



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

May 2014

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)

- 16. Frisco Texas Shawnee Trail - May 4th, 2014
- 17. Kahului Hawaii West - May 4th, 2014
- 18. Minot North Dakota - May 4th, 2014
- 19. Florence Italy - May 11th, 2014
- 20. Santo Domingo Dom. Rep. Independencia - 5/18/2014
- 21. Guayaquil Ecuador Juan Montalvo - May 18, 2014
- 22. Umuahia Nigeria - May 18th, 2014
- 23. Phnom Penh Cambodia North - May 25th, 2014
- 24. Phnom Penh Cambodia South - May 25th, 2014
- 25. São Filipe Cape Verde - May 25th, 2014

New Districts

- 7. Asaga Ohafia Nigeria - May 18th, 2014
- 8. Bydgoszcz Poland - May 18th, 2014
- 9. Mwene-Ditu DR Congo - May 18th, 2014

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 4. Melipilla Chile
- 5. Rimini Italy

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Porto Novo, Benin (2nd, 223,552)
- Canindé, Ceara, Brazil (18th, 42,918)
- Pirapora, Minas Gerais, Brazil (58th, 52,385)
- Atchison, Kansas (33rd, 11,021)
- Kitengela, Kenya (22nd, 58,167)
- Peja, Kosovo (4th, 48,962)
- Prizren, Kosovo (2nd, 85,119)
- Pescadero, Baja California Sur, Mexico (19th, 2,338)
- Cacaloxúchitl, Puebla, Mexico (237th, 3,006)
- Cloudcroft, New Mexico (192nd, 674)
- Barberton, Ohio (56th, 26,550)
- Wagoner, Oklahoma (50th, 8,323)

- Chota, Peru (110th, 16,531)
- Colonia Divina, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Butterworth, South Africa (79th, 44,308)
- Matupa, South Africa (N/A, N/A)

Locations Recently Closed by the Church¹

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

- Pereira Barreto, Sao Paulo, Brazil (227th, 23,235)
- Pistoia, Italy (56th, 90,288)
- Warren, Michigan (3rd, 134,056)
- Kuna Negra, Panama (N/A, N/A)

First Two Stakes Created in Cambodia

On May 25th, the Church organized its first two stakes in Cambodia. Two of the four member districts in Phnom Penh (Phnom Penh North and Phnom Penh South) became stakes, marking the first time in LDS history that the Church has created two stakes on the same day in a country that previously had no stakes organized. Prior to the organization of the new stakes, Cambodia was the country with the most members without a stake. Mission and area leaders have prepared membership for the organization of stakes in Phnom Penh for approximately a decade, but convert retention and member activity problems have delayed the establishment of stakes for many years. With the organization of stakes, prospects appear favorable for mission leaders to

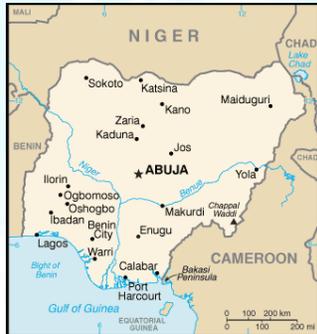


¹ *Cities where the only ward or branch was closed; some of these cities may continue to have a dependent unit and/or missionaries assigned

redistribute mission resources from leader and member support in Phnom Penh to expanding national outreach in areas outside of Phnom Penh where no LDS presence currently operates. There are now two stakes and three districts in Cambodia.

Stake Reinstated in Nigeria

On May 18th, the Church reinstated the Umuahia Nigeria Stake. One of only two stakes to have ever been discontinued in Africa, the Umuahia Nigeria Stake operated from 1996 to 2005 when the stake divided into two districts based in Umuahia and Okpuala Ngwa. It is unclear why the original stake was discontinued. The original Umuahia Nigeria Stake had five wards and two branches when it was organized in 1996 whereas today the area formerly covered by the original stake now has one stake, two districts, five wards, and 15 branches. There are now 23 stakes and 22 districts in Nigeria.



Third Branch Created in Burundi

The Church organized its third branch in Burundi on March 30th: the Bujumbura 3rd Branch. Rapid growth has occurred in Burundi since the arrival of full-time missionaries in late 2010. The number of members has increased from 39 at year-end 2010 to 409 at year-end 2013. The Church in Burundi organized its first two branches in 2011. Only African members serve full-time missions in Burundi. Currently Burundi is assigned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Lubumbashi Mission.



Two Additional Cities Open to Missionary Work in Kosovo

The Adriatic South Mission recently opened two additional cities to missionary work in Kosovo, increasing the number of cities with an LDS presence from two to four. Steady growth has recently occurred in Kosovo as the Church organized its second branch in the country just last month in Gjakova.



Progress in Mozambique Increasing the Number of Members Serving Missions

Senior missionaries in Mozambique report that the mission has made a renewed effort for the Church's full-time missionary force to be self-sustaining as evidenced by increasing the number of Mozambicans serving missions to equal the number of missionaries assigned to serve in the country. Currently 39 local members are serving missions or have received mission calls, less than half the number of missionaries currently assigned to the country.



