



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

March 2015

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. Ciudad Victoria México North - March 1st, 2015
7. Xalapa México Macuiltepetl - March 8th, 2015
8. Lusaka Zambia - March 15th, 2015
9. Beira Mozambique - March 22nd, 2015

New Districts

4. Windhoek Namibia - March 8th, 2014
5. Leopoldina Brazil - March 15th, 2014
6. Beira Mozambique Manga - March 22nd, 2015

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

1. Salt Lake 1st Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Kalifornsky, Alaska (11th, 7,850)
- Andradina, São Paulo, Brazil (121st, 51,649)
- Hope, British Columbia, Canada (49th, 4,455)
- Abengourou, Cote d'Ivoire (11th, 104,020)
- Kenyasi No. 2, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Smithville, Missouri (97th, 8,425)
- Motueka, New Zealand (45th, 7,950)
- Kristiansund, Norway (28th, 17,352)
- Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania (268th, 5,116)
- Marratxí, Spain (N/A, 35,521)

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

- La Vale, Maryland (218th, 3,551)

First LDS Stake Created in Zambia

The Church organized its first stake in Zambia on March 15th, 2015. The new stake is called the Lusaka Zambia Stake and most of the seven branches in the former district became wards. Information on which branches became wards remains unavailable. Zambia was previously the country with the ninth most members without a stake according to year-end 2013 membership data. The Lusaka Zambia District was originally organized in 2003. The Church organized its first mission in Zambia in 2011. Currently the Zambia Lusaka Mission administers Zambia and Malawi.



LDS District Reestablished in Namibia

The Church organized a new district in Namibia in early March. The Windhoek Namibia District was organized from mission branches in the Botswana/Namibia Mission and includes four branches (three in Windhoek, one in Swakopmund). Two of the branches in the district were organized at the time the district was created (Swakopmund and Wanaheda). The Church briefly operated a district in Namibia during the early 1990s. Namibia was previously the country or dependency/territory with the sixth most members without a stake or district according to year-end 2013 membership data.



Book of Mormon Translated into 110th Language (Kosraean)

The Church has announced the publication of the Book of Mormon into Kosraean - a language spoken on the island of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia. Kosraean has fewer than 10,000 speakers worldwide and is one of the languages with the fewest speakers into which the Book of Mormon has been translated. The Book of Mormon (entire book and select passages) is now available in 110 languages.

First LDS Branch Organized in the Northern DR Congo

The Church organized its first official branch in Kisangani, DR Congo in mid-March. Kisangani is the most northern Congolese city to have an LDS presence established and was previously the Congolese city with the most inhabitants without an official LDS congregation. Mission leadership in the DR Congo Kinshasa Mission visited the city in mid-2014 and performed the first convert baptisms. A member group previously operated in the city. Membership is divided among Congo Swahili, French, and Lingala speakers. The establishment of the Church in Kisangani was made possible by active members relocating to the city and petitioning church leaders to establish an official LDS presence. The DR Congo Lubumbashi Mission originally established the Kisangani Group sometime prior to the reassignment of the northern DR Congo to the DR Congo Kinshasa Mission in mid-2014.



New Branches Organized in Russia

The Russia Vladivostok Mission has recently organized two new branches in Artyom and Angarsk. Member groups previously operated in each of these cities. The Russia Vladivostok Mission has been the most proactive missions in the Europe East Area to open cities to missionary work and concentrate on achieving "real growth" within the past couple years. Mission leaders have focused on opening new cities to missionary work, organizing new member groups, and augmenting the number of members attending church. No stakes or districts operate within the Russia Vladivostok Mission.



First LDS Branch Organized in Abengourou, Cote d'Ivoire

The Church organized its first branch in the Ivorian city of Abengourou. Abengourou was the Ivorian city that had the third most inhabitants where there was no official LDS congregation. The organization of the new branch has continued to perpetuate the Church's rapid national outreach expansion efforts within Cote d'Ivoire. The Church opened two its first branches in two additional cities earlier in 2015 in Bouake and Issia.



