

A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS:
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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Historical Overview:

Discovery by Christopher Columbus:	1498
Spanish Colony established on Trinidad:	1592
French colonists begin to arrive on Trinidad:	1783
British take control of Trinidad:	1797
The Island of Tobago was ceded to the British:	1814
The Emancipation of Slavery:	1834
Importation of East Indian indentured laborers (Hindus and Muslims):	1846
Trinidad and Tobago merged to form a single colony:	1888
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago established:	1976
Number of North American agencies in 1979:	23
Number of North American agencies in 1996:	20
Indicates European society*	

Significant Protestant Beginnings or other important events:

- 1592 - The Roman Catholic Church becomes established during the Spanish and French colonial periods.
- 1797 - *Anglican chaplains arrive with British occupation; the Church of England later established in Trinidad.
- 1808 - *The London Missionary Society (Baptist) sends workers to Demerara (later known as British Guyana) and Tobago, and the following year one of them, Thomas Adam, relocated to Trinidad.
- 1809 - *Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society of Great Britain arrives.
- 1815 - Shouter Baptists arrived with the relocation of freed African slaves from the USA southern states who were rewarded by being settled as free men in company villages in the Savanna Grande area by the British for helping them as combatants during the War of 1812-14; William Hamilton was a Baptist lay preacher in the Fifth Company Baptist Church who began to evangelize and organize other Baptist churches in rural Trinidad; some of these Shouter Baptist congregations were aided by English missionaries from the London Baptist Missionary Society in the 1840s, whereas other congregations blended Yoruba customs to form the Spiritual Baptist tradition in the West Indies.

- 1836 - *Missionary Society of Greyfriars Original Secession Church (Scottish Presbyterians) begin work among British colonists, later affiliated with the Church of Scotland (Church of Scotland in Trinidad).
- 1843 - *London Baptist Missionary Society sends the Rev. George Cowen to begin work in Spanish Town in 1843, and in 1854 St. John's Baptist Church was founded in that city; he gave assistance to some of the independent Baptist congregations established among Afro-Americans in the company villages in the south of the island; he worked alongside "Brother Will" Hamilton who was one of the outstanding preachers in the 5th Company area from 1816 to 1860.
- 1865 - Canadian Presbyterian missionary work among the East Indian population; later served by the United Church of Canada; the affiliated churches became entirely independent and self-supporting in 1977 as the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 1893 - Seventh-day Adventist, General Conference
- 1920 - Pentecostal Assemblies, founded by Canadian missionaries
- 1921 - Fundamental Baptist Mission of Trinidad
- 1926 - Church of the Nazarene
- 1953 - World Team (formerly, West Indies Mission), affiliated with the Evangelical Church in the West Indies.
- 1954 - Church of God of Prophecy
- 1954 - Open Bible Standard Churches
- 1956 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN)
- 1962 - Southern Baptist Convention, Foreign Mission Board (now, International Mission Board)
- 1964 - TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)
- 1971 - Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions
- 1974 - Baptist International Missions
- 1977 - Campus Crusade for Christ
- 1980 - United Pentecostal Church International
- 1982 - His Word To The Nations
- 1986 - STEM Ministries
- 1990 - Fundamental Baptist Mission
- 1990 - The Elijah Centre and World Breakthrough Network (WBN)
- 1993 - International Pentecostal Holiness Church
- 1996 - Habitat for Humanity

Date of Origin Unknown:

Anglican Church, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
 Baptist Missionary Society
 Baptist Missions to Forgotten Missions International (a Caribbean mission agency)
 Moravian Church
 Pentecostal Church of God



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) John A. Siewert and Edna G. Valdez, editors: ***Mission Handbook of U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas*** (MARC 1997).
- (4) Jean-Jacques Bauswein and Lukas Vischer, ***The Reformed Family Worldwide*** (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999).
- (5) Clifton L. Holland, editor, ***World Christianity: Central America and the Caribbean*** (MARC-World Vision International, 1981)