



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

August 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)

- 25. A Coruña Spain - August 5th, 2018
- 26. San Antonio Philippines - August 5th, 2018
- 27. Swedru Ghana - August 12th, 2018
- 28. Tolosa Philippines - August 12th, 2018
- 29. Fort Mill South Carolina - August 19th, 2018
- 30. Samborondon Ecuador - August 19th, 2018

New Districts

None reported in August 2018

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Stakes

- 10. Winneba Ghana (reorganized as a district)

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Capilla del Monte, Argentina (N/A, 11,181)
- Cota, Colombia (N/A, 19,909)
- Guiberoua, Cote d'Ivoire (75th, 18,029)
- Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand (13th, 104,354)
- Chau Doc, Vietnam (37th, 92,667)
- Da Nang, Vietnam (3rd, 915,000)

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

- Kranj, Slovenia (4th, 36,874)
- Avilés, Spain (78th, 84,202)

- Benavente, Spain (N/A, 18,237)

First LDS Stake in Galicia, Spain Organized



The Church organized its first stake in the autonomous region of Galicia, Spain on August 5th. The A Coruña Spain Stake was organized from a consolidation of two districts, the Santiago Spain District and the León Spain District, to create a stake with six wards and five branches. Most of the congregations in the stake (four wards and three branches) are located within Galicia and were previously assigned to the Santiago Spain District. There are now 15 stakes and two districts in Spain.

Member Groups in Vietnam

Members in Vietnam report that member groups now operate in two additional cities: Chau Doc and Da Nang. Furthermore, missionaries have also taught investigators or visited these member groups in recent months. It is unclear whether missionaries will be permanently assigned to these cities and whether there are any government restrictions that may prohibit the Church from a public, proselytizing presence outside of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh, City. There are now four cities with an LDS presence in Vietnam.



New Branches in Cote d'Ivoire



Several new branches have recently been organized in Cote d'Ivoire, including in cities where no LDS branch previously operated such as Dabou, Guiberoua, and Zoukougbeu. There are now 50 cities, towns, and villages in Cote d'Ivoire with an official LDS presence - approximately 10 times the number of cities and towns with an LDS presence in 2008. The organization of a third mission in Cote d'Ivoire last July will likely result in continued efforts to expand outreach to previously unreached areas given more mission resources channeled into the country. Most missionaries who serve in Cote d'Ivoire are Congolese.

New Member Group in Thailand

Members in Thailand report that a member group was organized in Nakhon Sri Thammarat in July. Nakhon Sri Thammarat is the second city in southern Thailand to have ever had an LDS congregation established. The Church organized its first branch in southern Thailand in Phuket earlier this year. Currently there are approximately one dozen who attend the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Group, whereas there are generally 40 who attend the Phuket Branch. Furthermore, we have received new information that the Church has not yet organized a member group in Nakhon Sawan although there are now several members in the city who may attend church in neighboring provinces.



Stake Discontinued in Ghana; Progress in Northern Ghana

The Church discontinued the Winneba Ghana Stake during the month of August, marking the first time that the Church in Ghana has ever discontinued a stake and the third time that the Church in West Africa has ever discontinued a stake. Organized as a district in 1989 and as a stake in 2014, the Winneba Ghana Stake was downgraded to a district at the same time more than half of the congregations in the former stake were organized into the new Swedru Ghana Stake. Thus, although the original Winneba Ghana Stake was officially discontinued and reorganized as a district, it may



be more accurate to describe the change as the creation of a new district (e.g. renaming the stake and creating a new district). The other two instances in West Africa when stakes were discontinued were in Umuahia, Nigeria in 2005 when the stake was discontinued and units were reorganized into two districts, and in Monrovia, Liberia in 2007 when the stake was discontinued and units were reorganized into two districts.

In Northern Ghana, local leaders report that the 600th member in the Tamale Ghana District was recently baptized and that sacrament meeting attendance generally averages around 350-400 for the district. The district has been effective in its missionary efforts such as a recent event in which hundreds of members and missionaries distributed more than 300 Plan of Salvation pamphlets in a march across Tamale. The Church assigned missionaries for the first time and organized the first group in Tamale back in February 2013. At the time there were only 20 members and eight missionaries in Tamale.

Fourth LDS Stake Organized in Leyte, Philippines

The Church organized the Tolosa Philippines Stake on August 12th from the Tolosa Philippines District. The new stake is the fourth stake to ever be organized on Leyte after stakes have been established in Ormoc (1999), Tacloban (2007), and Carigara (2012). Waray-Waray is the prominent language spoke in Tolosa and in most areas of the Philippines Tacloban Mission. With the advancement of another district into a stake during August in the Philippines Olongapo Mission, there are now 104 stakes and 71 districts in the country – the fourth most of any country in the world.



New Branch in Ukraine

The Church in Ukraine recently organized a branch in Uzhhorod. Uzhhorod is located near the border with Slovakia and has had a sporadic LDS presence for decades. The branch likely has less than 15 active members and continues to strongly rely on full-time missionaries to operate even though the group has matured into a branch. Uzhhorod is the only LDS branch in Zakarpats'ka, which is a region of Ukraine inhabited by more than one million people.



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 August 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:

- [Algeria](#)
- [Kuwait](#)
- [Libya](#)
- [Mauritania](#)
- [Morocco](#)
- [Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Tunisia](#)
- [Western Sahara](#)
- [Yemen](#)

