from Los Angeles to San Jose in the north and to San Diego in the south; however, most of these early efforts did not produce permanent congregations due to the migratory nature of the Mexican farm works.

1908 - The Texas-Mexican Presbytery was organized by the Presbyterian Church in the US (Southern Presbyterians).

1909-1920 The first leaders of what was to become the Apostolic Assembly of Faith in Jesus Christ, the first Hispanic (Oneness) Pentecostal denomination founded in the USA, began to evangelize Mexicans in Southern California: Luis López and Juan Navarro (1909), Francisco F. Llorente (1912), Marcial de la Cruz (1914) and Antonio Nava (1916), all immigrants from Mexico; in 1912, the Spanish Apostolic Faith Mission was established on North Hill Street in Los Angeles by Genaro Valenzuela, although it is not confirmed that this was a Oneness Pentecostal congregation; during 1914-1915, preaching points were established in Colton, San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Watts; the first annual convention of this new denomination was held in 1925 in San Bernardino with the participation of 27 affiliated pastors from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Baja California in Mexico; however, it was not incorporated in California until 1930.

1910 - The Church of the Nazarene begins Hispanic ministry in the Bunker Hill section of Los Angeles, CA.

1911 - The Rev. Vernon McCombs is appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Church (North) as

director of Spanish work in Los Angeles; the McCombs had previously served as Methodist missionaries in Peru, from 1906-1910; in 1912, the Spanish and Portuguese District of the Southern California Conference was organized under McCombs leadership; between 1911 and 1920, about 70 Mexican missions were established in California by the Methodists.

1911 - The American Baptist Churches in the USA (formerly known as the American Baptist Convention or Northern Baptists) appointed the Rev. and Mrs. L. E. Troyer as general missionaries for Spanish work under the Southern California Baptist Convention; the Troyers had served as Baptist missionaries in Puerto Rico and Mexico prior to returning to California in 1910; between 1911 and 1917, more than 17 Spanish-speaking churches and missions were established.

1912 - The New York City Mission Society begins work among Spanish-speaking immigrants, later establishing the Church of the Good Neighbor, which became the “mother church” for many other Hispanic congregations.

1915 - The young Rev. Henry C. Ball begins his life-long ministry with the newly formed Assemblies of God in Texas, where he established a Spanish-speaking church in Kingsville; he was appointed the first General Superintendent of the Mexican District of the Assemblies of God in 1917, which was renamed the Latin American District Council in 1929; with the retirement of Ball in 1939, Demetrio Bazán was appointed the superintendent of the Latin American District Council, which introduced a new era in the growth and development of Hispanic work; in 2000, there were seven organized Hispanic districts in the USA, with a total of 1,367 churches and 139,586 members.

1915 - The Friends Church (Quakers) begins Hispanic ministry in Whittier, California, under the leadership of Enrique Cobos, originally called the Jimtown Mission and now known as the Pico Rivera Friends Church.

1916 - The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ organizes the Texas State Mexican Sunday School Convention, with annual meetings between 1916 and 1922.

1917 - The Free Methodist Church in North America begins ministry among Hispanics in Los Angeles, California.

1917 - 1918 The Plymouth Brethren-Brethren Assemblies (a loose nondenominational network of local churches) began Hispanic ministry when Ervin D. Dresch and R. H. Hall (who had been a missionary in Honduras) joined forces to evangelize Spanish-speaking people in rural communities from Texas and New Mexico to Michigan. In 1918, a small Sunday School and Brethren Assembly were started in a Mexican community in San Antonio, TX, at 629 South San Jacinto Street, which became known as the San Jacinto Gospel Hall.

1918 - Miss Alice E. Luce begins work among Hispanics in Los Angeles, California, and establishes the first Spanish-speaking Assembly of God church, “El Aposento Alto,” in a rented hall near the Mexican Plaza; Ball reports that another Spanish-speaking Assembly of God congregation also existed in 1918 in San José, California.

1920s - The Evangelical Lutheran Church begins Hispanic ministry in Texas.

1920s - The Evangelical United Brethren (a German denomination) begins Hispanic ministry in Texas; in 2003, there were 15 Hispanic congregations in six states, with the largest number in California (9).

1921 - The Christian & Missionary Alliance begins Hispanic ministry in San Antonio, Texas.

1921 - The First Spanish Baptist Church was organized in New York City as part of the American Baptist Convention, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Perry D. Woods of the Home Mission Board and Miss Albertina D. Bischoff of the Women's Baptist Home Mission Society.

