

**A CHRONOLOGY OF PROTESTANT BEGINNINGS:  
WINDWARD ISLANDS**

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**Historical Overview:**

Discovery by Christopher Columbus on several voyages to the New World:	1492-1502
Under various Spanish, Portuguese and French colonial powers:	1490s-1800
British take control of St. Vincent and the Grenadines:	1796
Under British control (except for Martinique, which remains in French control):	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Slavery abolished:	1838
Indicates European society*	

**Significant Protestant Beginnings or Events on the following islands:  
Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent-  
Grenadines.**

- 1626 - \*Anglican chaplains arrive with British occupation; the Church of England becomes the Established Church after the first Anglican priest arrived on Barbados; in 1824 the Windward and Leeward Islands, along with Trinidad and Guyana, were formed into the Diocese of Barbados; the separate Diocese of the Windward Islands was created in 1878; this area is now part of the Church in the Province of the West Indies.
- 1635 - \*French Huguenot colonists settled on Martinique and Guadalupe; this was the basis for the development of the Reformed Church of the Antilles.
- 1660 - \*French settlement established on St. Lucia; the Roman Catholic Church established on St. Lucia in 1719; in 1814 the British take control of St. Lucia as part of the Treaty of Paris.
- 1765 - \*The Moravian Church arrives on Barbados as an extension of its work in Antigua; the work was restarted in 1770; later, work was begun on St. Lucia; today, the Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church is headquartered in Barbados.
- 1786 - \*The Wesleyan Methodist Church began work in St. Vincent and Dominica as an extension of its work in Antigua and St. Kitts, under the authority of Bishop Dr. Thomas Coke; in 1789 work was begun in Jamaica (which became the headquarters for Methodist work in the Caribbean)

and Barbados; by 1796 Methodist work had begun in Nevis, Tortola, Montserrat and St. Batholemew (Swedish colony); work was started on Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia by 1809; work in Anguilla began in 1813, in St. Martin in 1817 and in Montserrat in 1820; in 1968, Methodist work in these and other islands became part of the Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas.

- 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.
- 1818 - \*The (Evangelical Anglican) Church Missionary Society begins work in Barbados through the efforts of a lieutenant of the Royal Artillery posted to that island, by the name of R. Luggier; this resulted in the later formation of the Barbados Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the founding of schools for the colored and black population; similar efforts were begun in St. Vincent and Dominica.
- 1833 - \*The Presbyterian Church is established on Granada, affiliated with the Church of Scotland.
- 1903 - The Seventh-day Adventists, South Caribbean Conference; East Caribbean Conference organized in 1926.
- 1936 - Church of God World Missions (Cleveland, TN) in Barbados.
- 1946 - Baptist Mid-Missions in St. Vincent.
- 1951 - World Team (formerly, West Indies Mission) in St. Vincent and St. Lucia; affiliated with the Evangelical Church of the West Indies.
- 1953 - Christian Church and Churches of Christ in Barbados.
- 1960 - Bible Missionary Church in Barbados and St. Vincent.
- 1972 - Southern Baptist Convention: Barbados in 1972, Dominica and Grenada in 1975, and St. Vincent in 1977.
- 1973 - Berean Mission, Inc. on Dominica; 1989 in Grenada.
- 1975 - National Baptist Convention, USA, in Barbados.
- 1979 - Baptist International Missions in Barbados.
- 1984 - Wycliffe Bible Translators in St. Lucia.
- 1986 - Macedonian World Baptist Missions in Grenada; St. Lucia in 1994.
- 1987 - Maranatha Baptist Mission in Grenada.
- 1991 - Child Evangelism Fellowship in St. Vincent.

## Date of Origin Unknown:

Ambassadors for Christ International

Apostolic Faith Mission

Assemblies of God

Baptist Missions to Forgotten

Brethren Assemblies (Plymouth Brethren)

Churches of Christ in Christian Union

Church of the Nazarene

Gospel Fellowship Association

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada – The Pentecostal Church of the West Indies

Pentecostal churches in France have sent missionaries to several islands, including Martinique.

Pilgrim Holiness Church (now part of The Wesleyan Church) – Christian Pilgrim Church

The Salvation Army

United Holy Church of America

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](http://www.prolades.com), [prolades@racsa.co.cr](mailto: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)

(6) J. Gordon Melton and Martin Baumann, editors, ***Religions of the World*** (ABC-Clío Publishers, 2002)