



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

April 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)

- 14. Lynbrook New York - April 13th, 2014
- 15. Bluffdale Utah South - April 20th, 2014

### New Districts

- 5. Gagnoa Côte d'Ivoire - March 30th, 2014
- 6. Tanna Vanuatu - April 27th, 2014

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 2. Alcalde Díaz Panamá District
- 3. Mapandan Philippines District

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)  
precise population data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Campo Verde, Mato Grosso, Brazil (18<sup>th</sup>, 25,404)
- Santa Vitoria, Minas Gerais, Brazil (188<sup>th</sup>, 13,550)
- Canaã dos Carajás, Para, Brazil (48<sup>th</sup>, 20,727)
- Salinópolis, Para, Brazil (24<sup>th</sup>, 33,391)
- Presidente Epitácio, Sao Paulo, Brazil (164<sup>th</sup>, 37,355)
- Amasaman, Ghana (4<sup>th</sup>, 280,000)
- Assin Bereku, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Cerro Grande, Honduras (N/A, N/A)
- Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong (16<sup>th</sup>, 82,700)
- Higashihiroshima, Japan (122<sup>nd</sup>, 190,135)
- Marquelia, Guerrero, Mexico (42<sup>nd</sup>, 6,553)
- Fordland, Missouri (408<sup>th</sup>, 800)
- Badagry, Nigeria (162<sup>nd</sup>, 26,383)
- Ibafo, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Mina, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Nabulao, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Chaves, Portugal (62<sup>nd</sup>, 16,600)
- Dolisie, Republic of the Congo (3<sup>rd</sup>, 83,798)
- Tautu, Vanuatu (N/A, N/A)

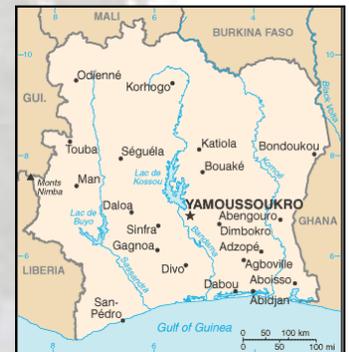
### Locations Recently Closed by the Church<sup>1</sup>

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)  
data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

*None reported in April 2014*

### Second Mission in Cote d'Ivoire to be Created this Summer

The Church reports that this summer the Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan Mission will divide to create a second mission in the country. The new mission will be called the Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan West Mission and will include all administrative divisions in Cote d'Ivoire except for Agnéby, Moyen-Comoé, Sud-Comoé, and Zanzan, and eastern areas of Lagunes. The Church has experienced unprecedented growth in Cote d'Ivoire since early 2012 as evidenced by the number of cities with an official ward or branch increasing from seven to 16, the number of wards and branches nationwide increasing from 42 to 83, and church membership increasing from 16,200 to 22,600. Only African members serve missions in Cote d'Ivoire. Click [here](#) to access the statistical profile for Cote d'Ivoire on [cumorah.com](http://cumorah.com).



<sup>1</sup> \*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 LDS Branches Organized in Tamale and Techiman, Ghana

Within the last month, the Church in Ghana created its first branches in Tamale and Techiman. The Church assigned its first young, proselytizing missionaries to these cities in 2013 and has since experienced moderate growth in Techiman and modest growth in Tamale. The Church has implemented the "Sunyani Model" when opening these cities to missionary work. This model advocates for opening multiple member groups simultaneously rather than waiting for a single member group to become a branch and dividing it when there are a sufficient number of active members. This model has been highly effective in accelerating membership and congregational growth, and missionary reports indicate that convert retention and member activity rates have been high where it has been implemented.



## New Ward in France

For the first time in many years, the Church in France has created a new ward from a ward split rather than from a branch upgrading to a ward. The new unit is the Val de Saône Ward in Lyon, France. Church leader reports from the Lyon France Stake indicate that this stake has experienced steady growth in the number of active members within the past five years - which has culminated in the organization of a new ward in the Lyon area. No other stake in France has appeared to experience as large of an increase in the number of active members within the past five years. There are currently 10 stakes in France.



## First Convert Baptismal Service Held in Gabon

Missionaries in Gabon report that the first convert baptismal service recently occurred as 21 converts in Libreville were baptized within a single weekend. The Church assigned the first proselytizing missionaries to Gabon this past January and organized the Libreville Branch in December 2012.