1921 - Rodney W. Roundy, Associate Secretary of the Home Mission Council, reported that Protestant denominations had at least 300 Spanish-speaking churches and missions in the USA, with a paid staff of 250 ministers and Christian workers, in addition to 157 mission school teachers; also, that there were more "preaching points" than the number of reported churches and missions.

1923 - The Latin American Council of Christian Churches (known as CLADIC in Spanish) was organized in Houston, Texas, at Bethel Temple under the leadership of the Rev. Francisco Olazábal, who left the Assemblies of God over a dispute with the Anglo-American leadership; CLADIC's headquarters are now located in Brownsville, Texas; also, Bethel Temple was established in the Belvedere Gardens district of Los Angeles in 1923 by the Rev. Francisco Olazábal; originally, this denomination was called the Interdenominational Mexican Council of Christian Churches, which by 1924 counted over 30 churches in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Mexico; after Olazábal's death in an automobile accident in Texas in June 1937, Miguel Guillén became CLADIC's president (1937-1971), followed by El Dr. Arturo R. Muñiz (1971-1997), and Dr. Gilberto C. Alvarado (1997-to date).

Note: Francisco Olazábal (1886-1937), called "The Great Aztec," the "Brown Moses" and the "Mexican Billy Sunday," was a powerful preacher who conducted large-scale evangelistic-healing services in Hispanic communities across the USA and in Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands during the 1920s and 1930s; according to Gastón Espinoza, Olazábal contributed to the growth and development of at least 14 denominations, either directly or indirectly: Hispanic Ministries of the United Methodist Church (he was a Methodist pastor from 1908-1917 in Mexico and California); Hispanic Districts of the Assemblies of God (1917-1923, he challenged the leadership position of Henry C. Ball as Superintendent); the Latin American Council of Christian Churches (1923-1937, founded by Olazábal); Hispanic Ministries of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (1927-1929, founder Aimee Semple McPherson was fascinated with Olazábal's leadership and healing gifts); and following the Spanish Harlem Revival of 1931 in NYC and the Puerto Rican Crusade For Christ in 1934 and 1936, the Hispanic Church of God of Prophecy; Defenders of the Faith, founded in Puerto Rico in 1934; the Missionary Church of Christ (Concilio de Iglesias Cristo Misionero), founded in Puerto Rico in 1938; the Church of Christ in the Antilles, founded in Puerto Rico in 1935; the Assembly of Christian Churches; Evangelical Assemblies, Inc.; the Pentecostal Council of Christian Churches; and the Pentecostal Assembly of Jesus Christ, founded in Puerto Rico in 1938 (Espinoza 2008:294).

1925 - Latin American Council of the Pentecostal Church of God began work in New York City as an extension of its ministry in Puerto Rico; the former became independent of the mother church in Puerto Rico, Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal, Misión Internacional, in 1954; this denomination in Puerto Rico was affiliated with the Assemblies of God from 1921 to 1947; Everett Wilson refers to the related denomination in NYC as the “Council of (Spanish) Christian Churches of New York.”

1926 - Alice E. Luce established the Latin American Bible Institute of the Assemblies of God in San Diego, California; later, this school was moved to La Mesa, then to Los Angeles, and finally to La Puente, CA, where it remains today. Also in 1926, Ball established a similar institute in San Antonio, Texas, which was relocated later to Saspamco and then to Ysleta, Texas, now a suburb of El Paso, where it is presently.

1926 - The Texas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod began Hispanic work in San Antonio, Texas, in 1926, although that denomination’s primary ministry was directed to German immigrants between 1840 and 1940. The language of worship and parochial education was changed from German to English after the outbreak of World War II (1939-1945).

1929 - The Assemblies of God reorganized its Spanish-speaking work into two districts: the Latin American District Council (includes all the states west of the Mississippi River, in addition to Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana) and the Spanish Eastern District Council (the rest of the states of the Union plus Puerto Rico).

1929 - The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel begins Hispanic ministry in Los Angeles, California; pastor Antonio Gamboa, who defected from Francisco Olazábal’s organizations, founded the McPherson Mexican Mission (later renamed “El Buen Pastor”).

1929 - The Rev. Gotthold H. Smukal, first pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Boyle Heights, an eastern suburb of Los Angeles, California, begins a branch Sunday School in 1929 with the aid of his daughter, Lorna, as a teacher among Mexicans in East Los Angeles; this was followed by a Wednesday evening Bible hour for Spanish-speaking adults, and later he held regular preaching services, according to the 1934 Mission Board report to the Southern California District Convention. The Rev. Smukal became the “father of mission work” among Hispanics in Southern California as an outreach of St. John’s Lutheran Church.

