



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

September 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)

- 38. Lehi Utah Central - August 27th, 2017
- 40. Guayaquil Ecuador Fortin - September 3rd, 2017
- 41. Los Chillos Ecuador San Rafael - Sept. 3rd, 2017
- 42. Anonkoua Cote d'Ivoire - September 10th, 2017
- 43. Mandaluyong Philippines - September 10th, 2017
- 44. South Jordan Utah Garden Park - Sept. 10th, 2017
- 45. South Jordan Utah North Shore - Sept. 10th, 2017
- 46. Viamão Brazil - September 10th, 2017
- 47. Calasiao Philippines - September 17th, 2017
- 48. Morgan Utah West - September 17th, 2017

New Districts

- 18. Makurdi Nigeria - September 3rd, 2017
- 19. Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam - September 17th, 2017

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 2. Seoul Korea Dongdaemun Stake
- 3. Mazatlán México West Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Paranavaí, Parana, Brazil (23rd, 72,013)
- Adiaké, Cote d'Ivoire (69th, 19,055)
- Saioua, Cote d'Ivoire (50th, 26,892)
- Evans, Georgia (32nd, 29,011)
- Brakwa, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Tlacotepec de Benito Juárez, Puebla, Mexico (64th, 8,908)
- La Mesa, Sonora, Mexico (54th, 2,996)
- Thuan An, Vietnam (48th, 77,406)

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

- Chipley, Florida (N/A, 3,605)
- Glückstadt, Germany (N/A, 11,228)
- Siena, Italy (127th, 54,543)

Number of Stakes in the Philippines Reaches 100



For the first time, the Church in the Philippines reached the milestone of 100 operating stakes. The Church officially designated the newly organized Mandaluyong Philippines Stake (created September 10th) as the Church's 100th stake in the Philippines. Additionally, the Church organized its 101st stake in the country the following weekend in Calasiao. The Church in the Philippines has historically experienced significant fluctuations in stake growth. For example, the number of stakes in the Philippines rapidly increased from one in 1973 to 32 in 1987, 56

in 1997, and 81 in 2002. However, the number of stakes slowly declined between 2003 and 2005 to 76 due to problems with leadership development and low member activity and convert retention rates. The Church in the Philippines has experienced significant growth during the past seven years as the number of stakes has increased from 80 in 2010 to 101 at present, and sacrament meeting attendance has increased at a more rapid rate than church-reported membership.

New District and New Branches in Vietnam

The Church in Vietnam organized three new branches in the Ho Chi Minh City area during September. One of the new branches is located on the outskirts of the Ho Chi Minh City metropolitan area in the city of Thuan An – the first official branch to be organized in Bin Duong Province. The six branches in the Ho Chi Minh City area were also organized into its own district. Prior to this time, all branches in Vietnam pertained to the Hanoi Vietnam District which was organized in 2010. There are now approximately two dozen full-time missionaries who serve in Ho Chi Minh City. The Church organized its first mission in Vietnam in March 2016.



New Branches in Sierra Leone



The Church in Sierra Leone organized its first branches in four additional cities and towns during September. The first branches were organized in these cities in the Sierra Rutile area in Mogbwemo, Moriba Town, Moyamba, and Mosenesie Junction. The number of people who attended the organization of each of

these four branches ranged from 50-118. The Church in Sierra Leone has never organized so many new branches in previously unreached cities in so short a period of time. Missionaries report that two missionary companionships were assigned to Moyamba, and two missionary companionships were assigned to the three branches in the Sierra Rutile area. There are now 13 cities and towns in Sierra Leone with an official LDS ward or branch.

Another Stake Discontinued in South Korea

The Church in Korea recently discontinued the Seoul Korea Dongdaemun Stake - the fifth stake in Korea to be discontinued within the past five years. Although there has not appeared to be any significant changes in the number of active members in the country, there have been historically low numbers of active members in many wards and branches. Thus, these consolidations have appeared prompted by an effort to organize wards and branches with larger numbers of active members. Church leaders report plans to have the average number of active members per congregation to double from recent historical averages. Thus, the average ward may have as many active members as wards in the United States once the Church finishes its consolidation of smaller wards and branches. The Church in Korea has also struggled for many years with active member families moving to other countries in search of better employment and standard of living.



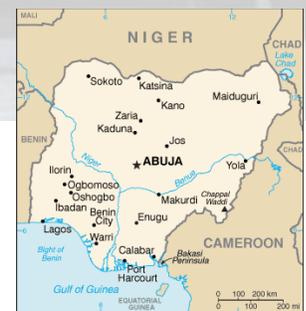
Number of LDS Congregations in Ghana Reaches 300

The Church in Ghana created its 300th congregation in September. Significant congregational growth and national outreach expansion has occurred in Ghana during the past decade. For example, the Church in Ghana reached 100 congregations in 2009 and 200 congregations in 2014. Ghana is one of the most well reached countries in Sub-Saharan Africa by the Church as there are approximately 100 cities, towns, and villages with an LDS presence. The Church claims approximately 0.27% of the national population as Latter-day Saints as of 2016.



Rapid Congregational Growth in Benin City, Nigeria

The Church in Benin City, Nigeria organized 11 new wards and branches during the past two months. Moreover, seven of these 11 congregations were organized in a single weekend. This is the most new wards and branches ever organized in a Sub-Saharan African city in a single weekend. There has thus far been a net increase of 78 wards and branches in Nigeria in 2017 – the largest number of any country in the world for the year thus far.



Kiribati Triple Combination Translated

The Church has translated the Doctrine and Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price into Kiribati. For the first time, church members are now able to study all LDS scriptures in the Kiribati language. We estimate that there are as many as 20,000 Kiribati-speaking Latter-day Saints worldwide. The Church first translated select passages from the Book of Mormon into Kiribati in 1988, and translated the entire Book of Mormon into Kiribati in 2001.