



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

January 2015

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)

1. Mesa Arizona Eastmark - January 11th, 2015
2. Herriman Utah Pioneer - January 18th, 2015

New Districts

1. Assomada Cape Verde - January 25th, 2015

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

12. Ushuaia Argentina (discontinued in late 2014)

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Hrazdan, Armenia (5th, 53,196)
- Valença, Bahia, Brazil (21st, 59,476)
- Paraty, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (62nd, 24,337)
- Kugba, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Can-avid, Philippines (N/A, 19,785)
- Sagbayan, Philippines (N/A, 20,091)
- Sindangan, Philippines (N/A, 94,146)
- Peso da Régua, Portugal (107th, 8,510)
- Saleapaga, Samoa (N/A, N/A)
- Chegutu, Zimbabwe (13th, 43,424)

Locations Recently Closed by the Church

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

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

None reported in January 2015

11 New Missions to be Organized in July; One Mission to be Discontinued

Effective July 1st, the Church will organize the following new missions:

- Argentina Buenos Aires East
- Argentina Santa Fe
- Bolivia La Paz El Alto
- California Modesto
- Costa Rica San Jose West
- Peru Trujillo South
- Portugal Porto
- Trinidad Port of Spain
- Utah Logan
- Utah Orem
- Washington Yakima

The Church also announced the discontinuation of the Utah Salt Lake City Central Mission (organized in 2012). These changes will result in the number of missions totaling 417 in July 2015.

New Mission Created in Wyoming

The Wyoming Mormon Trail Mission was organized on January 16th from a division of the Colorado Fort Collins, Montana Billings, South Dakota Rapid City Missions. Although boundaries for the new mission have not been announced, it appears that the mission will include several stakes in central Wyoming as evidenced by the mission being organized from three different missions. The new mission will have a strong emphasis on Martin's Cove and the Mormon Trail in proselytizing efforts - possibly in a manner similar to the Salt Lake City Temple Square Mission. The mission is the first LDS mission to be organized in Wyoming.

Applications for Stakes Submitted in Mozambique and Zambia

Mission leadership in Africa reported that paperwork has been submitted to Church Headquarters to organize the first stakes in Mozambique (2) and Zambia (1). Districts that applied to become stakes include the Beira Mozambique, Lusaka Zambia, and Maputo Mozambique Districts. In late January, the Mozambique Maputo Mission President indicated that approval had been granted to organize the first stake in Mozambique from the Maputo Mozambique District on February 15th.

First LDS Stake to be Created in Vanuatu

Missionaries serving in the Vanuatu Port Vila Mission report that the Church will organize its first stake in Vanuatu in April. The Port Vila Vanuatu District will become a stake and most of its seven branches will become wards. Vanuatu is the country with the fifth most members without a stake according to year-end 2013 membership statistics. Once the new stake is organized, there will be one stake and three districts in the country. The population of Vanuatu is 267,000. The Church has experienced rapid growth in Vanuatu within the past 15 years.



Progress Opening Cities to Missionary Work in Mindanao, Philippines

The Church in has begun to experience progress expanding outreach in the vast unreached areas of Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao, Philippines where over one million people reside in municipalities without an LDS presence. The Church organized a branch in Ipil in late 2013 and recently organized a group in Sindangan. Prior to the organization of these two congregations, no LDS units operated between northwestern Mindanao (Dipolog City and Pagadian City) and the extreme southern areas of the Zamboanga Peninsula.



LDS Branch organized in Hrazdan, Armenia

The Church recently opened its first branch in Hrazdan, Armenia. The Hrazdan Branch is the first branch to be opened in an Armenian city where the Church reported no previous congregation in over five years. Hrazdan is the fifth most populous city in Armenia. Missionaries have proselytized in Hrazdan for at least a couple years and a member group appeared to operate prior to the organization of the new branch. Organized in 2013, the Yerevan Armenia Stake now has six wards and four branches.



NEW RESOURCES

CASE STUDIES

[Analysis of LDS Growth in Phnom Penh, Cambodia](#)

Phnom Penh is the most populous city and administrative capital of Cambodia. Recent estimates place the population of the metropolitan area at 1.7 million. The LDS Church has experienced significant growth in Phnom Penh notwithstanding the first missionaries arriving in the mid-1990s, a homogeneously Buddhist population, and historically few mission resources allocated to the country. This case study reviews the history of the Church in Phnom Penh. Past church growth and missionary successes are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are analyzed. LDS growth in Phnom Penh is compared to other major metropolitan areas in Southeast Asia and the growth and size of other Christian denominations that operate in Phnom Penh are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

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[Recent Church Growth and Missionary Successes in Hong Kong](#)

This case study reviews the history of the Church in Hong Kong. Recent church growth and missionary successes are identified. Opportunities and challenges for future growth are predicted. The growth of the Church in other industrialized East Asian nations is reviewed. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups that operate in Hong Kong are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[Opportunities for LDS Growth in Malawi](#)

Malawi is inhabited by 17.4 million people and landlocked in southern Africa. The Church has extended extremely limited outreach that is restricted to only three cities notwithstanding full-time missionaries serving in Malawi for over 15 years. This case study reviews the history of the Church in Malawi. Recent church growth and missionary successes are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are explored. The growth of the Church in nearby Sub-Saharan African nations is compared to the growth of the Church in Malawi. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups that operate in Malawi are summarized.

DATABASES

COUNTRY DATABASE

We have completed the most comprehensive country-by-country LDS statistical database ever developed for public use. This database provides congregational, stake, and district data for countries around the world since 1987 and membership data for countries around the world since 1920. Additional country-by-country statistics provided in the database include estimated member activity rates and the percentage of the national population residing in locations with LDS congregations. Users can download the file as an Excel spreadsheet to explore the data. We hope that this resources will fuel additional research and interest in the study of missiology and LDS Church growth. Click [here](#) to access the database.

MISSION DATABASE

We have completed a database providing detailed information on the organization and discontinuation of the Church's missions since 1837. Variables included in the database include the current and former names of operating missions, the former names of discontinued missions, the country where operating or discontinued missions were headquartered in, the creation date for operation and discontinued missions, the date of discontinuation for discontinued missions, the parent mission(s) for each operating or discontinued mission, the countries administered by currently operating missions, and additional notes. All information is current as of year-end 2014. Click [here](#) to access the database.

UPDATED RESOURCES

CASE STUDIES

- [Analysis of LDS Growth in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire](#)