1930 - The Pacific Coast Latin American Conference was organized under the General Missionary Board of the Free Methodist Church of North America; in 1930, McLean reported there were ten Spanish-speaking churches with a total of about 300 members.

1930 - The Church of the Nazarene organized its Latin American District in the Southwest, which included Spanish-speaking churches in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Northern Mexico (Chihuahua, Sonora and Baja California); this district included 11 churches in the USA with 415 members in 1930, according to McLean.

1930 - Robert McLean reports the existence of 367 Protestant Spanish-speaking congregations in the USA with an estimated 26,600 members, but his report did not include any Pentecostal denominations or local churches.

1931 - The Church of God of Anderson, Indiana, begins Hispanic ministry in the Belvedere Gardens district of Los Angeles, CA.

1931 - The Southern California District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod opened its Mexican and Italian Mission in October 1931, after the arrival of the Rev. Bruno Martinelli from New Orleans, Louisiana. Previously, Martinelli had been a Methodist missionary (1922-1928) to Italians in Texas and Louisiana. While living in New Orleans he became acquainted with the Missouri Synod and studied Lutheran theology and polity between 1928 and 1931. In early 1931, he was called to serve as a missionary to Italian and Spanish-speaking people in the Pacific Southwest District; he was installed as such on May 17, 1931, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. The first Italian and Mexican Mission building was located on Atlantic Street in East Los Angeles; in 1934, this building housed the San Pablo Mexican Lutheran Church, which was closed in 1940 after the outbreak of World War II.

1932 - The Mennonite Church begins Hispanic ministry at the Chicago Home Mission in Chicago, Illinois, under the leadership of missionary J. W. Shank who previously served in Argentina; in 1999 there were 68 Hispanic congregations and 3,471 members.

1933 - The Salvation Army begins Hispanic ministry in the Belvedere Gardens district of Los Angeles, CA.

1937 - Fifty-five Spanish-speaking congregations are reported to exist in New York City: six were affiliated with the New York Mission Society, 18 with Pentecostal groups, and the others with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Adventist, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

1937 - The Mennonite Brethren began Hispanic ministry in Texas in 1937 and in California in 1956; in 1982 there were seven congregations and 284 members in Texas, and eight congregations and 291 members in California; training for Hispanic leaders is offered at the Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary in Fresno, CA; in 1994, the Pacific District Conference reported 20 Hispanic churches and missions with a total membership of 600.

1938 - The Texas Mexican Border Mission of the Mennonite Church was organized at Normanna, Texas, on 11 December 1938 under the leadership of A. H. Kauffman and his wife, who were the Mission's first missionaries; mission churches were established in Mathis (Calvary Mennonite Church), Falfurrias, Tynan, Helena, Alice and Corpus Christi prior to 1960.

1938 - Miss Alice Fiene and a group of Lutheran women from St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Orange, California, organized a mission society to begin work among the Mexican population in the nearby city of Santa Ana. A Sunday School was begun in a rented building in Santa Ana in October 1938, and the Rev. Bruno Martinelli conducted Spanish preaching services there until June 1939, when the work was organized as Misi3n Luterana San Juan under the leadership of Mr. Raymond Andersen of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Orange. In 1941, at the request of the women of St. John's Mission Society, the Southern California District Mission Board of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod took over the Mexican Mission in Santa Ana.

1939 - The Assembly of Christian Churches (AIC) was organized in New York City among Puerto Rican leaders who were loyal to the Rev. Francisco Olazabal but who decided to form their own organization and separate from the Latin American Council of Christian Churches, with headquarters in Brownsville, Texas, which was led by Mexicans who discriminated against them; the founders of AIC were Carlos Sepúlveda, Felipe González Sabater, Frank Hernández and Gilberto Díaz.

1939 - While attending Concordia Theological Seminary (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) in St. Louis, Missouri, Alfredo R. Saez (born in Puerto Rico in 1917) began teaching Spanish classes to fellow seminary students and became a missionary to Spanish-speaking people in an extremely poor section of East St. Louis (Illinois). Later, Saez became a Spanish translator for the “Lutheran Hour,” and still later he became the “Spanish Lutheran Hour” speaker (1940s).

