
A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS: JAMAICA

By Drs. Daryl L. Platt and Clifton L. Holland

(Last revised on 2 November 2009)

Historical Overview of the Jamaica:

Jamaica discovered by Christopher Columbus:	1494
Spanish Colony established:	1509
British defeat the Spanish, becomes a British Colony:	1655
Emancipation of Slaves Declared:	1838
Independence from England:	1962
Number of North American agencies in 1989:	74
Number of North American agencies in 1996:	40
Indicates European society*	

Significant Protestant Beginnings or other significant events:

- 1655 - *Anglican clergy arrive with British occupation, mainly to minister to the white population; becomes the Established Church in Jamaica.
- 1671 - *Evangelism by Quaker missionaries
- 1680 - *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, Anglican Church
- 1685 - The first English Congregational pastor arrived in Jamaica and began ministering to “white slaves” who arrived later that year from England; some of them were former members of the Duke of Monmouth’s defeated army, while others were prisoners “for conscience sake” (Non-Conformists).
- 1688 - *First recorded reference to Scottish Presbyterians in Jamaica.
- 1754 - *The Moravian Missionary Society sends Zacharias George Caries, Thomas Shallcross and Gottlieb Haberecht to begin work among the black slave population on the estates of two absentee England planters, William Foster and Joseph Foster-Barham, inspired by a Moravian evangelist in Yorkshire, England; in 1755, the Moravians acquired their own 700 acre sugar plantation, renamed New Carmel, to support themselves and to serve as their headquarters.
- 1783 - Independent Baptist churches were founded by a freed black slave from Georgia, George Liele, who also founded the First African Baptist Church at Silver Bluff (near Savanna, Georgia) in 1773; he referred to his followers as “Ethiopian Baptists:” some of the churches traced to Liele became part of the Jamaica Baptist Union in 1849, others became known as Native Baptists, an Afro-Caribbean Christian sect; other early black Baptist preachers associated with Liele were Thomas Swigle, James Pascall, Moses Baker, George Gibbs and John Gilbert.
- 1789 - *Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, Dr. Thomas Coke arrives to minister to the black population in the Caribbean, with headquarters in

Kingston, Jamaica; Methodist work had begun in Antigua around 1760 by a lay preacher, Nathaniel Gilbert; Coke first visited Antigua in 1786, accompanied by several Methodist missionaries who began work in Dominica and St. Vincent in the Windward Islands, and in St. Christopher, Nevis St. Eustatius (Dutch colony) and St. Kitts in the Leeward Islands; later work began in Barbados, Grenada, Nevis, Tortola, Montserrat, St. Bartholemew (Swedish colony), Anguilla and St. Martin by 1817.

- 1794 - *The Anglican "Slave Conversion Society" (later known as the Christian Faith Society), under the Bishop of London, begins work in Jamaica and Barbados; work began in St. Kitts in 1795, Antigua in 1798, Nevis in 1805 and St. Vincent in 1810.
- 1800 - *The Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), Scottish Missionary Society, sends three missionaries to Jamaica.
- 1810 - *British and Foreign Bible Society
- 1814 - *Baptist Missionary Society of London begins work at Liele's request: missionary John Rowe arrives; other English missionaries arrive in the 1820s: James M. Phillippo, Thomas Burchell and William Knibb, a famous trio who became powerful leaders in Spanish Town, Montego Bay and Falmouth, respectively.
- 1824 - *United Free (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland
- 1824 - *Episcopal See established by the Anglican Church
- 1834 - *London Missionary Society, Congregational missionaries
- 1836 - *Jamaican Missionary Presbytery, affiliated with the Church of Scotland (later known as Union of the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman)
- 1837 - American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Congregational Church (transferred to the Jamaica Baptist Union in 1873)
- 1842 - Jamaican Baptist Missionary Society organized; missionaries from Jamaica sent to West Africa (in cooperation with the Baptist Missionary Society of London), other Caribbean islands and Central America, including British Honduras (now, Belize).
- 1844 - The (Anglican) Diocesan Church Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1844-1853) was established under Bishop Spencer to aid in the education of thousands of children of former African slaves in Jamaica; this ministry was revived in 1861 by Bishop Courtenay as the Jamaica Home and Foreign Missionary Society, with a broad agenda to provide church care for neglected parts of Jamaica and to assist missionary work in West Africa (an initiative that began in Barbados).
- 1849 - Jamaica Baptist Union formed from among independent Baptist churches.
- 1857 - *Methodist Church Missionary Society
- 1858 - Christian Church and Churches of Christ
- 1860-1862 – Great Revival in Jamaica (also Revival Zion and Pocomania)**
- 1865 - Friends United Meeting World Ministry
- 1876 - United Christian Missionary Society, Christian Church (later, Disciples of Christ)
- 1877 - Congregational Union of Jamaica established
- 1880 - African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 1882 - American Friends Board of Foreign Missions
- 1885 - Christian Church-Disciples of Christ
- 1887 - *The Salvation Army (1914)
- 1893 - Seventh-day Adventist, General Conference
- 1896 - Christian and Missionary Alliance
- 1913 - Pentecostal Bands of the World
- 1916 - Christian Catholic Church
- 1919 - Pilgrim Holiness Church

