



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

January 2017

## 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. Las Vegas Nevada Blue Diamond – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017
2. Henderson Nevada Anthem Hills – January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017
3. Kampala Uganda South - January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017
4. St George Utah Washington Fields North – Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017
5. Tegucigalpa Honduras Roble Oeste – January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### New Districts

1. Hinunangan Philippines - January 1st, 2017

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

#### Stakes

1. Guatemala City Alameda

#### Districts

1. Camiling Philippines West

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)  
precise population data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Diamantino, Mato Grosso, Brazil (29<sup>th</sup>, 15,895)
- Saquarema, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (59<sup>th</sup>, 26,999)
- Aburi, Ghana (67<sup>th</sup>, ~18,400)
- Blanchard, Louisiana (162<sup>nd</sup>, 2,899)
- Minden, Louisiana (36<sup>th</sup>, 13,082)
- Bukuru, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)

### 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](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Moranbah, Australia (N/A, 8,624)
- Littleborough, England (N/A, 12,325)
- Rotherham, England (56<sup>th</sup>, 119,900)
- Princeton, Illinois (265<sup>th</sup>, 7,660)
- Kasugai, Japan (71<sup>st</sup>, 305,569)
- Ogaki, Japan (149<sup>th</sup>, 161,160)
- Suzuka, Japan (112<sup>th</sup>, 199,293)
- Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain (N/A, 37,283)
- La Concepcion, Venezuela (74<sup>th</sup>, 71,100)

### New Branches in Vietnam



The Church has organized three new branches in Vietnam within the past month. Two new branches were created in Hanoi and one new branch was organized in Ho Chi Minh City. Senior missionaries serving in Vietnam report that the new branch in Ho Chi Minh City was organized due to long travel times for members to access the nearest meetinghouse and steady growth in church attendance within the past couple years in the Than Son Nhat Branch. With the Church's recent government

recognition and the organization of the Vietnam Hanoi Mission approximately one year ago, prospects appear favorable for the establishment of additional branches in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the organization of branches in additional cities, and the establishment of a second member district headquartered in Ho Chi Minh City.

## Updated Figure for Number of Full-time Missionaries Serving

The Church reported that the number of full-time missionaries serving worldwide currently totals 71,000. This indicates an increase of 13,000 missionaries since October 2012 when the Church announced the reduced minimum age for missionary service. The current figure appears to accurately indicate the true number of members serving missions after the end of the double cohort of missionaries incurred by the age change for missionary service. The Church previously reached an all-time high of approximately 90,000 missionaries in late 2014.

## Senegal Assigned to a Mission



Senegal has been assigned to a mission for the first time in Church history. Previously administered directly by the Africa West Area, Senegal now pertains to the Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan West Mission. The Church operates one French-speaking branch located in Dakar. One senior missionary couple serves in

Dakar. No young, full-time missionaries have been assigned to Senegal as the Church has yet to officially register with the government. There appear to be less than 40 members in Senegal.

## Chad Transferred to the Africa West Area

The Church's official meetinghouse locator site now indicates that the African nation of Chad is currently administered by the Africa West Area. The Church has never operated an official congregation in Chad. A handful of members have temporarily resided in the country and only a few native Chadian members have ever appeared to join the Church. The reassignment of Chad to the Africa West Area may indicate greater interest from area leadership to establish an official church presence in Chad. Religious freedom exists in Chad and there appear no legal obstacles that prevent the Church from obtaining official registration with the government. Chad is 58% Muslim, 35% Christian, and 7% followers of other religions.



## Third Stake Organized in Uganda

The Church organized its third stake in Uganda on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The new stake was created from the division of the original Kampala Uganda Stake which was organized in January 2010. Kampala is now the second city in East Africa with two stakes as the Church organized its second stake in Nairobi, Kenya last year. Mission leaders in East Africa report an increased emphasis on the establishment of centers of strength to prepare for the announcement of temples in this region one day.



## New Ward in the Republic of the Congo

Last Sunday the Church in the Republic of the Congo organized a new ward in Brazzaville for the first time in several years. The new ward is the Mafouta Ward in the Makelekele Republic of Congo Stake. The Church currently operates two stakes and one mission in the Republic of the Congo.



## New Branches in North Central Nigeria

The Church recently organized two new branches in the Jos Nigeria District - both of which are located in the Jos metropolitan area. With nearly one million inhabitants, Jos is one of the most populous cities in Nigeria and one of the most northern cities in the country with an LDS presence. There are now four branches in the Jos area.



Local members report a need for Hausa translations of LDS materials to improve gospel study and testimony development as many speak Hausa as a second language for interethnic communication. There are now six branches in the Jos Nigeria District, including one branch in Bauchi.

## UPDATED RESOURCES

We are in the process of updating our maps that display estimated LDS membership by administrative division for many countries around the world. Originally created in 2013, these maps display the location and population of each administrative division of every country, and the estimated number of LDS members and the percentage of LDS members in each of these administrative divisions. This resource provides valuable information regarding the size and growth of the Church on a state-by-state or province-by-province level with membership data estimates as these membership statistics are not released by the LDS Church. We have estimated these membership figures through multiplying the number of LDS congregations by the members-to-units ratio (i.e. the average number of members per ward or branch) for administrative divisions in each respective country. Access these maps by using our LDS Database Map on [cumorah.com](http://cumorah.com), or click [here](#).

We are also adding sacrament meeting attendance figures for many wards and branches throughout the world as displayed on the LDS International Atlas on [cumorah.com](http://cumorah.com). These data were obtained from surveys completed by returned missionaries and local members. The date of these sacrament meeting figures is also provided.