1941 - Alfredo R. Saez served as vicar at Misión Evangélica Luterana San Juan in Santa Ana, California, for one year from August 1941 to August 1942; and then he returned to Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis in September 1942 to finish his studies. Following his graduation from seminary in 1943, Saez again worked for the “Lutheran Hour.” Saez was the first Spanish-speaking student to graduate from a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod preparatory school and seminary. Between December 1942 and December 1945, the Rev. Erherdt Henry Riedel (a former missionary to China) was in charge of Misión Evangélica Luterana San Juan in Santa Ana.

1945 - St. John’s Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) allowed the Rev. Alfredo R. Saez to begin a Mexican Mission in its facility in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, beginning in March 1945. This Mexican congregation was later organized as Concordia Lutheran Church in East Los Angeles. In the summer of 1946, Valparaiso University in Indiana invited Pastor Saez to teach in its Foreign Language Department, which he accepted and taught there for 18 years.

1946 - The Church of God of Cleveland, Tennessee, began Hispanic ministry in the USA under the leadership of Josué Rubio on the West Coast, East Coast and Texas; by 2000, there were 640 organized Hispanic churches in the USA with 44,533 members.

1947 - La Iglesia Luterana de Nuestro Salvador was organized in Santa Ana, California, in its own building, under the leadership of Vicar David M. Stirdivant (August 1946-August 1947) who replaced Pastor Riedel; this work was formerly known as Misión Evangélica Luterana San Juan. This work in Santa Ana was discontinued in 1956 in order to devote more attention to the growing Mexican population in East Los Angeles.

1950 - The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod begins Spanish-speaking work in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles under the leadership of the Rev. David M. Stirdivant with the support of the Southern California Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. These early missionary efforts led to the formal establishment of Iglesia Luterana La Santa Cruz in May 1957 on Whittier Blvd. in East Los Angeles, pastured by the Rev. Stirdivant.

1950s - The independent Christian Churches and Churches of Christ (non-instrumental) begins ministry among Hispanics in Los Angeles, CA.

1950s - The Episcopal Church begins Hispanic ministry in East Los Angeles, CA.

1950s - The Damascus Christian Church is organized in New York City among Hispanics by the Rev. Leoncia Rosada Rousseau (known as “Mama Leo”), who had previously been a pastor and evangelist with Olazábal’s CLADIC.

1953 - The Conservative Baptist Association begins Hispanic ministry in Whittier, California.

1958 - The General Conference Mennonite Church began its work among Hispanics in Lansdale, PA; during the 1980s Hispanic work began in several other states and in Toronto, Canada; in 1986, there were seven Hispanic congregations in the USA and Canada.

1958 - The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ organizes the Convention of Hispanic Christian Churches of the Northeast with six churches.

1960s- The Evangelical Free Church begins Hispanic ministry in Los Angeles, CA.

1960s - The Baptist General Conference begins Hispanic ministry in Chicago, Illinois; later, the Mexican Baptist Seminary was founded in 1973 in Chicago; in 2003, there were 10 Hispanic churches and missions in Illinois, 18 in Southern California, seven in Northern California and three each in Colorado and Florida, for a total of 41.

1960s - The Church of God of Prophecy begins Hispanic ministry in the USA.

1960s - The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ begins Hispanic ministry in Los Angeles, CA.

1960s- The Baptist Bible Fellowship begins Hispanic ministry in Los Angeles, CA.

1960s- The General Association of Regular Baptists (GARB) begins Hispanic ministry in Los Angeles, CA.

1960 - Grebler, et al, reports the existence of 1,535 Spanish-speaking churches in the USA with an estimated 113,130 members, based on a survey by Glen W. Trimble for the National Council of Churches, but this report only included one Pentecostal denomination: the Assemblies of God; also, other non-Pentecostal denominations (such as the Church of the Nazarene) were omitted from the report; PROLADES estimates that there were at least 2,200 Spanish-speaking churches in the USA in 1960, based on its own research.

1960 - Whitam reports that there were 460 Protestant churches in New York City with “some form of ministry to Spanish-speaking people;” these included 16 denominations as well as independent churches and missions; these included Adventist, Baptist, Congregational, Christian, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Disciples of Christ, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, New York City Mission Society, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and other non-Pentecostal denominations; the Pentecostal denominations reported to exist were the following: Spanish Eastern District Council of the Assemblies of God (40 churches and 5,400 members), Latin American Council of the Pentecostal Church of God (32 churches and 2,325 members), Assembly of Christian Churches (26 churches with 1,600 members), and the others had fewer than 10

churches each, including Damascus Christian Church, Defenders of the Faith, and the Church of God (Cleveland, TN)-Spanish District Council for the East.

