



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

August 2013

WELCOME!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide monthly updates on LDS Church growth and missionary news stories and present a synopsis of recently completed educational resources and research. We are a privately funded initiative that provides resources online without cost. The Cumorah Foundation is not authorized or approved by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or any other group.

CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENTS

New Stakes

(provided with chronological ranking and date of creation)

27. Kisanga DR Congo- 8/25/2013

New Districts

2. Twifu Praso Ghana - 8/4/2013

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- Huarál Perú District
- Tres Arroyos Argentina District

Cities Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)
precise population data from www.citypopulation.de

- Aoloaufou, American Samoa (N/A, N/A)
- Buerarema, Bahia, Brazil (96th, 15,277)
- Mucuri, Bahia, Brazil (177th, 8,607)
- Una, Bahia, Brazil (140th, 10,921)
- Tamandaré, Pernambuco, Brazil (80th, 14,390)
- Laranjeiras, Sergipe, Brazil (10th, 21,257)
- Asikuma, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Zacualtipán, Hidalgo, Mexico (12th, 23,125)
- Asa Amator, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Watford City, North Dakota (32nd, 1,744)
- Tucume, Peru (N/A, N/A)
- Charlestown, St. Kitts and Nevis (2nd, 1,820)
- Lockhart, Texas (204th, 12,698)
- Ternopil, Ukraine (30th, 217,577)

Cities Recently Closed by the Church¹

(city population rank, most recent population estimate) data from
www.citypopulation.de

- Añatuya, Argentina (211st, 22,500)
- Capivari de Baixo, Santa Catarina, Brazil (56th, 19,816)
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Number of Full-time Missionaries Serving Reaches 75,000

In mid-August, the Church made an official announcement that the number of full-time missionaries serving reached 75,000. The average number of missionaries per mission has increased from 170 at year-end 2012 to 185 in mid-August 2013. The number of full-time missionaries serving may topple 90,000 by year-end 2013. In early August, there were 29,000 prospective missionaries awaiting to report for their missions.² There were nearly 59,000 full-time missionaries serving at year-end 2012.

Arabic Language Proselytism Program Begins in California

Full-time missionaries serving in the California San Diego Mission report that the mission has begun an official Arabic-language proselytism program. Only one missionary companionship has appeared to be designated as Arabic-speaking and initial proselytism efforts will likely be limited to the El Cajon area. The Church has not conducted any known overt proselytism efforts in the Arabic language in modern times.

¹ *Cities where the only ward or branch was closed; some of these cities may continue to have a dependent unit and/or missionaries assigned

² Young, Suzanne. "Prospective Missionaries Finding Ways to Prepare to Serve," [lds.org](http://www.lds.org), 8 August 2013.
<http://www.lds.org/church/news/more-prospective-missionaries-are-taking-missionary-prep-classes>

Progress in Liberia

Mission leaders in the newly organized Liberia Monrovia Mission report that in August proselytizing missionaries were assigned outside the capital city of Monrovia for the first time. The mission assigned several missionary companionships to the cities of Harbel and Kakata where branches have operated for approximately five years. Young full-time missionaries report high expectations that formal proselytism efforts in these two cities will yield large numbers of convert baptisms in the coming months and years. The Church has maintained a presence in Liberia since 1987.



Fourth LDS Branch Created in Chennai, India

In July, the Church organized its fourth branch in Chennai, India. The Church has experienced steady growth in this major city of approximately 9.5 million people as there were only two branches in 2009 when the Church organized the Chennai India District. The Church recently completed a large church-built meetinghouse in the city which has raised public awareness of the Church in Chennai. There are now over 11,000 members, two missions, one stake, six districts, six wards, and 35 branches in India.



New Stake in Lubumbashi, DR Congo

In late August, the Church created its third stake in Lubumbashi. The Church organized its first stake in Lubumbashi in 1997 and its second stake in 2009. Senior missionary couples indicate that a lack of meetinghouse space and few available facilities to house wards has delayed the creation of additional wards and the formation of additional stakes. Several meetinghouses are currently under construction in the city and are being built through the Church's meetinghouse construction program that employs returned missionaries trained in construction and masonry skills. Currently two of the three stakes have seven wards and one of the three stakes has eight wards.



