



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

June 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)

18. Lima Peru Pachacamac - 6/2/2013
19. Nkulumane Zimbabwe - 6/2/2013
20. Heredia Costa Rica - 6/9/2013
21. Yerevan Armenia - 6/16/2013
22. Orem Utah Vineyard - 6/16/2013
23. Pirassununga Brazil - 6/23/2013
24. Santo Ângelo Brazil - 6/23/2013
25. Lima Peru Santa Patricia - 6/29/2013

New Districts

(provided with chronological ranking and date of creation)

1. Taiohae Marquesas Islands - 6/2/2013

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- Marcona Peru District
- Naranjo Costa Rica District
- Zarahemla Mexico City (Student Single) Stake

Cities Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Itapipoca, Ceara, Brazil (10th, 56,554)
- Belém, Paraiba, Brazil (31st, 12,360)
- Sal Rei, Cape Verde (9th, 5,407)
- Rohi, Pohnpei, Micronesia (N/A, N/A)
- Tilburg, Netherlands (6th, 206,240)
- Massena, New York (179th, 10,936)
- Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Dzerzhinsk, Russia (76th, 240,762)
- Livingston, Tennessee (125th, 4,058)
- Springfield, Tennessee (34th, 16,440)

Cities Recently Closed by the Church¹

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

- Campo Medina, Argentina (N/A, N/A)
- San Pedro Necta, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Dalid (Dap-Dap), Philippines (N/A, N/A)

First LDS Stake Organized in Armenia

On June 16th, Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles organized the Church's first stake in Armenia. The new stake includes five wards and several branches and numbers among the most remote stakes in the Church with the nearest stakes located in Kyiv, Ukraine; Moscow, Russia; and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Currently there are slightly more than 3,000 members in Armenia. The Armenia Yerevan Mission services Armenia and the Republic of Georgia.



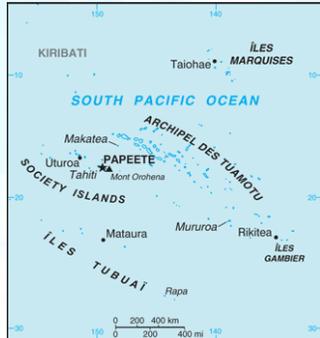
Translation of the Book of Mormon into Kosraean Nearing Completion

Missionaries serving in Micronesia report that the Church is close to finishing the translation of the Book of Mormon into Kosraean - the indigenous language of the island of Kosrae. Less than 10,000 speak Kosraean worldwide. Only two branches operate on Kosrae that pertain to the Kosrae Micronesia District. The Book of Mormon is currently translated into 109 languages.

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

First District Created in the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia

On June 2nd, the Church organized its first district in the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia. Comprising the most northern island archipelago of French Polynesia, the Marquesas Islands had no permanent LDS presence until 1991 when the first branch was organized with 26 members. The new Taiohae Marquesas Islands District comprises two branches (Hiva Oa and Taiohae) which previously reported directly to the Tahiti Papeete Mission. There are now eight stakes and four districts in French Polynesia.



Broadcast on Missionary Work

On June 23rd, the Church conducted a worldwide broadcast regarding the need for greater member-missionary participation, more efficient collaboration between full-time missionaries and local church leaders, more effective use of surplus missionary manpower, and greater integration of social media into proselytism efforts. Click [here](#) to access an article on the broadcast and click [here](#) to access the video broadcast itself. A new website on revamping the worldwide missionary program in connection with this broadcast can also be found [here](#).

26 Full-time Missionaries Assigned to Single Texan Ward

Missionaries serving in the Texas McAllen Mission report that one ward currently has 26 full-time missionaries assigned. Missionaries report that the intent behind assigning 13 missionary companionships to a single English-speaking ward is to facilitate the organization of additional units and stakes in the area. Local members in the ward indicate that unique social and family problems combined with high receptivity to missionaries in the area has prompted mission and stake leaders to assign so many missionaries to a single church unit. Caution should be exercised by church leaders around the world to avoid oversaturating church units with surplus missionary manpower as this practice can erode the self-sufficiency of church members in fulfilling their member and leadership responsibilities.

Most Populous Unreached City in the Netherlands Has LDS Unit Established

The Church recently organized a new branch Tilburg, Netherlands. Inhabited by 206,000, Tilburg was previously the most populous city in the Netherlands without an LDS unit. The Church has experienced steady congregational decline in the Netherlands within the past decade due to few convert baptisms and small numbers of active members in many congregations. The new branch in Tilburg becomes the first new unit to be established in a previously unreached city in the Netherlands for the first time in many years.