1967 - Victory Outreach is organized in the Boyle Heights district of East Los Angeles under the leadership of a former drug addict turned Pentecostal evangelist, Sonny Arguinizoni, under the slogan “East L. A. for Jesus.”

1969 - The Soldiers of the Cross of Christ International Evangelical Church, founded in Cuba between 1922-1925 by Ernest William Sellers, transferred its headquarters to Miami, Florida, in 1969 due to restrictions on religious liberty and the exodus of Cubans from Cuba following the Marxist Revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959; until 1974, the name of this denomination was “Soldiers of the Cross of Christ” and previously it had been called “Gideon Mission” and “Gideon Evangelistic Band”; in 1922, the mother church in Florida suffered a division when affiliated church in the State of California became independent under Bishop Rolando González Washington, with headquarters in West Covina, CA.

1974 - *The Religious Dimension in Hispanic Los Angeles: A Protestant Case Study* (550 pages), authored by Clifton L. Holland, is published by the William Carey Library in Pasadena, CA; this study was based on two years of field research by Holland while a Master’s student at the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA; the book includes a directory of 227 Hispanic churches in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

1978 - The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ organizes the Convention of Hispanic and Bilingual Christian Churches of the Midwest with five churches.

1981 - The Christian Church-Disciples of Christ organizes the National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada with 28 churches: Northeast (12), Southwest (9), Midwest (5) and Southeast (2).

1983 - Ildefonso Ortiz of Worldteam produced a “Directory of Churches, Organizations and Ministries of the Hispanic Evangelical Churches in Miami-Dade,” with technical assistance provided by IDEA-PROLADES, that included 222 Hispanic churches and missions, distributed as follows: Southern Baptist Convention (37), independent Pentecostal churches (31), Assemblies of God (17), other independent churches (15), United Methodist Church (14), independent Baptist churches (13), Church of God-Cleveland, TN (9), Lutheran churches (9), Presbyterian churches (8), Episcopal churches (6), and the Pentecostal Church of God (6).

1985 - Dr. Everett Wilson reports the existence of at least 2,159 Hispanic Pentecostal churches in the USA in his article on “Hispanic Pentecostals” in the *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, edited by Stanley M. Burgess and Gary B. McGee.

1985 - The Hispanic Association for Bilingual-Bicultural Ministries (HABBM), a national association of churches and ministries targeting second and third generation Latinos, is organized in Santa Ana, CA, under the leadership of the Rev. Daniel De León of Templo Calvario (Assemblies of God) in Santa Ana, CA. The Rev. Luis Madrigal (a Presbyterian minister who works with World Vision USA in Monrovia, CA,) was named the Executive Director.

1986 - Lou Cordova, a staff member of the Institute for Latin American Studies (ILAS) at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, CA, produced a "Directory of Hispanic Protestant Churches in Southern California" for the Hispanic Association for Theological Education (known as AHET in Spanish), with technical assistance provided by IDEA-PROLADES. A total of 1,048 Hispanic churches were listed in nine counties: Los Angeles county (687), Orange (80), San Diego (75), San Bernardino (65), Riverside (52), Ventura (29), Kern (26), Imperial (22) and Santa Barbara (12); the denominations with the largest number of churches and missions were: Assemblies of God (124), Apostolic Assembly (108), American Baptist Churches (97), Seventh-day Adventist (68), Southern Baptist Convention (67), Foursquare Gospel (48), Church of God-Cleveland, TN (45), Church of the Nazarene (40), Conservative Baptist Association (24), United Methodist (19), Presbyterian Church USA (18), and the Assembly of Christian Churches (16).

1988 - Graduate student Stewart Stout produced "A Guide to Hispanic Protestant Churches in the San Francisco Bay Area" as part of a National Study of Hispanic Church Growth in the USA, sponsored by IDEA-PROLADES; the study lists 157 Hispanic churches in six counties, with the denominations with the largest number of churches being: Assemblies of God (28), Southern Baptist Convention (16), Seventh-day Adventist (9), American Baptist Churches (8), and the Church of God-Cleveland, TN (7); 49 churches were unaffiliated.

1992 - The "Soldiers of the Cross of Christ in the State of California" separated from the mother church in Florida (Soldiers of the Cross of Christ International Evangelical Church) when affiliated churches in the State of California became independent under Bishop Rolando González Washington, with headquarters in West Covina, CA; this splinter denomination reported affiliated churches in California, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Spain; in Mexico, the church is known as The Missionary Church of the Disciples of Christ, mainly along the California-Mexico border.

