



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

MARCH 2013

## 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)

6. South Jordan Utah Oquirrh Lake - 3/3/2013
7. Lehi Utah Jordan Willows - 3/24/2013
8. Lancaster Pennsylvania - 3/24/2013

### New Districts

No new districts reported in March 2013

### Cities Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate) precise population data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Sena Madureira, Acre, Brazil (3<sup>rd</sup>, 25,112)
- Coari, Amazonas, Brazil (6<sup>th</sup>, 49,651)
- Humaitá, Amazonas, Brazil (8<sup>th</sup>, 30,501)
- Rorainópolis, Roraima, Brazil (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10,673)
- Calheta, Cape Verde (11<sup>th</sup>, 4,220)
- Tohautu, French Polynesia (17<sup>th</sup>, 2,842)
- Nakuru, Kenya (3<sup>rd</sup>, 286,411)
- Gjakovë, Kosovo (6<sup>th</sup>, 40,827)
- Barobo, Philippines (N/A, 43,663 [mun. pop])
- Indang, Philippines (259<sup>th</sup>, 22,487)
- Cumon, Philippines (N/A, 42,770 [mun. pop])
- Artyom, Russia (159<sup>th</sup>, 102,636)
- Leviamp, Vanuatu (N/A, less than 1,000)
- Mount Horeb, Wisconsin (117<sup>th</sup>, 7,009)

### Cities Recently Closed by the Church<sup>1</sup>

(city population rank, most recent population estimate) data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Copacabana, Colombia (74<sup>th</sup>, 57,900)
- Madrid, Colombia (69<sup>th</sup>, 62,100)
- Warkworth, New Zealand (80<sup>th</sup>, 3,940)

### Website Launched For the Church in China

In a major step towards improving member accountability, the Church has launched a new website (<http://mormonsandchina.org/>) designed to help Chinese members locate the Church if they return to mainland China. Thousands of Chinese nationals have joined the Church abroad and many return to China after completing foreign study or temporary employment. Specific information on church policies in China for Chinese nationals and foreigners are explained on the new website in English and Chinese (traditional and simplified characters). Although no official membership totals are published by the Church, we estimate that there may be as many as 10,000 members in China; triple the estimated amount ten years ago. The website reports that the first official meetings for Chinese nationals in mainland China occurred in 2004. For more information on LDS growth in China, visit our [country profile](#).



### Slovak Translation of the Book of Mormon Completed

Missionaries serving in Slovakia report that the first Slovak translation of the Book of Mormon has recently been completed and printed, making 108 translations of the Book of Mormon. Visit the Church's online store for purchasing materials at [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org) to order a copy.

<sup>1</sup> \*Cities where the only ward or branch was closed; some of these cities may continue to have a dependent unit and/or missionaries assigned

## Rapid Outreach Expansion in the Brazil Manaus Mission

Unprecedented outreach expansion has begun in the Amazon Basin of Brazil. Missionaries report that the first baptisms and/or plans for missionaries to be permanently assigned and groups organized are underway in four previously unreached cities within the mission including Sena Madureira in Acre State, Coari and Humaitá in Amazonas State, and Rorainópolis in Roraima State. Sena Madureira is the third most populous city in Acre State and the fourth city to have an LDS presence. Coari was previously the most populous unreached city in Amazonas State with approximately 50,000 inhabitants. With 30,000 inhabitants, Humaitá was the second most populous city in Amazonas State without an official LDS presence. Rorainópolis is the first location outside the state capital of Boa Vista to have an LDS presence established.



## First Slovak-speaking Branch in the United Kingdom Organized

Missionaries report that the first Slovak-speaking branch in the United Kingdom was organized in late March. The Church has baptized over 100 Slovak converts within the past couple years in Sheffield, England and organized a group over a year ago to provide church services in Slovak. Slovak-speaking converts are Roma (Gypsy) immigrants. Church attendance in the group has ranged from 30 to 84. Slovak-speaking missionaries have also been recently assigned. For more information about recent church growth among Slovaks in Sheffield, refer to our [case study](#).



## Temple Attendance in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

A recent article in the LDS Church News reports that the stake with the highest percentage of adult members who have submitted family names for temple ordinances is the Cocody Cote d'Ivoire Stake. Notwithstanding no temple in Cote d'Ivoire, Ivorian members have faithfully attended the Accra Ghana Temple since its completion in 2004 by biannual stake temple trips. There are currently five stakes in Abidjan. For more information, please refer to the [LDS Church News article](#).

## Second City Opens for Missionary Work in Kosovo

Missionaries in the Adriatic South Mission report that a second city in Kosovo (Gjakovë) was recently opened to missionaries and has had a group organized. Located near the Albanian border, Gjakovë has approximately 40,000 inhabitants. One branch currently operates in Pristina. The first proselytizing missionaries in Kosovo arrived in mid-2011.

## 1,500th Stake in the United States Organized

On March 24th, the Church organized its 1,500th stake in the United States (50 stakes and the District of Columbia) in Lehi, Utah. The Church in the United States reached its 500th stake milestone in the early 1970s and its 1,000th stake milestone in the early 1980s. Heightened standards for stakes to be organized in the United States that require larger numbers of members and more wards than in previous years have been a major contributor to the slowdown in stake growth in the United States within the past decade.

