



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

July 2018

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)

- Bamberg, Germany (123rd, 70,004)
- Las Barrillas, Mexico (839th, 1,031)

- 20. Kinshasa DR Congo Mpsa - June 24th, 2018
- 21. Kinshasa DR Congo N'Djili - June 24th, 2018
- 23. Lima Peru Torre Blanca - July 1st, 2018
- 24. Port Harcourt Nigeria Choba - July 8th, 2018

New Districts

- 8. Las Choapas México - June 17th, 2018
- 9. Ilorin Nigeria - July 15th, 2018
- 10. Reconquista Argentina - July 15th, 2018

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Stakes

- 7. Coahuila México Puerto
- 8. Minatitlán México
- 9. Minatitlán México Tecnológico

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Jardim, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil (13th, 22,384)
- Maputsoe, Lesotho (2nd, 55,541)
- Grain Valley, Missouri (65th, 12,854)

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

- Pirajuí, Sao Paulo, Brazil (237th, 22,173)
- Chepica, Chile (N/A, 6,161)
- Peor Es Nada, Chile (N/A, ~500)
- Bletchley, England, United Kingdom (185th, 52,900)

Significant Stake and Congregation Consolidations Continue in Mexico



The Church in Mexico reported stake and ward/branch consolidations in two additional Mexican cities during late June, namely Minatitlán and Coahuila. As part of ongoing efforts by the Mexico Area Presidency to establish wards with larger numbers of active members to better utilize LDS meetinghouses and reduce leadership burnout, the Church discontinued three stakes in these cities, one of which was downgraded to a district (Minatitlán México Tecnológico). Furthermore, a portion of one of the Coahuila stakes was organized into its own district (Las Choapas México). There were approximately 12 wards and one branch discontinued as part of these changes. This marks the first time in LDS history when a city had both of its stakes discontinued at the same time as the Church generally discontinues only one stake and combines retained units into the surviving stake. Earlier in June, the Church discontinued wards/branches and/or consolidated stakes in several additional cities, including Monterrey, Tampico, and Veracruz. There are now 222 stakes and 44 districts in Mexico.

New Wards in Peru

The Church has recently experienced an increase in the rate of new ward creations in Peru. Approximately seven new wards and branches have been organized in the last couple months primarily in the Lima Metropolitan area. Local members report that most wards in Lima have between 100-200 active members – a significant increase in comparison to one or two decades ago when most wards had between 50-125 active members.

LDS Branch Created in Second Most Populous City in Lesotho

The Church organized its first branch in Maputsoe, Lesotho during July. The South Africa Durban Mission reported that missionaries assigned to Maputsoe have achieved significant progress with teaching and baptizing new members in order for the new branch to be organized. There are now three cities in Lesotho with an official LDS branch. Provided with the year the first branch was organized, these cities include Maseru (1982), Leribe (2013), and Maputsoe (2018). Additionally, the Church is currently translating the Book of Mormon into the Sesotho language. There are approximately 1,100 Latter-day Saints in Lesotho.



Two New Stakes Organized in Kinshasa, DR Congo

In late June, two new stakes were organized in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are now 10 stakes in Kinshasa - the third most of any metropolitan area on the Afro-Eurasian landmass after Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (12 stakes) and Accra, Ghana (11 stakes). The first stake in Kinshasa was created in 1996. Given the size and growth of the Church in the city and the region, Kinshasa may be a likely candidate for the headquarters of a new church administrative area for Central Africa should the Church decide to organize such an area. Lastly, construction of the Kinshasa Democratic Republic of the Congo Temple is nearing completion and the first temple president was recently called.



New Branches in Man, Cote d'Ivoire



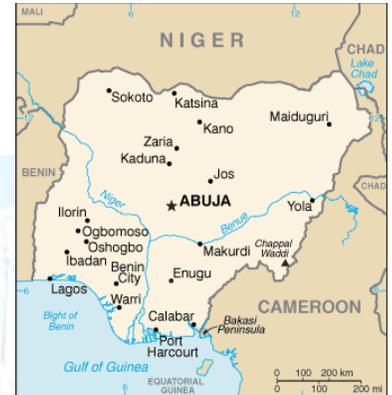
The Church in Cote d'Ivoire recently organized two new branches in the western city of Man located in Montagnes District. Man is the eighth most populous city in Cote d'Ivoire with approximately 150,000 inhabitants and was previously the most populous Ivorian city with only one LDS congregation. The

Church created its first branch in Man in 2015 and the city is currently assigned to the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro Mission. There are now three branches in Man. The Church has reported rapid growth in Montagnes District

since the first branch was organized in 2015. There are now six cities and towns in Montagnes District with an LDS branch.

First LDS District in Kwara State, Nigeria Organized

The Church organized its first member district in Kwara, State Nigeria called the Ilorin Nigeria District. Inhabited by more than 2.7 million people, Kwara State previously had only one branch in the city of Ilorin (organized in 1992). The Church organized a mission headquartered in Ilorin in 1992 but discontinued the mission in 1993 likely due to religious violence and instability. One member reported in 2016 that there were approximately 40-60 active members in Ilorin at the time, but that there were good opportunities for growth if full-time missionaries were consistently assigned. The new district includes five branches – four of which have been organized since 2016. There appear to be excellent opportunities to organize member groups or small branches in several lesser-reached areas of Ilorin given its population of approximately one million inhabitants.



UPDATED RESOURCES

REACHING THE NATIONS COUNTRY PROFILES

We have begun 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 July 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:

- [Bhutan](#)
- [Comoros](#)
- [Djibouti](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Eritrea](#)
- [Maldives](#)
- [Mayotte](#)
- [Oman](#)
- [Seychelles](#)
- [Somalia](#)
- [Sudan](#)