1993 - IDEA-PROLADES reported the creation of a national database of Hispanic churches in the USA with 6,837 listings, which was developed as a support service for the Hispanic Association for Bilingual-Bicultural Ministries (HABBM); the distribution of Hispanic churches and missions by state was as follows (8 largest): California (2,388), Texas (1,799), Florida (643), New York (353), Illinois (277), Arizona (231), New Mexico (173), and New Jersey (118). The largest denominations in terms of number of churches and missions were: Assemblies of God (1,268), Southern Baptist Convention (759), other Baptists (447), Apostolic Assembly (444), Seventh-day Adventists (283), Christian Churches / Churches of Christ (248), Church of God-Cleveland, TN (227), United Methodist Church (199), Presbyterian Church USA (143), Church of the Nazarene (129), American Baptist Churches (124), International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (113), Evangelical Lutheran Church (111) and the Christian & Missionary Alliance (102); the total number of Hispanic churches and missions in the USA was estimated to be over 10,000 in 1993.

1993 - The History Committee of the Hispanic Association for Theological Education (known as AHET in Spanish) publishes "Hacia una historia de la Iglesia Evangélica Hispana de California del Sur," with Dr. Rodelo Wilson as the General Editor. This study provides an historical overview of the first 120 years of Hispanic ministry in Southern California (Chapter 1), followed by a chapter each on the historical development of Hispanic ministry of 12 denominations: United

Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Congregational Church, American Baptist Convention, Apostolic Assembly of Faith in Jesus Christ, Assemblies of God, Free Methodist Church, Church of God (Anderson, IN), Southern Baptist Convention, Conservative Baptist Association, Churches of Christ and Victory Outreach.

1995 - IDEA-PROLADES produced "A Resource Directory of Hispanic Protestant Churches in Southern California" that included 1,626 Hispanic churches and missions, distributed in 10 counties as follows: Los Angeles (1,026), Orange (182), San Diego (99), Riverside (97), San Bernardino (93), Ventura (45), Imperial (29), Santa Barbara (27), Kern (25) and San Luis Obispo (6); the denominational totals were as follows: Assemblies of God (148), Apostolic Assembly (131), various Baptist groups (99), Seventh-day Adventist (95), Foursquare Gospel (83), Southern Baptist Convention (54), Church of the Nazarene (54), Church of God-Cleveland, TN (54), American Baptist Churches (48), various Pentecostal groups (44), Church of God of Prophecy (43), and the Presbyterian Church USA (34).

Date of Origin of Hispanic Ministry is currently unknown:

Advent Christian Church
American Lutheran Church
Assemblies of Pentecostal Churches of Jesus Christ (Asambleas de Iglesias Pentecostales de Jesucristo)
Baptist Missionary Association of America
Brethren Church (Ashland, OH)
Brethren in Christ
Christian Reformed Church
Church of God of Prophecy
Concilio Cristiano de la Iglesia Pentecostal Hispana (Los Angeles)
Concilio Hispano Pentecostal de la Iglesia de Dios (Chicago)
Concilio de Iglesias de Cristo Misionera, Inc. (NYC and Chicago)
Evangelical Church of Apostles and Prophets (Chicago and Los Angeles)
Evangelical Covenant Church (Chicago and Los Angeles)
Evangelical Methodist Church
Free Will Baptist Churches
Grace Brethren Churches (Chicago, with headquarters in Winona Lake, IN)
Lutheran Church in America
Mexican Border Missions (Texas)
Open Bible Standard Churches
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Pentecostal Assembly of Jesus Christ
Pentecostal Holiness Church International
Presbyterian Church in America
Reformed Church in America
Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement
Soldiers of the Cross, International Evangelical Church (founded in Havana, Cuba, between 1922-1925; also in Miami, NYC, Los Angeles, etc., after the Cuban Revolution of 1959)
United Lutheran Church (Texas and Chicago)

United Pentecostal Church
Vineyard Ministries International
Wesleyan Church
World Wide Missionary Movement (from Puerto Rico)

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NOTES:

- (1) Dates listed indicate the earliest recorded ministry or in case of discrepancies, the date most frequently indicated.
- (2) Protestant denominations include those that have begun ministry among Hispanics or those that were founded as Hispanic organizations by Hispanic leaders.

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