## Nakuru, Kenya Opens for Missionary Work

Missionaries in Kenya report that the first group was recently organized in Nakuru; Kenya's third most populous city. There are approximately 14 active members in the city at present. Full-time missionaries have also been assigned. Members anticipate rapid growth in Nakuru in the coming months and years due to good receptivity to the Church and the large population.

## First Temple in Honduras Dedicated

On March 17th, the Church dedicated its 141st temple in Tegucigalpa, Honduras to service 233,000 members in Honduras and Nicaragua. The new temple is the first temple to be constructed in Honduras and is the sixth temple built in the Central America Area. Over 100,000 toured the three-week open house which generated more than 5,000 requests for missionary lessons.<sup>2</sup> Originally announced in 2006, the Tegucigalpa Honduras Temple is unique in that two separate groundbreaking ceremonies were held in two different locations due to opposition from city officials regarding the initial temple site.



<sup>2</sup> Searle, Don. "Visitors Feel Peace at Tegucigalpa Temple," lds.org, 4 March 2013. <http://www.lds.org/church/news/tegucigalpa-temple-open-house-provides-visitors-with-peace>

# NEW RESOURCES

## CASE STUDIES

### [Analysis of LDS Growth in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria](#)

Located in southeastern Nigeria and supporting a population of 3.9 million in 2006, Akwa Ibom is one of the 36 administrative states of Nigeria. No other rural area in Sub-Saharan Africa has as widespread of an LDS presence as Akwa Ibom. This case study reviews LDS Church growth in Akwa Ibom and identifies successes, opportunities, challenges, and future prospects for growth. A comparative growth section compares the growth of the LDS Church with other nontraditional proselytizing Christian groups.

### [Analysis of LDS Growth in Mexico City](#)

Tying with Delhi, India as the sixth most populous urban agglomeration in the world with 23.4 million inhabitants, the Greater Mexico City area has 42 municipalities that each have more than 50,000 inhabitants. This case study reviews stake growth in Mexico City, analyzes congregational growth within the past decade, and examines the current geographic distribution of wards and branches. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for growth are identified and analyzed. A comparative growth section compares LDS growth in Mexico City to other cities in Mexico with over one million inhabitants and contrasts LDS growth in Mexico City to other proselytizing Christian groups. Lastly, future prospects for growth are discussed.

### [LDS Outreach among the Garifuna of Central America](#)

Descended from Carib and Arawak Amerindians and black African slaves that once inhabited the Lesser Antilles, the Garifuna or *Black Carib* primarily populate Caribbean coastal areas in Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. The LDS Church has not extended any concentrated missionary efforts among the Garifuna notwithstanding a widespread presence in Central America. This case study presents a historical and cultural overview of the Garifuna and examines successes, opportunities, and challenges for church growth. A comparative growth section compares LDS outreach among the Garifuna to other indigenous peoples in Central America and provides a synopsis of church growth among other nontraditional Christian groups among the Garifuna. A future prospects section provides an outlook for future LDS growth.

### [LDS Outreach among the Inuit of North America](#)

Numbering somewhere between 60,000 and 150,000, the Inuit or *Eskimos* are a collection of indigenous peoples native to northern Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. This case study provides a synopsis of the history, culture, and society of the Inuit people and the history of LDS outreach among the Inuit. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for growth are identified and discussed. A comparative growth section compares LDS growth among other indigenous peoples in northern North America and highlights the growth of other missionary-focused groups among the Inuit. A future prospects section predicts an outlook for future LDS growth.

### [Methods for Reversing Stagnant LDS Growth in Japan](#)

In the 1970s and 1980s, the LDS Church in Japan experienced rapid membership and stake growth as official membership totals increased from 12,000 in 1968 to 91,000 in 1989 and the number of stakes rose from zero to 23. The Church has experienced stagnant membership growth and a slight decline in the number of stakes over the past couple decades as membership increased from 99,000 in 1991 to 125,744 in 2011 and the number of stakes reached a high of 31 in 2000 but decreased to 29 in 2012. This case study reviews recent LDS growth trends in Japan and recommends methods for reversing stagnant growth. Recent successes and challenges for accelerating growth are identified. A comparative growth section contrasts growth trends for the LDS Church in Japan with other nontraditional Christian groups. Limitations to this case study are provided followed by future prospects for LDS growth in Japan.

### [Rapid National Outreach Expansion in Ghana](#)

The LDS Church in Ghana has experienced some of the most rapid national outreach expansion in the world within the past two years. No other country has appeared to have as many wards, branches, and groups organized in locations that previously had no reported LDS presence. This case study provides background information on outreach expansion and congregational growth in Ghana. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for growth are examined. A comparative growth section compares outreach expansion efforts in Ghana to other Sub-Saharan African countries. The growth of other proselytizing Christian groups in Ghana

is compared to LDS growth trends. Lastly, a future prospects section predicts the outlook for future church growth for the foreseeable future.

### **The Influence of Senior Missionary Couples on LDS Church Growth**

This case study reviews particular instances in which senior missionary couples have progressed LDS Church growth such as establishing a church presence in previously unreached countries, establishing an initial LDS presence or revitalizing outreach among a particular ethnolinguistic minority group, facilitating local leadership development, organizing additional branches and/or districts, expanding outreach in countries with an LDS presence, translation efforts, resolving or complying with legal issues, and maintaining an LDS presence in countries where growth conditions are relatively unfavorable. Successes, opportunities, and challenges for senior missionaries influencing contemporary church growth trends are discussed. A future prospects section predicts how senior couple missionaries may influence future church growth trends for the foreseeable future.

