



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

June 2016

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)

- 34. Ikot Ekpene Nigeria - May 15th, 2016
- 39. Abuja Nigeria North - May 29th, 2016
- 42. Cedar Park Texas - June 5th, 2016
- 43. Guatemala City San Cristóbal - June 5th, 2016
- 44. Hong Kong China Lion Rock - June 5th, 2016
- 45. Hong Kong China Kowloon East - June 5th, 2016
- 46. Provo Utah Freedom - June 5th, 2016
- 47. Grand-Bassam Cote d'Ivoire - June 12th, 2016
- 48. Juazeiro do Norte Brazil - June 12th, 2016
- 49. Mapleton Utah West - June 12th, 2016
- 50. Mesa Arizona Clearview - June 12th, 2016
- 51. New London Connecticut - June 12th, 2016
- 52. Sparks Nevada West - June 12th, 2016
- 53. Apucarana Brazil - June 19th, 2016
- 54. Onitsha Nigeria - June 19th, 2016
- 55. Spokane Washington Mount Spokane - June 19th, 2016
- 56. Lujan Argentina - June 19th, 2016
- 57. Chiayi Taiwan - June 26th, 2016
- 58. Ile-Ife Nigeria - June 26th, 2016
- 59. Likasi DR Congo - June 26th, 2016
- 60. San Pedro Sula Honduras El Carmen - June 26th, 2016

New Districts

- 11. Dnepropetrovsk Ukraine - May 15th, 2016
- 12. Patos de Minas Brazil - May 29th, 2016
- 13. Bouake Cote d'Ivoire - June 5th, 2016
- 14. Nsukka Nigeria - June 5th, 2016
- 15. George South Africa - June 12th, 2016
- 16. Viana Angola - June 12th, 2016

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 5. Salt Lake Monument Park North Stake
- 6. San Diego California Sweetwater Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- São Gabriel da Palha, Espirito Santo, Brazil (20th, 24,012)
- Três Pontas, Minas Gerais, Brazil (64th, 46,160)
- Nova Prata, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (88th, 18,659)
- Ayame, Cote d'Ivoire (63rd, 12,315)
- Bangolo, Cote d'Ivoire (54th, 17,712)
- La Me, Cote d'Ivoire (N/A, N/A)
- Le Mars, Iowa (40th, 9,826)
- Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria (24th, 450,000)
- Amuzi, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Kiunga, Papua New Guinea (12th, 10,981)
- Elgin, Texas (269th, 8,135)
- Kryvyj Rih, Ukraine (8th, 670,397)

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

- Pforzheim, Germany (64th, 119,781)
- Cachipampa, Peru (N/A, N/A)
- Machico, Portugal (92nd, 10,900)
- Tovar, Venezuela (133rd, 33,400)

Rapid Stake Growth Continues

The Church has organized at least 60 new stakes thus far in 2016, including at least 19 stakes during the month of June. If this trend continues for the remainder of the year, the Church may organize as many as 120 stakes during 2016 – the largest number of new stakes organized in a single year since 1997 when there were 125 new stakes organized.

Number of Stakes in West Africa Tripling Every 10 Years

The Church in West Africa has tripled the number of stakes within the region every 10 years. For example, the number of stakes in West Africa increased from eight in 1996 to 25 in 2006 and 68 in mid-2016. If these rates continue for the next 10 years, there will be as many as 200 stakes in West Africa in 2026, including 114 stakes in Nigeria, 51 stakes in Ghana, 30 stakes in Cote d'Ivoire, and three stakes each in Benin, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

City Opens for Missionary Work in Ukraine

Missionaries serving in the Ukraine Dnepropetrovsk Mission report that the city of Kryvyj Rih has opened to missionary work for the first time. Kryvyj Rih is the eighth most populous city in Ukraine and was previously the most populous city in Ukraine without an LDS presence. A member group appears to operate in the city. Kryvyj Rih is also the first city to open to missionaries in Ukraine since the onset of the civil war in eastern Ukraine in 2014.



Last District in Taiwan Becomes a Stake

The last remaining district in Taiwan became a stake on June 26th. Chiayi Taiwan Stake was organized from the Chia Yi Taiwan District. The Asia Area presidency and mission presidents in Taiwan have implemented an aggressive plan to organize many new stakes in Taiwan within the past five years. As a result of this planning and success with leadership training and reactivation efforts, the number of stakes in Taiwan increased from 11 in 2013 to 17 at present. To contrast, the Church in Taiwan grew by only three stakes between 2003 and 2013.



LDS Branch Reestablished in Damascus, Syria

Church members in Lebanon report that the Church has reestablished a branch in Damascus, Syria. Most, if not all, members in the new branch appear to be Syrian, and convert baptisms have recently occurred in the branch. The Church previously operated a small branch in Damascus from 1997 until approximately 2010.



First LDS Stake Organized in Ekiti State, Nigeria

Last Sunday the Church organized its first official branch in the Nigerian state of Ekiti. Ekiti has a population of 2.8 million inhabitants and is located in western Nigeria. The new branch is located in the city of Ado-Ekiti. With 450,000 inhabitants, Ado-Ekiti has approximately the same population as the Colorado Springs metropolitan area in the United States. Several additional cities have opened to the Church in Nigeria within the past three years, including: Makurdi (355,000 inhabitants), Otukpo (likely more than 100,000 inhabitants), Oyo (370,000 inhabitants), Sapele (300,000 inhabitants), and Ugep (likely more than 200,000 inhabitants).



Rapid Growth in Cote d'Ivoire Continues

Rapid growth continues for the Church in Cote d'Ivoire. Thus far in 2016, the Church has organized new wards and branches in Cote d'Ivoire at a rate of approximately one per week as there have been 27 new wards and branches organized since January 1st. Aside from the United States, no other country has had as many new congregations organized thus far in 2016. The Church in 2016 has organized its first branches in several previously unreached cities, including Ayame, Bangolo, Danané, La Me, and Maffere. The Church's tenth stake in Cote d'Ivoire was organized in June – the Grand-Bassam Cote d'Ivoire Stake. Additionally, the Church created its eighth district in the country in Bouake during June. Exponential growth has occurred within the past decade as the Church in Cote d'Ivoire reported only three stakes and zero districts 10 years ago.



Nepali Translation of the Book of Mormon Nearing Completion

Members in Utah report that the Church will publish its Nepali translation of the Book of Mormon this fall. With over 15 million native speakers, and millions of additional second language speakers, Nepali ranks among languages with the most speakers without a translation of the Book of Mormon. The Church operates only two Nepali-speaking branches worldwide: the Kathmandu Branch in Kathmandu, Nepal, and the Crossroads Square Branch in Salt Lake City, Utah.

City Opens to Missionary Work in Papua New Guinea

The Church recently assigned the first senior missionary couple to open Kiunga, Papua New Guinea to proselytism.

Kiunga is located in the interior near the Indonesian border and was previously the second most populous city in the country without an LDS presence. A small congregation now operates in Kiunga where the first baptisms recently took place. For more information, click [here](#).



NEW/UPDATED RESOURCES

STATISTICAL PROFILES

State-by-state LDS statistical profiles for almost all states in the United States have been updated on cumorah.com to reflect year-end 2015 LDS membership, congregational, and stake/district data. We will be updating remaining state-by-state profiles for the United States in early July. Province-by-province statistical profiles for Canada will also be updated during the month of July.