New Branch Organized in Argentina

For the first time in several years, the Church in Argentina organized a new branch in a city where no branch previously operated. The Rincón de los Sauces Branch was organized from a member group in the Argentina Neuquen Mission that previously operated in the city. This development may signal a change in the trend of congregational decline that the Church in Argentina has experienced since the late 2000s. Missionaries serving in several Argentine Missions report renewed efforts to open member groups in cities where no nearby ward or branch operates, suggesting that the creation of additional branches appears likely within the foreseeable future.



NEW RESOURCES

CASE STUDIES

[Analysis of LDS Growth in San Jose, Costa Rica](#)

San Jose is the national capital and most populous metropolitan area in Costa Rica. Although several notable church growth developments have occurred within the past six decades, the Church in San Jose has a more limited presence than other major metropolitan areas in Central America. This case study reviews the history of the Church in San Jose. Church growth successes are discussed. Opportunities and challenges for future growth are analyzed. LDS growth in other major Central American metropolitan areas is compared to LDS growth in San Jose. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups that operate in San Jose are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[LDS Outreach among the Achi of Guatemala](#)

The Achi are a Mayan people who number among the 10 most populous Amerindian peoples in Guatemala. The LDS Church has maintained a continuous presence within the Achi homeland for nearly four decades and has achieved limited church growth and missionary success. This case study examines the historical and cultural background of the Achi, reviews the history LDS proselytism efforts among them, and analyzes successes, opportunities, and challenges for church growth. The growth of the LDS Church among other Amerindian peoples in Guatemala is summarized. The size and growth trends of other nontraditional proselytizing Christian groups with a presence among the Achi is reviewed. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[LDS Outreach among the Chinantec of Mexico](#)

Numbering 188,000 in 2005, the Chinantec are an Amerindian people in Mexico who traditionally reside in extreme northern Oaxaca State. The LDS Church maintains no congregations within the Chinantec homeland and has reported no Chinantec-specific outreach despite a population of nearly 200,000. This case study reviews the history of the LDS Church within areas nearby the Chinantec homelands. Opportunities and challenges for LDS growth among the Chinantec are explored. The growth of the Church among other Amerindian peoples indigenous to Mexico is reviewed. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Chinantec are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[LDS Outreach among the Guaraní of South America](#)

The Guaraní are one of the most populous Amerindian peoples in South America with approximately five to six million people. The LDS Church has maintained a presence among the Guaraní for several decades and has achieved several

noteworthy accomplishments. However, opportunities for greater growth continue to be unrealized as many Guaraní reside in locations without an LDS presence. This case study reviews the history of the Church among the Guaraní. Church growth and missionary successes are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are analyzed. The growth of the Church among other major Amerindian peoples in South America is reviewed. The size and growth of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Guaraní is summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[LDS Outreach among the Huastec of Mexico](#)

Numbering 215,500 in 2005, the Huastec are an Amerindian people in Mexico who traditionally reside in northern Veracruz State and eastern San Luis Potosí State. No specialized LDS outreach has occurred among the Huastec although LDS congregations have operated for several decades within or nearby the Huastec homelands. This case study reviews LDS growth developments within areas traditionally inhabited by Huastec people and known instances of Huastec converts joining the Church. Church growth and missionary successes among the Huastec are discussed and opportunities and challenges for LDS growth are explored. The growth of the Church among other Amerindian peoples indigenous to Mexico is reviewed. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Huastec are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[LDS Outreach among the Mayo of Mexico](#)

The Mayo are an Amerindian people in Mexico who traditionally reside in southern Sonora State and northern Sinaloa State. No specialized LDS outreach has occurred among the Mayo although LDS congregations have operated for several decades within the Mayo homelands. This case study reviews LDS growth developments within areas traditionally inhabited by the Mayo people and notes known instances of Mayo converts joining the Church. Church growth and missionary successes among the Mayo are discussed and opportunities and challenges for LDS growth are explored. The growth of the Church among other Amerindian peoples indigenous to Mexico is reviewed and the size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Mayo are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

