



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

March 2016

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)

- 12. Managua Nicaragua Las Américas - 2/21/2016
- 14. Mesa Arizona Red Mountain - March 6th, 2016
- 15. Enumclaw Washington - March 13th, 2016
- 16. Ipswich Australia West - March 20th, 2016
- 17. Maracanaú Brazil North - March 20th, 2016
- 18. Mpintsin Ghana - March 20th, 2016
- 19. Nairobi Kenya West - March 20th, 2016
- 20. Palmer Alaska - March 20th, 2016
- 21. Sherman Texas - March 20th, 2016

- Malay, Philippines (209th, 31,450)
- Sisseton, South Dakota (33rd, 2,470)
- Atata, Tonga (N/A, N/A)
- Jarailan, Vanuatu (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

- Reyes, Bolivia (N/A, 6,222)
- Harlan, Kentucky (173rd, 1,745)
- San Pedro de Rosales, Sinaloa, Mexico (54th, 3,848)
- Silver Lake, Oregon (338th, 149)
- Arroyo, Puerto Rico (46th, 6,396)

New Districts

- 2. Yekaterinburg Russia - January 31st, 2016
- 5. L'viv Ukraine - February 28th, 2016
- 6. Maseru Lesotho - February 28th, 2016
- 7. Etinan Nigeria North - March 6th, 2016
- 8. Isumo Papua New Guinea - March 6th, 2016
- 9. Irkutsk Russia - March 13th, 2016

Stake Growth Accelerates in 2016

There have been at least 11 new stakes organized during the month of March. If the Church organizes as many stakes during each month of 2016, a total of 132 stakes would be organized for the entire year. The record for the most new stakes organized in a single year was set in 1996 when 148 new stakes were organized.

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in March 2016

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Ararat, Armenia (16th, 20,833)
- Puerto Jimenez, Costa Rica (102nd, 3,036)
- Franklin, Georgia (360th, 993)
- Gouyave, Grenada (2nd, 3,378)
- Gressier, Haiti (N/A, ~26,000)
- San Jose de Iturbide, Guanajuato, Mexico (29th, 23,471)
- Vega de Alatorre, Veracruz, Mexico (112th, 7,653)
- Gesowa, Papua New Guinea (N/A, N/A)
- Sagero, Papua New Guinea (N/A, N/A)

Ghana MTC Sets New Record for Largest Missionary Cohort

The Ghana MTC received 104 missionaries for training - the largest cohort ever trained at this MTC. Native languages spoken by missionaries in this new cohort include Anaang, Edo, English, Ewe, Fante, French, Ga, Gikuyu, Hausa, Ibibio, Igbo, Kirundi, Kissi, Kono, Krio, Liberian English, Lingala, Luganda, Mano, Mende, Ndebele, Shona, Swahili-Shaba, Swahili, Swedish, Tshiluba, Twi, Urhobo, Yoruba, and Zulu.

First District Organized in Lesotho

The Church organized its first district in the African nation of Lesotho at the end of February. The new district has three branches (Leribe Branch, Maseru, and Masianokeng) that previously pertained to the Bloemfontein South Africa Stake. Lesotho was previously the nation with the third most members without a district according to year-end 2014 membership data. There are good opportunities for the Church in Lesotho to organize additional congregations and open previously unreached areas of the country to missionary activity.



Second Stake Organized in Kenya

The Church organized its second stake in Kenya in March. The Kenya Nairobi West Stake was organized from a division of the original Nairobi Kenya Stake. The new stake includes five ward and two branches. The creation of the new stake marks the first time that the Church has organized a second stake in an East African city and the first time that a stake in East Africa has been divided to organize another stake. The Church organized the original Kenya Nairobi Stake in 2001. There are now two stakes and four districts in Kenya.



First LDS Stake to be created in Benin

We have confirmed that the Church will organize its first stake in Benin in the coming weeks. The Church in Benin has experienced some of the most rapid growth in the world among nations where an LDS presence has been recently established. The Church in Benin organized its first branch in 2005 and reported only 95 members at year-end 2005. The Church in Benin reported 1,898 members and 14 branches at year-end 2014.



New District Organized in Papua New Guinea

The Church organized a new district in Western Province, Papua New Guinea in early March. The Isumo Papua New Guinea District was reinstated and the Isumo Ward was divided into three branches. Previously assigned to the Daru Papua New Guinea State, the original Isumo Ward had 800 members on its records prior to the division. It appears that many member groups likely operate in the district as 400 members attended the conference. The new district appears to service a geographical area inhabited by as few as 10,000 people. There are now three stakes and one district in Western Province.



District Organized in the Russia Vladivostok Mission

The Church in Russia organized its first district in the Lake Baikal region of Siberia during March. The new Irkutsk Russia District includes four branches located in Angarsk, Irkutsk, and Ulan-Ude. The Church has reported its greatest growth in Ulan-Ude where the Buryat population has exhibited good receptivity to LDS proselytism. There are now three stakes and nine districts in Russia.



Progress in the Southern DR Congo

Rapid growth has occurred in the medium-sized city of Kasumbalesa in the southern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Two new branches were recently organized in the city, resulting in the number of branches increasing from two to four. The Church organized its first branch in Kasumbalesa in 2011. The Church also recently organized its first branch in the city of Fungurume where a member group previously functioned. There are now 17 cities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with an official LDS ward or branch.



New Branches Created in Cote d'Ivoire



The Church has organized at least seven new branches in Cote d'Ivoire within the past month. New branches have been organized in Daloa (2), Affery, Azaguié, Bouake, Meagui, and Ouragahio. Most of these new branches were organized in small cities or towns

where the Church established its first branch within the past year. This finding suggests that rapid growth has occurred in less populated, rural areas. Thus, the Church in Cote d'Ivoire can expect to experience similar results in additional small cities and towns where no LDS presence currently operates. The Church in Daloa has experienced the most rapid congregational growth in the worldwide Church since the early 1990s when the Church established a presence in Moscow, Russia. Today there are eight branches in Daloa, whereas there were no branches in the city as of January 2014.

First LDS Branch Organized in Philippine Island

The Church recently organized its first official branch on the Philippine island of Siquijor (Visayas) in the city of Larena. The Church organized a member group on Siquijor last year and assigned missionaries. There appear many good opportunities for the Church in the Philippines to establish congregations on additional islands where no official LDS congregations currently operate.



New Branch in Haiti

The Church in Haiti recently organized a new branch in a city where no previous ward or branch operated. The new branch is the Gressier Branch in the Carrefour Haiti Stake. There are now 20 cities and towns in Haiti with an official LDS ward or branch.

