



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

June 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)

- 26. Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire Niangon South - Jun. 1, 2014
- 27. Buenos Aires Argentina Chacabuco - June 1, 2014
- 28. Kingston Jamaica - June 8th, 2014
- 29. Bangkok Thailand North - June 15th, 2014
- 30. Dumaguete Philippines - June 15th, 2014
- 31. Harare Zimbabwe South - June 15th, 2014
- 32. Hooper Utah Pioneer Trail - June 15th, 2014
- 33. Ibadan Nigeria - June 15th, 2014
- 34. Lerma México Stake - June 15th, 2014
- 35. Taguig Philippines - June 15th, 2014
- 36. Friedrichsdorf Germany - June 22nd, 2014

New Districts

- 10. Bo Sierra Leone East - June 1st, 2014
- 11. Cuauhtémoc México - June 8th, 2014
- 12. Paynesville Liberia - June 8th, 2014
- 13. Bangkok Thailand West - June 15th, 2014
- 14. Kiritimati Island Kiribati - June 20th, 2014

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Stakes

- 1. Ginowan Japan Stake

Districts

- 6. Tandil Argentina District
- 7. Cañada de Gomez Argentina District

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Balsas, Maranhao, Brazil (10th, 72,771)
- Bociúva do Sul, Parana, Brazil (211st, 5,128)
- Altamira, Para, Brazil (10th, 77,193)

- Cacoal, Rondônia, Brazil (5th, 59,613)
- Pimenta Bueno, Rondônia, Brazil (9th, 29,406)
- Rolim de Moura, Rondônia, Brazil (6th, 41,429)
- Naranjal, Ecuador (49th, 28,487)
- Calvert City, Kentucky (130th, 2,566)
- Almoloya, Estado de Mexico, Mexico (139th, 9,507)
- Ixtlahuaca, Estado de Mexico, Mexico (186th, 6,934)
- Assin Akrofuom, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Assin Nyankumasi, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Tlahuelilpan, Hidalgo, Mexico (31st, 8,498)
- Akai, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Whitianga, New Zealand (69th, 4,310)
- Obeama, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Celendin, Peru (N/A, 95,624 [province pop])
- Burgos, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Culasi, Philippines (N/A, 39,086 [mun. pop])
- Panglao, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Santa, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Sigma, Philippines (N/A, 29,138 [mun. pop])
- Tibiao, Philippines (N/A, 24,513 [mun. pop])

Locations Recently Closed by the Church¹

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

- Joetsu, Japan (109th, 203,899)
- Sanjo, Japan (259th, 102,292)
- Urasoe, Japan (244th, 110,351)
- Uruma, Japan (227th, 116,979)
- Ermesinde, Portugal (22nd, 41,800)
- Sinton, Texas (348th, 5,665)
- Nakhon Pathom, Thailand (14th, 120,818)

¹ *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 Stake Created in Jamaica

On June 8th, the Church organized its first stake in Jamaica. The Kingston Jamaica Stake was organized from the Spanish Town Jamaica District and includes six wards and two branches located in the Kingston area. The Church has worked for over a decade to organize a stake in Jamaica, but inadequate numbers of active, full-tithe paying Melchizedek Priesthood holders has delayed the organization of a stake until this month. Prior to organization of the stake, Jamaica was the country with the sixth most members without a stake.



Second Branch Created in Cuba

On June 15th, LDS apostle Elder Jeffrey R. Holland organized the Church's second branch in Cuba. The original Havana Branch divided to organize a second branch in the Havana area named the Cotorro Branch. Cuba is currently unassigned to a mission and all LDS activity is directly supervised by the Caribbean Area.



First New Stake Created in Germany in 27 Years

On June 22nd, the Church organized its first new stake in Germany in 27 years. The Friedrichsdorf German Stake was organized from a division of the Frankfurt Germany Stake and includes six wards and one branch in the northern Frankfurt area. The organization of the new stake was made possible through slow but steady increases in the number of active members in the area resulting in several branches maturing into wards. The Church also recently organized its first Spanish-speaking branch in the country in nearby Heidelberg, signifying progress in overcoming stagnant growth that has persisted for most of the past two decades.



Missionary Complement to Zimbabwe to Double within the Next Year

Missionaries serving in the Zimbabwe Harare Mission report that the number of missionaries assigned to the mission will increase from approximately 100 at present to 200 within the next year. Historically, the Church has allocated comparatively few mission resources to Zimbabwe as the Zimbabwe Harare Mission administered additional countries prior to mid-2011. Prospects appear favorable for the organization of a second mission, perhaps based in Bulawayo, within the next couple years.



Second Stake Created in Thailand

On June 15th, the Church created its second stake in Thailand from the Bangkok Thailand North District. In addition to the creation of a second stake in Bangkok, the Church also organized a new member district that includes three branches in the western area of the city. Prior to the organization of the second stake, Thailand was the country with the most members and only one stake. In 1995, the Church organized its first stake in Bangkok. The Church in Thailand has experienced a significant acceleration of growth within the past year as evidenced by increasing sacrament meeting attendance, larger numbers of convert baptisms, and substantial increases in the number of full-time missionaries assigned.



National Outreach Expansion Accelerates in Northern Brazil

The Church recently organized its first branch in Altamira, Para State, Brazil. This marks a continuing trend for the Church in Para State of opening branches in previously unreached cities. Provided with the year of organization, cities that have recently had an LDS branch organized for the first time in Para State include Maraba (2010), Parauapebas (2013), Canaã dos Carajás (2014), and Paragominas (2014). Missionaries last April also report that the city of Salinópolis had a member group organized.



Success Opening City to Missionary Work in Ecuador

Missionaries serving in Ecuador report that the Ecuador Guayaquil North Mission opened the city of Naranjal to missionary work approximately six months ago and organized a member group. Previously the second most populous city in the country without an LDS presence, Naranjal had its



first branch created within the past month with 100 attending sacrament meeting. This example illustrates the importance of mission and area leaders regularly opening additional cities and towns to missionary work, and establishing member groups prior to creating branches.

First Stake Created in Yorubaland, Nigeria (Excluding Lagos)

On June 15th, the Church organized its first stake in the cultural region of western Nigeria known as "Yorubaland." Although the Church operates three stakes in Lagos, the new Ibadan Nigeria Stake is the first stake to be created among the Yoruba people outside of the cosmopolitan city of Lagos. Organized as



a district in 1991, the former Ibadan Nigeria District was previously the third oldest district in Nigeria after districts in Enugu and Onitsha which were organized in 1988. Between 2002 and 2007, the Church operated a mission headquartered in Ibadan, but the Church relocated the mission and later closed it likely due to slow growth and few mission resources in the region. The advancement of the district into a stake signifies progress in this area of Nigeria where virtually stagnant growth has occurred in terms of the number of active members and congregations within the past decade.

NEW RESOURCES

MAPS DISPLAYING THE STATUS OF LDS GROWTH BY METROPOLITAN AREAS WITH ONE MILLION OR MORE INHABITANTS

- [North America](#)

NOTE: We apologize that our website has been down since the end of May. We are working to resolve the issue and hope to have the website running soon. No new or updated resources for the LDS Growth Case Studies and the Missiology Encyclopedia were covered in this month's newsletter due to these website problems.