[LDS Outreach among the Mixe of Mexico](#)

Numbering 161,000 in 2005, the Mixe are an Amerindian people in Mexico who traditionally reside in north-central Oaxaca State. The LDS Church reports no Mixe-specific outreach notwithstanding the Mixe constituting one of the most populous Amerindian peoples in Oaxaca State and the Church operating congregations in several locations where there are

sizable Mixe populations. This case study reviews the history of the LDS Church within or nearby the Mixe homelands. LDS successes reaching the Mixe are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are explored. The growth of the Church among other Amerindian peoples indigenous to Mexico is reviewed. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Mixe is summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

LDS Outreach among the Poqomchi' of Guatemala

The Poqomchi' are a Mayan people who number among the 10 most populous Amerindian peoples in Guatemala. The LDS Church has maintained a continuous presence within the Poqomchi' homeland for over three decades and has achieved limited church growth and missionary success. This case study reviews the history of LDS proselytism efforts among the Poqomchi' and analyzes successes, opportunities, and challenges for church growth. The growth of the LDS Church among other Amerindian peoples in Guatemala is summarized and the size and growth trends of other nontraditional proselytizing Christian groups with a presence among the Poqomchi' is reviewed. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

LDS Outreach among the Toba of Argentina

The Toba are an Amerindian people that traditionally reside in the Argentine provinces of Chaco and Formosa. The LDS Church has maintained a presence within the Toba homelands for over two decades and has converted sizable numbers of Toba. However, opportunities for greater growth continue to be unrealized due to no translations of LDS materials into Toba, no Toba-specific missionary outreach, and a limited LDS presence in rural areas where many Toba reside. This case study reviews the history of the Church among the Toba. Church growth and missionary successes are identified and opportunities and challenges for future growth are analyzed. The growth of the Church among other major Amerindian peoples in South America is reviewed. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Toba is summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted. traditionally reside in eastern Chiapas State. No special

LDS Outreach among the Tojolabal of Mexico

Numbering 58,094 in 2005, the Tojolabal are an Amerindian people in Mexico who traditionally reside in eastern Chiapas State. No specialized LDS outreach has occurred among the Tojolabal although LDS congregations have operated for several decades nearby the Tojolabal homelands. This case study reviews LDS growth developments nearby areas traditionally inhabited by the Tojolabal people. Opportunities and challenges for LDS growth are explored. The growth of the Church among other Amerindian peoples indigenous to Mexico is reviewed. The size and growth trends of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Tojolabal are summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

LDS Outreach among the Wichi of Argentina and Bolivia

The Wichi, or Mataco, are an Amerindian people who traditionally reside in extreme northern Argentina and adjacent areas in extreme southern Bolivia. Most estimates for the size of the Wichi population are approximately 40,000. The LDS Church maintains no presence within the Wichi homelands although LDS congregations have operated in cities nearby the Wichi homelands for at least two decades. The Church has also experienced significant successes reaching the Nivaclé of Paraguay - an Amerindian people with a smaller population than the Wichi who exhibit similar linguistic and cultural characteristics. This case study reviews the history of the Church administering the Wichi homelands. Opportunities and challenges for future growth are analyzed. The growth of the Church among other major Amerindian peoples in South America is reviewed and the size and growth of other missionary-focused Christian groups with a presence among the Wichi is summarized. Limitations to this case study are identified and prospects for future growth are predicted.

Using Social Media in LDS Proselytism Efforts

This case study provides an overview of social media. Internet technologies that appear effective for online missionary activity are discussed and resources and statements made by church leaders pertaining to social media and missionary work are reviewed. The author discusses his experience creating a social media webpage on Facebook and analyzes case examples of advertisement campaigns that have targeted specific locations. Opportunities and challenges for social media proselytism are explored. Limitations to this case study are identified.