



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

September 2018

WELCOME!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide monthly updates on the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) 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)

31. Vineyard Utah Grove Park - August 26th, 2018
32. Abeokuta Nigeria Ibara - September 2nd, 2018
33. Cordoba Argentina Chacabuco - Sept 2nd, 2018
34. Assin Foso Ghana South - September 9th, 2018
35. Les Palmes Haiti - September 9th, 2018
36. Idaho Falls YSA - September 16th, 2018
37. Logan Utah YSA 7th - September 16th, 2018
38. Naic Philippines - September 16th, 2018
39. Middleton Idaho East - September 16th, 2018
40. Naples Florida - September 23rd, 2018
41. Santa Rosa Ecuador - September 23rd, 2018

New Districts

None reported in September 2018

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Districts

6. Yap Micronesia

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Shenyang, China [for foreigners] (9th, 7.85 million)
- Kokobeng, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Olive Branch, Mississippi (9th, 33,484)
- Egba, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Lewisburg, Tennessee (49th, 11,100)

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

- Casilda, Argentina (90th, 34,703)
- Broome, Australia (98th, 11,547)
- Cabeceiras, Goias, Brazil (116th, 5,505)
- Goianinha, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil (21st, 15,477)
- Sliven, Bulgaria (8th, 91,620)
- Centinela, Chile (N/A, N/A)
- Assin Kwameatta, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Savona, Italy (98th, 62,553)
- Sinaloa Leyva, Sinaloa, Mexico (40th, 5,240)
- Springdale, Utah (213th, 529)

Rapid Growth in Eastern Sierra Leone

Rapid growth continues in eastern Sierra Leone, West Africa. At a recent district conference in Kenema, 47 men were presented to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood. Furthermore, the recently organized Kailahun Branch has 90 people attending church even though there are only 75 members on the branch records. Additionally, mission leaders are examining prospects to organize a member group in the city of Tongo

where there is a small number of Latter-day Saints and nearly 20 interested individuals. Senior missionaries are optimistic that the Kenema Sierra Leone District may become a stake within the near future. There are currently five stakes and four districts in Sierra Leone.



Rapid Growth Continues in Cote d'Ivoire



Reports from missionaries serving in Cote d'Ivoire indicate that rapid growth continues to occur in several areas of the country. For example, missionaries serving in Daloa report as many as 70 investigators in some congregations. The Church in Daloa organized its first official branches in 2014 and established the first stake in the city in 2017. Missionaries indicate that the highest receptivity to the Church has occurred among populations that reside in smaller cities and villages.

Second Branch Organized in Yangon, Burma (Myanmar)

The Church recently organized its second branch in Yangon, Burma (Myanmar). The new branch operates in the North Dagon area of the city. There may be as many as 200 members in the two branches that operate in Yangon. Ten young, full-time missionaries are assigned to serve in Yangon. The Church assigned its first young, proselytizing missionaries to Yangon, Burma in February 2014 under the direction of the Thailand Bangkok Mission. The Church continues to classify its



presence in the country as sensitive, but it appears that this classification may change in the near future. The translation of the Book of Mormon into Burmese is also underway. There are over 55 million people who live in Myanmar. Given its large population and improvements in religious freedom for Christian proselytism in government-controlled areas, prospects appear favorable for the creation of a mission headquartered in Yangon within the near future.

Rapid Growth Continues in Monrovia, Liberia

The Church in Monrovia, Liberia continues to experience rapid growth as attested by the recent organization of the 35th congregation in the city. The Church reestablished a stake in Monrovia in November 2016, followed by the creation of three more stakes during 2017. The Church appears likely to divide the Monrovia Liberia Bushrod Island Stake to create a fifth stake in Monrovia in the near future as there are now 10 wards in the stake. Additionally, Monrovia appears a likely location for a temple announcement in the foreseeable future given rapid growth and good local leadership development.



UPDATED RESOURCES

REACHING THE NATIONS COUNTRY PROFILES

We continue to update the country profiles for our comprehensive work, *Reaching the Nations: International Church Growth Almanac*. The following country profiles were updated and posted on our website, www.cumorah.com, during September 2018. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac by 2020:

- [Azerbaijan](#)
- [Bahrain](#)
- [Iran](#)
- [Jordan](#)
- [Uzbekistan](#)