Island Opens to Missionary Work in Cape Verde

Missionaries serving in Cape Verde report that the first proselytizing missionaries have been assigned to the island of Boa Vista, marking the first time in over a decade that a previously unreached island in Cape Verde has had an official LDS presence established. Missionaries, members, and investigators appear to hold church services as a member group in the largest city of Sal Rei. Although nominal Latter-day Saints account for two percent of the national population, there remain two additional islands in Cape Verde without a known LDS presence: Maio and Sao Nicolau.



Senior Missionary Couple Assigned to Gabon

A senior missionary couple has been officially assigned to Libreville, Gabon for the first time. Housing for young proselytizing missionaries and a meetinghouse for the recently created Libreville Branch have also been secured. Full-time missionaries are anticipated to begin serving in Gabon within the next few months from the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa Mission.

100th Stake Organized in Peru

During the last weekend of June, the Church organized its 100th stake in Peru. The Church in Peru organized its first stake in 1970 and its 50th stake in the early 1990s. Click [here](#) for more information.

NEW RESOURCES

CASE STUDIES

[Analysis of LDS Growth in Auckland, New Zealand](#)

This case study reviews the growth of the Church in Auckland within the past half century and identifies successes, opportunities, and challenges for growth. A comparative growth section compares LDS outreach in Auckland to other cities in the region and contrasts LDS growth in Auckland to other nontraditional proselytizing Christian groups. Limitations to this case study are discussed followed by prospects for future growth.

[Centers of Strength Policy: LDS Growth Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

The "centers of strength" or "building from centers of strength" policy is a policy in the LDS Church that has guided the expansion and allocation of mission resources for at least the past two decades. The primary principle of this policy centers on a greater allotment of mission resources to areas with larger numbers of church members rather than in locations with few or no members. This case study examines the implementation of this policy in Sub-Saharan Africa, reasons for why the Church has an extremely limited presence in many African countries, and prospects for this policy guiding missionary activity in the region for the foreseeable future.

[Estimating LDS Membership by Administrative Division through the Members-to-Units Ratio](#)

This case study examines the accuracy of estimating membership figures by comparing actual membership figures for countries where the Church reports membership by administrative division to estimated membership figures ascertained by multiplying the average number of members per unit by the number of units in each administrative division for these same countries. Countries in which the Church publishes membership figures by administrative division, namely the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, are included in this analysis to assess the accuracy of this method for ascertaining membership figures for countries in which the Church does not report membership figures by administrative division.

[Expanding LDS Outreach in Peninsular \(West\) Malaysia](#)

This case study summarizes demographic characteristics of Peninsular Malaysia and reviews the history of the Church with a focus on outreach expansion and congregational growth. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for church growth are analyzed. The growth of the Church in other Southeast Asian countries and East Malaysia are compared to church growth in Peninsular Malaysia. The growth of other proselytizing Christian groups is contrasted to LDS growth in Peninsular Malaysia. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are discussed.

[LDS Outreach among the Mountain Peoples on northern Luzon, Philippines](#)

Located in northern Luzon, the Cordillera Central Mountains are one of the most prominent mountain ranges in the Philippines and are home to approximately 35 indigenous ethnolinguistic groups. This case study briefly examines the history and culture of these mountain peoples in northern Luzon and summarizes past and current LDS outreach. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for missionary activity and church growth are discussed. A comparative growth section compares LDS outreach among mountain peoples in northern Luzon to other nontraditional proselytizing Christian groups. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are provided.

[Stagnant LDS Growth in Sri Lanka](#)

Inhabited by 21.7 million people, Sri Lanka has had an LDS presence for over 30 years. Notwithstanding a continual presence for over a quarter of a century, the Church in Sri Lanka remains very small with less than 1,400 members and three branches as of year-end 2012. This case study reviews the history of the Church in Sri Lanka and identifies successes, opportunities, and challenges to growth. A comparative growth section examines church growth in other countries in South Asia and contrasts LDS growth in Sri Lanka with other proselytizing Christian groups operating in the country. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are discussed.

NEW RESOURCES

ENCYCLOPEDIA ON MISSIONARY WORK AND CHURCH GROWTH (MISSIOLOGY)

- [Revelation](#)
- [Unreached Countries](#)

