

## A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: SPAIN

by Dr. Clifton L. Holland

(last revised on June 9, 2003)

### Historical Overview:

Iberian Peninsula under Roman domination:	1 <sup>st</sup> century AD
Invasion of Spain by "barbarous tribes" from Central and Northern Europe:	409
Visigoth Kingdom in Spain:	5 <sup>th</sup> century
Conversion of the Visigoths from Arianism to Roman Catholicism:	589
Visigoth Kingdom invaded by the Moors (Arab Muslims):	711
Emergence of Spain as a modern state under Isabel & Ferdinand (Moors expelled):	1492
Period of Spanish explorations in the New World:	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> centuries
Spanish Colonial Period in the Americas:	16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> centuries
Spanish Inquisition established:	1478-1834
The First Republic established with some measure of religious tolerance:	1868-1874
The Second Republic established and its Constitution favored freedom of religion:	1931-1939
Spanish Civil War:	1936-1939
Dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco:	1939-1975
Law of Religious Freedom approved:	1967
New Constitution guarantees religious freedom:	1978
New Law of Religious Freedom adopted:	1980
Number of North American mission agencies in 1996:	84
Indicates European society*	

### Significant Protestant Beginnings and other important Events:

- 1517 - \*Lutheran communities of some significance in Seville and Valladolid.
- 1570s - The Spanish Inquisition forced Protestants to flee from Spain.
- 1602 - \*The Reina-Valera version of the Spanish Bible was published in Basil, Switzerland (produced by Casiodoro de Reina and Cipriano de Valera, two 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish reformers).
- 1806 - \*The Bible Society of London printed 3,000 copies of the New Testament in Spanish, and by 1817 it had published 30,000 Spanish bibles; the Society for the Evangelization of Spain was founded to distribute the

Scriptures to crew members of all Spanish ships that made port in Great Britain, as well as to Spanish prisoners of war.

- 1836 - \*Plymouth Brethren house meetings held.
- 1836 - \*George Borrow distributed 14,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures to the southern, central and northern parts of the Iberian Peninsula on horseback between 1836-1840; Lt. Craydon did a similar work along the Mediterranean coast, from Barcelona to Málaga between 1835-1838.
- 1838 - \*The first known Evangelical church founded in Spain (reported by the Rev. William H. Rule, a Methodist).
- 1850s - \*Bible distribution by English and Scottish colporteurs: Luis de Usoz y Río, Francisco de Paula Ruet and Manuel Matamoros.
- 1855 - \*Society for the Evangelization of Spain: José Vásquez in Seville; thousands of Bibles, New Testaments and scripture portions were distributed.
- 1866 - The Evangelical Church of Málaga formed as a network of house churches.
- 1868 - \*Anglican Church established in the British colony of Gibraltar.
- 1868 - \*Spanish Reformation Church established in Andalusia; becomes the Spanish Christian Church in 1871; after merging with the Congregationalists of the Ibero-Evangelical Union in 1890, it adopted its present name: Spanish Evangelical Church; in 1953, the Methodist Church of Cataluña and the Balearic Islands joined this body.
- 1868 - \*The Methodist Church of Great Britain begins work in Cataluña and the Balearic Islands.
- 1868 - \*Christian Brethren or Brethren Assemblies (Plymouth Brethren) established.
- 1870 - \*The first Baptist church was founded in Madrid; Baptist work was organized in 1876 with the arrival of Richard Lund from Sweden; later affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in 1921 and renamed the Spanish Evangelical Baptist Union.
- 1880 - \*Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church established in Madrid and Seville, under Juan Bautista Cabrera (later affiliated with the Church of England).
- 1903 - Seventh-day Adventists begin work.
- 1921 - Southern Baptist Convention, Foreign Mission Board (now, International Mission Board); affiliated with the Spanish Evangelical Baptist Union.
- 1923 - Assemblies of God, General Council (officially organized in 1963 in Madrid)
- 1928 - \*Swedish Pentecostal missionaries arrive.

