



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

June 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)

- 13. San Francisco Philippines - May 13th, 2018
- 16. Asaba Nigeria - June 10th, 2018
- 17. Aba Nigeria Umuola - June 10th, 2018
- 18. Fortaleza Brazil Dunas - June 10th, 2018
- 19. Edmond Oklahoma – June 17th, 2018
- 20. Lagos Nigeria Ojodu - June 24th, 2018

- Ikot Akpan Eda, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Umudike, Nigeria (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

- El Galpon, Argentina (N/A, 5,675)
- Fraile Pintado, Argentina (N/A, 13,300)
- Brest, France (24th, 139,163)
- Anton Lizardo, Veracruz, Mexico (137th, 6,003)
- Manlio Fabio Altamirano, Veracruz, Mexico (145th, 5,283)
- Valente Diaz, Veracruz, Mexico (33rd, 25,700)
- Beith, Scotland, UK (N/A, 6,040)
- San Josecito, Venezuela (100th, 51,700)

New Districts

- 6. Bibiani Ghana - June 10th, 2018
- 7. Kakata Liberia - June 10th, 2018

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Stakes

- 2. San Cristóbal Venezuela
- 3. Madero México Ampliación
- 4. Monterrey México Morelos
- 5. Monterrey México Paraíso
- 6. Tampico México Chairel

Districts

- 5. Cachoeira do Sul Brazil

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Juatuba, Minas Gerais, Brazil (137th, 19,650)
- Boma, DR Congo (16th, 171,552)
- Kambove, DR Congo (38th, 57,693)
- Akrofufu, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Berekum, Ghana (30th, 60,473)
- Edda, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)

Significant Stake and Congregation Consolidations in Mexico



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 four stakes in Mexico during June, including two stakes in Monterrey and two stakes in the Tampico metropolitan area. Additionally, approximately 40 wards and branches were discontinued in the Monterrey, Tampico/Madero, and Veracruz areas combined. The Church first began to consolidate smaller wards and branches in Mexico in 2012 when two stakes were discontinued in Guadalajara. Since this time, the Church has consolidated wards and/or stakes in several Mexican cities such as Ciudad Obregon, Culiacan, Juchitan, Mazatlán, Salina Cruz, and Tijuana. It appears likely that the Church will conduct a significant redistricting of

stakes and wards in the Mexico City area as this region in particular has struggled with comparatively small numbers of active members in many wards. Most wards discontinued in Monterrey, Tampico/Madero, and Veracruz appeared to have approximately 50 active members or less. Unlike other Latin American countries, the Church in Mexico has stood as an outlier in recent years in regards to problems with leadership development and the number of active members in individual congregations. In contrast, the Church in most Latin American countries has experienced significant improvements in augmenting the number of active members in congregations to the point that these congregations are comparable to North American wards in regards to church attendance.

100 Stakes in West Africa

The much anticipated milestone of 100 stakes within the Africa West Area was reached during June with the creation of the Lagos Nigeria Ojodu Stake. The Church in West Africa has experienced the most rapid stake growth of any region in the world within recent memory. The number of stakes in West Africa has increased from one in 1988 to five in 1995, 19 in 2000, 22 in 2005, 27 in 2010, 59 in 2015, 75 in 2016, and 100 at present. The Church in June also reached the milestone of 50 stakes in Nigeria and the 52nd stake in Nigeria will be created on July 8th. The Africa West Area Presidency [created a video](#) to celebrate the 100 stake milestone, which also coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Revelation regarding Blacks and the Priesthood and the 30th anniversary of the creation of the first stake in West Africa in Aba, Nigeria. Also, this video provided membership statistics for countries with an official LDS presence within the Africa West Area as of April 2018. See below for membership data by country as of April 2018 along with the percentage increase in membership during the first quarter of 2018.

- Nigeria – 167,720 (2.43% increase)
- Ghana – 79,835 (2.27% increase)
- Cote d'Ivoire – 45,517 (3.70% increase)
- Sierra Leone – 20,045 (3.10% increase)
- Liberia – 12,544 (3.18% increase)
- Togo – 4,291 (3.80% increase)
- Benin – 3,234 (4.15% increase)
- Senegal – 74 (12.1% increase)
- Guinea – 56
- Mali – 42

First LDS District in Liberia Created Outside of Monrovia

The Church organized its first district headquartered outside of the capital city of Monrovia during the month of June. The Kakata Liberia District includes three branches – all of which operate within the city of Kakata. The Church organized its first branch in Kakata in 2008. Mission leadership reported that nearly 500 people attended the special conference to organize the new district. There are now 40 official congregations (28 wards, 12 branches) in Liberia.

First LDS Branches Organized in Two Cities in the DR Congo

The Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) organized branches in two cities where no LDS branches previously operated. Branches were organized in Kambove and Boma during June. There are now 19 cities/towns in the DR Congo with an official LDS presence. Provided with the year that the first ward or branch was organized, these cities include Kinshasa (1986), Lubumbashi (1987), Kolwezi (1990), Likasi (1991), Kananga (1997), Luputa (1997), Mbuji-Mayi (1997), Gandajika (2008), Mwene-Ditu (2008), Kipushi (2009), Matadi (2010), Kakanda (2011), Kasumbalesa (2011), Uvira (2011), Lusuku (2014), Kisangani (2015), Fungurume (2016), Boma (2018), and Kambove (2018). There remain dozens of cities in the DR Congo inhabited by 100,000 or more people without an official LDS presence.



Good Member Activity and Leadership Development in Sierra Leone

Mission leaders in Sierra Leone report significant progress with leadership development and church attendance. For example, the Church held its first annual stake conference for the Kissy Sierra Leone Stake since it was organized in June of 2017. During the conference, there were more than 1,000 people in attendance and 71 brethren were presented to be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood. Given that newly organized stakes require a minimum of 100-120 Melchizedek Priesthood holders to operate, this development indicates significant growth among adult male members within the stake.



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 June 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:

- [Slovenia](#)