Missionaries report that the Church has experienced challenges obtaining foreign missionary visas, which may result in difficulties to maintain a continuous proselytism presence. In July 2014, Gabon will be reassigned to the new Republic of the Congo Brazzaville Mission.

## Second LDS Branch Created in Kosovo

The Church in Kosovo recently created its second branch in Gjakova. The Church opened Gjavoka to missionary work in early 2013 and has experienced a small but steady stream of converts since this time. The Church currently has only two cities with missionaries assigned in the entire country. With the organization of the Tirana Albania Stake in March, prospects appear favorable for mission leaders to consider the opening of additional cities in Kosovo within the foreseeable future.



Kosovo is currently assigned to the Adriatic South Mission, which is headquartered in Tirana, Albania and includes Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia.

## 2013 Statistical Report

The Church reported the following statistics as of year-end, 2013.

- Membership: 15,082,028 (increase of 299,555 from 2011; a 2.03% annual increase)
- Congregations: 29,253 (increase of 239 from 2011; a 0.82% annual increase)
- Stakes: 3,050 (increase of 45 from 2012; a 1.50% annual increase)
- Districts: 571 (a decrease of 20 from 2012; a 3.38% annual decrease)
- Convert Baptisms: 282,945 (increase of 10,615 from 2012; a 3.90% annual increase)
- Increase of Children on Record: 115,486 (decrease of 6,787 from 2012; a 5.55% annual decrease)
- Full-time missionaries: 83,035 (increase of 24,045 from 2012; a 40.8% annual increase)
- Church service missionaries: 24,032 (increase of 1,071 from 2012; a 4.66% annual increase)

## Year-end 2013 Country-by-Country Membership and Congregational Statistics Available

Internet users can access year-end 2013 membership and congregational figures for most countries with an LDS presence [here](#). Below is a list of the 10 countries that experienced the highest percentage growth rates for membership in 2013:

- Rwanda - 82.6% - 221
- Botswana - 40.4% - 3,021
- Benin - 33.1% - 1,439
- Togo - 24.0% - 2,307
- Dominica - 23.6% - 173
- Cote d'Ivoire - 21.4% - 22,576
- Liberia - 20.5% - 8,081
- Malawi - 16.3% - 1,653
- Cape Verde - 15.8% - 10,796
- Georgia - 15.7% - 250

Below is a list of the 10 countries that reported the highest numerical increase in wards and branches for 2013:

- United States +124
- Brazil +31
- Nigeria +28
- Ghana +20
- Cote d'Ivoire +19
- Democratic Republic of the Congo +14
- Philippines +14
- Cape Verde +8
- Canada +7
- Australia +6

## 2013 Membership Growth among Unreported Countries

LDS membership in non-reported countries substantially increased during 2013 from 19,832 to 21,387; a 10.7% annual increase. Countries where the vast majority of these members appear to reside include mainland China, Pakistan, and the Middle East.

# NEW RESOURCES

## CASE STUDIES

### [Analysis of LDS Growth in Java, Indonesia](#)

Java is the world's most populous island but only the thirteenth largest island by geographic size. In the early 1970s, the LDS Church established an initial presence in Java and assigned missionaries. The Church has experienced slow but steady growth in Java within the past several decades as evidenced by stagnant national outreach expansion within the past four decades, extremely slow congregational growth within the past two decades, and two of the three districts maturing into stakes during the early 2010s. This case study reviews the history of the Church in Java. Church growth and missionaries successes are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are examined. The growth of the Church on other major islands in Indonesia is summarized and the size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups that operate in Indonesia is reviewed. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

### [Opportunities for LDS Growth in Burma \(Myanmar\)](#)

Inhabited by 55.2 million people and located in Southeast Asia, Burma is the 25th most populous country in the world. The LDS Church has assigned senior missionary couples on humanitarian assignment since 1998 and has maintained an official branch in Yangon since 2003. Several significant church growth developments have recently taken place in regards to LDS outreach in Burma and Burmese-specific outreach in other nations such the organization of a Karen-speaking branch in Salt Lake City, Utah for Burmese refugees in 2009 and the assignment of the first young elders to serve in Yangon in February 2014. This case study reviews the history of the Church in Burma and examines recent church growth successes. Opportunities and challenges for future growth are explored. LDS growth trends in Burma are compared to LDS growth trends in other Southeast Asian countries. The growth and size of other missionary-focused Christian groups in Burma is summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