Second Branch Created in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

In July, the Church divided the Ho Chi Minh City Branch in Vietnam to create a second branch in the city. There are now at least three branches in the Hanoi Vietnam District which spans the entire country of 92.5 million. Vietnamese members are permitted to serve full-time missions in Vietnam under the Cambodia Phnom Penh Mission. The number of young missionaries assigned to Vietnam has generally ranged from 10 to 15 within the past year and missionaries only serve in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Most Vietnamese natives who serve full-time missionaries are from Ho Chi Minh City. Although the Church does not publish any official membership or congregational statistics for Vietnam due to the sensitive nature of the Church in the country, there appear to be approximately 1,000 members nationwide according to recent estimates by the U.S. Department of State.



NEW RESOURCES

CASE STUDIES

[Analysis of LDS Growth in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic](#)

Consisting of the city of Santo Domingo and surrounding cities and towns, the Santo Domingo metropolitan area is the most populous metropolitan area in the Caribbean with 3.425 million inhabitants. This case study reviews the history of the LDS Church in Santo Domingo by examining past trends in stake and congregational growth. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for LDS growth are discussed. A comparative growth section compares LDS growth in Santo Domingo to other major cities in the Caribbean and Latin America and contrasts LDS growth in Santo Domingo with other outreach-oriented Christian groups. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are discussed.

[LDS Outreach among Haitians in the United States](#)

The United States has one of the largest Haitian populations in the world. Currently the estimated number of Haitian Americans residing in the United States is approximately 800,000. Initial LDS proselytism efforts that specifically targeted Haitian Americans began in the early 1980s. This case study reviews the history of LDS outreach among Haitian Americans and identifies past growth successes and opportunities and challenges for future growth. Haitian American-specific outreach extended by other proselytizing Christian groups is summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[Prospective LDS Outreach Expansion in Sumatra, Indonesia](#)

This case study briefly reviews the history of the Church in Sumatra and its current status as of 2013. Recommendations for expanding outreach and spurring church growth are provided. Challenges for missionary activity are identified and discussed. A comparative growth section compares LDS growth in Sumatra to other areas of Indonesia and contrasts LDS growth in Sumatra to other nontraditional, missionary-focused Christian groups. Limitations to these findings and the outlook for future LDS growth are discussed.

[Rapid LDS Outreach Expansion in Southwestern Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Beginning in early 2012, the Church in Cote d'Ivoire has experienced rapid outreach expansion in southwestern areas of the country as evidenced by the organization of branches in four additional cities. The total number

branches increased from three to 13 within an 18-month period and some cities that previously had no official branches operating had as many as three branches functioning by July 2013. This case study reviews recent congregational growth and national outreach expansion in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire. Recent missionary and church growth successes are analyzed and opportunities and challenges for continuing congregational growth and national outreach expansion are explored. The extent of LDS outreach in southwestern Cote d'Ivoire is compared to the extent of LDS outreach in other areas of the country and in other West African nations. The size and recent growth trends of other proselytizing Christian groups that operate in western Cote d'Ivoire is compared to the LDS Church. Limitations to data and findings in this case study are reported and prospects for future growth are examined.

[Recent Stagnant LDS Growth in Mongolia](#)

During the 1990s and early 2000s, the Church achieved some of its most rapid growth ever experienced in a non-Christian country in Mongolia. In the mid and late 2000s, the Church reported a significant slowdown in membership and congregational growth. This case study identifies and explores reasons for why the growth of the Church in Mongolia has decelerated in recent years. Solutions for reversing stagnant growth trends are provided and opportunities for growth are discussed. Challenges to reversing stagnant growth trends are examined. The growth of the Church in Mongolia is compared to other nontraditional proselytizing Christian groups. Prospects for future growth are predicted and discussed.

[Recent Successes Reversing Stagnant or Declining Congregational Growth in Italy, Portugal, and Spain](#)

The Church in Italy, Portugal, and Spain has experienced a net decrease in the number of congregations functioning during the 2000s. In the early 2010s, the Church reversed the trend of congregational decline and stagnant growth as evidenced by net increases in the number of congregations in all three countries. This case study reviews congregational and stake and district growth trends for the Church in Italy, Portugal, and Spain between 1987 and mid-2013. Successes reversing stagnant or declining congregational growth in these countries are examined and opportunities and challenges for maintaining positive congregational growth into the coming years and decades is discussed.

NEW RESOURCES

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MISSIONARY WORK AND CHURCH GROWTH (MISSIOLOGY)

- [Address Unknown File](#)
- [Census Data](#)
- [Meetinghouses](#)
- [Oversaturation](#)
- [Real Growth](#)