- 1934 - TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)
- 1937 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1948 - United World Mission
- 1955 - World Baptist Fellowship Mission
- 1957 - Federation of Independent Churches of Spain (FIEIDE); independent Baptist churches.
- 1959 - Biblical Ministries Worldwide
- 1959 - Spanish World Gospel Mission
- 1960 - Greater Europe Mission
- 1962 - BCM International
- 1964 - Christian Church and Churches of Christ (composed of several churches that had connections with the defunct Spanish Christian Mission)
- 1965 - Baptist International Missions
- 1966 - Elim Fellowship World Missions
- 1967 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
- 1967 - Philadelphia Evangelical Church (begun by a small group of Spanish Gypsies who had been converted in France and returned to Barcelona)
- 1968 - Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE)
- 1968 - WEC International (World Evangelization Crusade)
- 1969 - Pocket Testament League
- 1970 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International
- 1970 - Campus Crusade for Christ
- 1970 - The Navigators
- 1971 - CAM International
- 1971 - The Salvation Army, USA
- 1972 - International Teams, USA
- 1972 - OMS International, Inc.
- 1972 - World Team (formerly, West Indies Mission)

- 1974 - Cadence International
- 1974 - Free Will Baptist Association
- 1976 - Gospel Missionary Union
- 1976 - Mennonite Board of Missions
- 1977 - Every Home for Christ
- 1978 - Christian & Missionary Alliance
- 1979 - Baptist Mid-Missions
- 1979 - Primitive Methodist Church, USA
- 1979 - United Pentecostal Church International
- 1980 - Baptist World Mission
- 1981 - Church of God of Prophecy
- 1981 - Church of the Nazarene
- 1982 - REMAR Association of Spain (Centros de Rehabilitación de Marginados), Church of the Body of Christ
- 1982 - Youth For Christ, USA
- 1983 - European Christian Mission
- 1984 - Arab World Ministries
- 1984 - CBInternational (formerly, Conservative Baptist Foreign Missionary Society)
- 1984 - Grace Brethren International Missions
- 1984 - Walk Thru The Bible Ministries
- 1985 - FEBInternational of Canada
- 1985 - InterVarsity Mission
- 1985 - Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
- 1985 - The Missionary Church, World Partners
- 1985 - World Indigenous Missions
- 1986 - FEREDe established: Federation of Evangelical Religious Entities of Spain.
- 1987 - Maranatha Baptist Mission

- 1987 - Missionary Society for United Methodists
- 1987 - SEND International
- 1987 - World Salt Foundation
- 1988 - Hope for Christian Nationals
- 1988 - International Pentecostal Holiness Church
- 1989 - Latin America Mission
- 1990 - Bethany Fellowship Missions
- 1991 - AMG International
- 1991 - Christian Associates International
- 1991 - Evangelical Mennonite Church
- 1991 - Fellowship International Mission
- 1991 - Mission to the World, Presbyterian Church of America
- 1991 - South American Missionary Society (SAMS)
- 1991 - UFM International
- 1992 - Gospel Furthering Fellowship
- 1993 - Cornell Missionary Ministries
- 1994 - Evangelical Free Church of North America
- 1995 - Christ for the City International (associated with Latin America Mission)

**Date of Origin Unknown:**

Ambassadors for Christ International  
 Apostolic Evangelical Church of the Name of Jesus  
 Apostolic Church of the Faith in Jesus Christ  
 Apostolic Church of Spain  
 Apostolic Evangelical Christian Church  
 Brethren in Christ World Missions  
 Christian Assembly  
 Christian Reformed Church  
 Darby Brethren (Plymouth Brethren)  
 Evangelical Christian Church of the Renewal  
 \*European Christian Mission  
 Federation of Apostolic Pentecostal Churches of Spain  
 Friends-Quakers  
 General Association of Regular Baptists, Canada  
 Gospel Fellowship Association  
 Korean Presbyterian Church  
 New Testament Evangelical Churches  
 Open Bible Standard Churches

Operation Mobilization  
Pentecostal Apostolic Church  
Pentecostal Church of God  
Presbyterian Church, USA  
Reformed Baptist Association  
Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Southwide Baptist Fellowship  
United Brethren in Christ  
United Methodist Church  
Universal Evangelical Church  
Youth With A Mission (YWAM)



### **NOTES:**

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

### **SOURCES:**

- (1) PROLADES (Latin American Socio-religious Studies Program), international headquarters in San José, Costa Rica: [www.prolades.com](http://www.prolades.com), [prolades@racsa.co.cr](mailto:prolades@racsa.co.cr)
- (2) J. Gordon Melton and Martin Baumann, editors, *Religions of the World* (ABC-Clío Publishers, 2002)
- (3) Gabino Fernández (translated by D. Kornegay), "History of the Evangelical Church in Spain" (photocopy, no date)