### [Opportunities for LDS Outreach Expansion in the Solomon Islands](#)

Ranking as the fifth most populous country in Oceania, the Solomon Islands are located in the Melanesia sub-region and support a population of nearly 600,000. The Church in the Solomon Islands has excellent opportunities to expand its outreach and accelerate growth due to the population exhibiting good receptivity, local leadership steadily growing in its quality and numbers, mission presidents demonstrating greater interest and accountability for missionary work in the islands in recent years, and the worldwide surge in the number of members serving full-time missions. This case study reviews the history of the Church in the Solomon Islands. Church growth and missionary successes are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are analyzed. The growth of the Church in other Melanesian countries is compared to LDS growth trends in the Solomon Islands and

the size and growth of other missionary-focused Christian groups that operate in the country are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

### [Prospective LDS Outreach in Chad](#)

Inhabited by 11.4 million people, Chad is a country in Central Africa. As of early 2014, the LDS Church had no known presence in Chad notwithstanding the government upholding religious freedom, sizable numbers of Christians in the largest cities and southern areas of the country, and abundant French-speaking African missionary manpower within Sub-Saharan Africa. This case study reviews the Church's history of administrating Chad and identifies translations of basic proselytism materials available in commonly spoken languages in the country. Opportunities for establishing an official LDS presence and achieving growth are explored. Recommendations for how to most effectively establish an initial church presence are provided. Challenges for establishing a church presence and achieving growth are discussed. The growth of other proselytizing Christian groups that operate in Chad is summarized. Limitations to this case study are described and prospects for an LDS establishment in Chad is predicted.

### [Recent Progress Achieving Real LDS Growth in the Philippines](#)

One of the greatest bastions for the LDS Church in Asia, the Philippines has a substantial LDS presence that compares in size to the Church in Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. Although the Church in the Philippines continues to experience modest convert retention and low member activity rates, noticeable progress has occurred in ameliorating convert attrition and member inactivity worries through goals and interventions advocated by area leaders and mission presidents. This case study reviews LDS growth trends since the early 2000s and the implementation of reactivation and improved missionary and church growth approaches during the early 2010s. Recent church growth and missionary successes are examine and opportunities and challenges for future growth are explored. LDS growth trends in other countries with over half a million members on church records are reviewed and the size and growth trends of other prominent proselytizing groups are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

## NEW RESOURCES (continued)

### ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MISSIONARY WORK AND CHURCH GROWTH (MISSIOLOGY)

- [Apostasy](#)
- [General Authority](#)
- [Mission President](#)
- [Young Single Adults \(YSAs\)](#)

## UPDATED RESOURCES

### LDS INTERNATIONAL ATLAS

- [Most Populous Unreached Cities in Cyprus](#)
- [Most Populous Unreached Cities in Rwanda](#)

### LDS STATISTICAL PROFILES (see [cumorah.com](http://cumorah.com))

Albania	French Guiana	Mauritius	Slovakia
American Samoa	French Polynesia	Micronesia	Slovenia
Angola	Georgia	Mongolia	Solomon Islands
Antigua and Barbuda	Germany	Mozambique	South Africa
Argentina	Ghana	Namibia	South Korea
Armenia	Greece	Nauru	Spain
Aruba	Grenada	New Caledonia	Sri Lanka
Australia	Guadeloupe	New Zealand	Suriname
Austria	Guam	Nigeria	Swaziland
Bahamas	Guatemala	Niue	Sweden
Barbados	Guyana	North Dakota	Switzerland
Belgium	Haiti	Northern Mariana	Taiwan
Belize	Honduras	Islands	Tanzania
Benin	Hong Kong	Norway	Thailand
Cambodia	Hungary	Palau	Togo
Cameroon	Iceland	Papua New Guinea	Tonga
Cape Verde	India	Philippines	Trinidad and Tobago
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Portugal	Turkey
Cook Islands	Kazakhstan	Republic of Congo	Tuvalu
Cote d'Ivoire	Kenya	Reunion	Uganda
Croatia	Kiribati	Rwanda	Ukraine
Cuba	Lesotho	Saint Vincent and the	United States
DR Congo	Macau	Grenadines	Vanuatu
Ethiopia	Madagascar	Samoa	Zambia
Fiji	Malawi	Serbia	Zimbabwe
Finland	Malaysia	Sierra Leone	
France	Marshall Islands	Singapore	