



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

June 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)

- 20. Tomball Texas - May 21st, 2017
- 21. Hazelwood Missouri - June 4th, 2017
- 22. Olongapo Philippines - June 4th, 2017
- 23. Senahu Guatemala - June 4th, 2017
- 24. Guatemala City Don Justo - June 18th, 2017
- 25. Kissy Sierra Leone - June 18th, 2017
- 26. New York New York YSA - June 18th, 2017
- 27. San Jose del Monte Philippines North - Jun. 18
- 28. San Vicente El Salvador - June 18th, 2017
- 29. Koforidua Ghana - June 25th, 2017
- 30. Puebla Mexico Arboledas - June 25th, 2017
- 31. Tegucigalpa Honduras Villa Olympica - Jun. 25

- Wotje, Marshall Islands (9th, 866)
- Ogidi, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Masiag, Philippines (N/A, N/A)

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

- Santa Vitoria, Brazil (N/A, N/A)
- Sao Gotardo, Brazil (102nd, 26,156)
- Neuötting, Germany (N/A, N/A)
- Tiberias, Israel (35th, 41,300)
- Waldorf, Maryland (N/A, N/A)
- Georgetown, Ohio (315th, 4,331)
- Corrales, Peru (92nd, 19,754)
- Soritor, Peru (N/A, N/A)
- Tavira, Portugal (91st, 11,100)
- Artyom, Russia (159th, 102,729)
- Nakhodka, Russia (110th, 159,695)
- Daecheon, South Korea (75th, 58,372)
- Hongseong, South Korea (96th, 43,982)
- Joyce, Washington (N/A, N/A)
- Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin (60th, 13,661)

New Districts

- 9. Cabo Frio Brazil - June 4th, 2017
- 10. Labasa Fiji - June 4th, 2017
- 11. Havana Cuba - June 18th, 2017
- 12. Lae Papua New Guinea - June 25th, 2017

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 6. Hongseong Korea

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Hilacondji, Benin (N/A, N/A)
- Cratéus, Brazil (15th, 45,232)
- Pitanga, Brazil (67th, 19,891)
- Guayllabamba, Ecuador (N/A, ~12,000)
- Dzodze, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Wa, Ghana (13th, 102,446)
- Tahuexco, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Conakry, Guinea (1st, 1,667,864)
- Nikunau, Kiribati (17th, 933)

First LDS Branch in Guinea Organized; Guinea Assigned to the Sierra Leone Freetown Mission



The Church organized its first branch in the West African country of Guinea on June 18th. The Conakry Branch was created and is administered by the Sierra Leone Freetown Mission. The entire country of Guinea has also appeared to be assigned to the Sierra Leone Freetown Mission –

the first time Guinea has ever been assigned to a mission. Prior to this time, church activities in Guinea were directly supervised by the Africa West Area presidency through the Africa West Area Branch. The organization of the first official congregation in Guinea occurred less than one month after LDS apostle Elder David A. Bednar visited Guinea and met with local church leaders. Prospects for LDS growth in Conakry and the assignment of full-time missionaries appears favorable within the near future. Guinea is 87% Muslim, 9% Christian, and 4% followers of other faiths. More information on prospective LDS outreach in Guinea can be found [here](#).

First LDS Branch in Mali to be Organized; First Proselytizing Missionaries to be Assigned to Mali

Local members and missionaries in the Africa West Area report that the Church will organize its first official branch in the West African country of Mali on July 9th. The first branch will be created in Bamako. There are also plans for a member group to be organized on the outskirts of Bamako in the village of Mountougoula. Additionally, four missionaries from one of the Cote d'Ivoire missions will open initial proselytism efforts in Mali within the next month or so. A recent article on [the Ghana Mormon Newsroom site](#) detailed a May 2017 visit by Elder Bednar to Mali and noted that hundreds of prospective members met with Elder Bednar. The population of Mali is 95% Muslim.



Russia Vladivostok Mission Closes

The Church discontinued the Russia Vladivostok Mission in June and reassigned branches and volunteers (missionaries) to the Russia Novosibirsk Mission. The mission was among the more productive missions in



Russia based upon recent reports by full-time missionaries although most branches in the mission strongly depended on foreign missionaries to

properly operate. Additionally, two branches in the former area administered by the Russia Vladivostok Mission closed in Artyom and Nakhodka. The decision to close the mission appeared primarily influenced by fewer volunteers called to serve in Russia due to visa problems, increasing government restrictions on religious freedom, and low receptivity to LDS proselytism.

First LDS Branch in Upper West Region, Ghana Organized

The Church organized its first official branch in Wa, Upper West Region, Ghana. The Upper West Region was the last administrative region in Ghana to have a ward or branch organized. Thus, all ten administrative regions in Ghana now have an official ward or branch. The Wa Branch is assigned to the Ghana Kumasi Mission. It is unclear whether full-time missionaries have been assigned to Wa since the organization of the branch.



New Branches in Benin

Two new branches were recently organized in the West African country of Benin. Furthermore, one of the two new branches was created in Hilacondji – the third city to have an LDS presence established after the Cotonou metropolitan area and Porto-Novo. Hilacondji is located on the coast immediately next to the Togolese border. The Cotonou Benin Stake (organized in 2016) now has six wards and 10 branches. Missionaries have also recently reported that they have made proselytism trips to additional cities such as Allada and Bohicon within recent months to investigate opportunities to open these cities to proselytism and organize member groups.



El Salvador Covered by Stakes

The last remaining district in El Salvador (San Vicente) became a stake on June 18th. As a result, El Salvador has become the first Central American country to become entirely covered by stakes. There are currently 20 stakes in El Salvador.



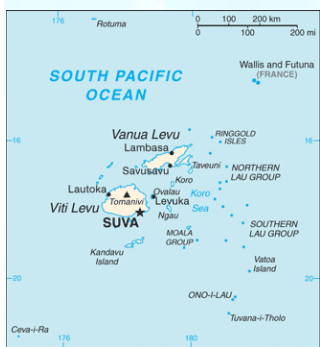
First LDS District in Cuba Organized



Last Sunday the Church created its first district in Cuba. The district services two branches in the Havana area and appears minimally

staffed with local leadership at present. LDS growth in Cuba continues to be slow and there appear to be no more than 100 members in the entire country. No full-time missionaries have been assigned to Cuba although the country is administered by the Dominican Republic Santiago Mission.

Another New District in Fiji



The Church in Fiji organized the Labasa Fiji District includes seven branches and several member groups on Vanua Levu. The Church previously operated a district headquartered in Labasa between the late 1980s and 2008 until the district was consolidated with the Taveuni Fiji District in hopes that the Vanua Levu and

Taveuni area could become a stake one day. Growth in northern Fiji has been slow although multiple new groups and branches have been created within recent years. There are now four stake and three districts in Fiji.

UPDATED RESOURCES

No resources have been updated on our website during June 2017 as we have been working on a series of articles for the upcoming publication of the Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions. This reference work is scheduled to be completed sometime in late 2017.