- 1920 - Rehoboth Mission (Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Harris, 1925-1946), from which the Associated Gospel Assemblies was founded in 1959; also, a breakaway denomination, The Church of the Firstborn, under the leadership of Rehoboth's first full-time worker and assistant pastor Frank Bent.
- 1923 - Church of God of Prophecy
- 1923 - Christian Brethren Assemblies (Plymouth Brethren)
- 1925 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1927 - Seventh-Day Baptist Missionary Society
- 1930 - Churches of Christ
- 1930 - United Pentecostal Church International
- 1931 - Church of God (Seventh-Day) Missions
- 1933 - Church of God (Holiness) Mission (1946)
- 1936 - Assemblies of God, Foreign Missions
- 1939 - Baptist Mid-Missions
- 1939 - Child Evangelism Fellowship
- 1942 - Assemblies of God, General Council
- 1942 - Shiloh Apostolic Church of Jamaica Inc. (incorporated in 1962)
- 1945 - World Team (formerly, West Indies Missions)
- 1945 - Church of United Brethren in Christ
- 1945 - National Baptist Convention of America
- 1949 - The Missionary Church, World Partners
- 1949 - Open Bible Standard Missions, Inc.
- 1952 - Source of Light Ministries International
- 1955 - Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions
- 1958 - Back to the Bible International
- 1962 - Protestant Reformed Churches of the USA - The Protestant Reformed Churches of Jamaica
- 1965 - United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (a merger of the Union of the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman and the Congregational Union of Jamaica)
- 1966 - African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- 1966 - Church of the Nazarene, World Missions
- 1970 - Mennonite Central Committee
- 1972 - Baptist Bible Fellowship International
- 1974 - Baptist International Missions
- 1974 - Ministries in Action
- 1975 - Partners International
- 1978 - CSI Ministries
- 1979 - Faith Christian Fellowship
- 1980 - Macedonian World Baptist Missions
- 1981 - Mission to the World, Presbyterian Church in America
- 1982 - Emmanuel International
- 1985 - STEM Ministries
- 1985 - Island Missionary Society
- 1985 - Christian Blind Mission International
- 1985 - Reformed Baptist Mission Services
- 1986 - Christ for the Nations, Inc.
- 1987 - International Churches of Christ
- 1987 - United Church Board of World Ministries, United Church of Christ
- 1987 - World Servants
- 1988 - International Outreach Ministries
- 1990 - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- 1990 - Hope for the Hungry
- 1990 - World Salt Foundation

- 1991 - Reciprocal Ministries International
- 1993 - Habitat for Humanity International
- 1993 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- 1995 - International Teams of Canada
- 1995 - Greater Grace World Outreach
- 1997 - Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention
- 1998 - Elim Fellowship

Date of Origin Unknown:

Church of Jesus Christ (Kingsport, TN)
 International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
 United Methodist 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) 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) PROLADES (Latin American Socio-religious Studies Program), international headquarters in San José, Costa Rica: www.prolades.com, prolades@racsa.co.cr
- (3) Dayton Roberts and John Siewert, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas, 1989*** (MARC 1989).
- (4) John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas, 1997*** (MARC 1997).
- (5) Linda J. Weber and Dotsey Welliver, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas: 2007-2009*** (EMIS 2007).
- (6) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, ***The Reformed Family Worldwide*** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).