



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

February 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)

- 4. Matagalpa Nicaragua - January 22nd, 2017
- 7. Ammon Idaho East - February 19th, 2017
- 8. Frenchtown Montana - February 26th, 2017

- Sheep Springs, New Mexico (290th, 245)
- Yah-ta-hey, New Mexico (203rd, 590)
- Abau, Papua New Guinea (N/A, N/A)

New Districts

None reported in February 2017

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in February 2017

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Gander, Newfoundland, Canada (5th, 9,410)
- Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada (6th, 13,441)
- Eaton, Colorado (114th, 4,365)
- Motezo, Cote d'Ivoire (N/A, 5,483)
- Santa Cruz Verapaz, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Paoli, India (156th, 3,677)
- Flor de Mayo, Chiapas, Mexico (1,233rd, 598)
- Cuatro Esquinas, Nicaragua (N/A, N/A)
- San Juan de Oriente, Nicaragua (N/A, N/A)
- Bato, Philippines (N/A, 21,279)
- Kpalimé, Togo (4th, 69,531)

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

- Punitaqui, Chile (N/A, 3,615)
- Vreed en Hoop, Guyana (N/A, N/A)
- Santiago Papasquiaro, Durango, Mexico (4th, 26,121)

Rapid Growth Continues to Cote d'Ivoire



The Church in Cote d'Ivoire continues to experience its most rapid LDS growth ever experienced by the Church in a single country within decades. With the creation of the Alepe 2nd Branch, there were at least 54 new wards and branches created in Cote d'Ivoire in 2016 – the most ever organized in a single country outside the United States since the 1990s and. This increase constitutes a 42% annual increase in congregations compared to year-end 2015. Furthermore, several noteworthy congregational growth developments have already occurred in 2017 including the organization of seven new wards and branches located in Abidjan (4), Abengourou (2), and Bingerville (1). Senior missionaries serving in the Accra Ghana Temple continue to report heavy use of the temple by Ivorian members. There have been no recent reports regarding the planning and groundbreaking status of the Church's announced temple in Abidjan.

New Stake in Montana

For the first time since 1997, the Church has organized a new stake in Montana – the Frenchtown Montana Stake. LDS growth has been slow and steady in Montana within the past couple decades. As a result, one or two additional new stakes may be organized within the foreseeable future. There are currently 12 stakes in Montana.

First Baptism in Timor-Leste (East Timor)

The Indonesia Jakarta Mission President reported that the first baptism in Timor-Leste (East Timor) occurred in Dili during late 2016. The first baptism was the son of a member who resides in the country. Church services continue to occur in the senior missionaries' apartment and appear to have less than 20 in attendance. Although Timor-Leste was dedicated for missionary work in 2015, no proselytizing missionaries have ever been assigned to the country. Currently only one senior missionary couple on humanitarian assignment resides in Timor-Leste.



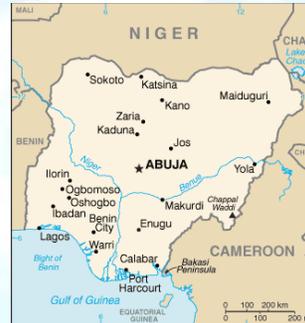
LDS Presence Established in Second City in Togo



The Church in Togo recently opened the city of Kpalimé to missionary work. Kpalimé is the fourth most populous city in Togo and is the first city outside of the Lomé metropolitan area to have missionaries assigned. A member group operates in Kpalimé under the Benin Cotonou Mission Branch. Prospects appear favorable for the opening of additional cities in southern Togo to proselytism such as Tsévié and Atakpamé.

Congregational Growth in Nigeria

Several significant congregational growth developments have recently occurred in Nigeria. Three new wards were recently organized in Ikot Ekpene – a city where the first stake was organized less than one year ago. This development suggests that the Church has achieved rapid membership growth and local leadership development within the past couple years. There are now 10 wards and one branch in the Ikot Ekpene Nigeria Stake, whereas there was only one branch in Ikot Ekpene 10 years ago. Furthermore, the Church created three new branches in the Abakaliki Nigeria District (organized in 2014). The only district in Ebonyi State (pop 2.5 million), the Abakaliki Nigeria District currently has seven branches that operate in three cities. Prospects appear highly favorable for additional growth and expansion in Ebonyi State due to a predominantly Igbo-speaking Christian population.



CORRECTION – Chad Transferred to the Africa West Area

We incorrectly reported last month that Chad was transferred to the Africa West Area from the Africa Southeast Area. Chad has been assigned to the Africa West Area since the area's creation in 1998. We apologize for this misinformation.

UPDATED RESOURCES

We continue to update our maps that display estimated LDS membership by administrative division for many countries around the world. Originally created in 2013, these maps display the location and population of each administrative division of every country, and the estimated number of LDS members and the percentage of LDS members in each of these administrative divisions. This resource provides valuable information regarding the size and growth of the Church on a state-by-state or province-by-province level with membership data estimates as these membership statistics are not released by the LDS Church. We have estimated these membership figures through multiplying the number of LDS congregations by the members-to-units ratio (i.e. the average number of members per ward or branch) for administrative divisions in each respective country. Access these maps by using our LDS Database Map on cumorah.com, or click [here](#).

We are continue to add sacrament meeting attendance figures for many wards and branches throughout the world as displayed on the LDS International Atlas on cumorah.com. These data were obtained from surveys completed by returned missionaries and local members. The date of these reports are also provided.