Tenth Stake Created in Italy

On May 11th, the Church organized its tenth stake in Italy from a consolidation of the Florence Italy and Rimini Italy Districts. The new stake has five wards and seven branches. The Church Italy has experienced significant growth in the number of stakes operating within the past decade as the number of stakes has increased from three in 2003 to 10 at present. The number of member districts has also fallen as a result of districts advancing to stake status. During this same 10-year period, the number of districts has declined from 14 to one. The number of total congregations has also declined as church leaders have sought to create ward-sized branches. In 2003, there were 119 congregations whereas in May 2014 there were 102.



City Opens for Missionary Work in Benin

Missionaries serving in the Benin Cotonou Mission report that Porto Novo has recently had missionaries assigned and a member group organized. Porto Novo is the first city in Benin to have an LDS presence established outside of the greater Cotonou area. Missionaries report a high potential for growth in the Porto Novo area as many members have relocated to the city within recent years and there have been a substantial number of teaching referrals. Additionally, the Church recently organized its eleventh branch in the Cotonou Benin District.



LDS Church Obtains Government Recognition in Vietnam

Missionaries serving in the Cambodia Phnom Penh Mission report that the Vietnamese government has approved the Church's application for official recognition. The Church currently is only permitted to assign missionaries of Vietnamese descent to Vietnam, where three branches operate in Hanoi (1) and Ho Chi Minh City (2). In a news release from May 30th, the Church reported that there are currently over 1,600 members in Vietnam;² a substantial increase from the mere 100 members in the country reported by the Church in 1997. Prospects appear favorable for the establishment of the Church in additional major cities where no official branches currently operate.



Rapid Growth Continues in Cape Verde

Several church growth developments have recently occurred in Cape Verde, including the organization of the Church's third stake, the creation of the first official branch on the island of Maio, and the Praia Cape Verde Stake growing from only six wards and two branches in 2012 to 10 wards and five branches at present. Annual membership growth rates have been approximately 16% for the past two years and annual congregational growth rates were 28% in 2012 and 35% in 2013. In 2014, four new official congregations have been created in the country.

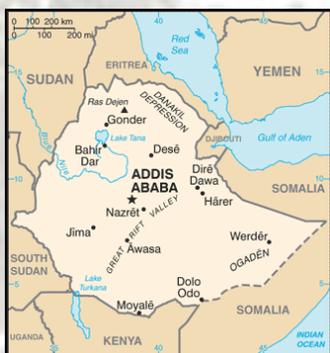
2013 Membership Data for Additional Countries

We have obtained membership data as of year-end 2013 for the following countries where the Church has not published membership data on its Newsroom website.

- Bahrain - 170
- Bermuda - 156
- Bonaire - 78
- British Virgin Islands - 150
- Burkina Faso - 6
- Burundi - 409
- Chad - 5
- Djibouti - 2
- Equatorial Guinea - 2
- Falkland Islands - 10
- Gabon - 19
- Gibraltar - 16
- Greenland - 15
- Guinea - 14
- Guinea-Bissau - 45
- Kosovo - 50
- Kuwait - 267
- Mali - 10
- Mauritania - 2
- Montenegro - 5
- Morocco - 85
- Niger - 5
- Oman - 78
- Qatar - 548
- Senegal - 13
- Seychelles - 3
- The Gambia - 19
- Turks and Caicos Islands - 92
- United Arab Emirates - 1,286
- UK - England - 145,385
- UK - Northern Ireland - 5,297
- UK - Scotland - 26,598
- UK - Wales - 9,491
- Vietnam - 1,600

Missionaries Withdrawn from Two Cities in Ethiopia

Missionaries and members in Ethiopia report that a more conservative interpretation of the centers of strength policy has been recently implemented. This has resulted in the removal of full-time missionaries from two of the five cities in the country that used to have missionaries. The Church in Ethiopia has struggled to achieve greater "real growth" due to challenges for missionaries to proficiently teach and communicate in the Amharic language, limited resources and attention resulting from the Uganda Kampala Mission administering the country, rushed baptismal preparation, and problems with local leadership development. It is likely that limited progress will occur accelerating growth until greater numbers of Ethiopian members serve full-time missions within their homeland.



² "Church Reaches Milestone in Vietnam," News Release, 30 May 2014.
<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/church-reaches-milestone-vietnam>

NEW RESOURCES

MAPS DISPLAYING THE STATUS OF LDS GROWTH BY METROPOLITAN AREAS WITH ONE MILLION OR MORE INHABITANTS

- [Asia \(Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan\)](#)
- [Asia \(South and Southeast\)](#)
- [Europe, Central Asia, and Siberia](#)
- [China](#)
- [Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- [Middle East and North Africa](#)
- [Oceania](#)
- [Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

NOTE: We apologize that our website has been down since the end of May. We are working to resolve the issue and hope to have the website running soon. No new or updated resources for the LDS Growth Case Studies and the Missiology Encyclopedia were covered in this month's newsletter due to these website problems.