



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

NOVEMBER 2012

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)

- 46. Gaborone Botswana - 11/4/2012
- 47. Lafaiete Brazil - 11/4/2012
- 48. Manaus Brazil Guarany - 11/4/2012
- 49. Murfreesboro Tennessee - 11/4/2012
- 50. Villa Nueva Guatemala El Frutal - 11/4/2012
- 51. West Richland Washington - 11/4/2012
- 52. Ll ida Spain - 11/11/2012
- 53. Brisbane Australia Cleveland - 11/18/2012
- 54. La Paz Bolivia Copacabana - 11/18/2012
- 55. Coomera Australia - 11/18/2012
- 56. Hamilton New Zealand Rotokauri - 11/25/2012
- 57. Kinshasa DR Congo Binza - 11/25/2012

New Districts

- 12. Kenema Sierra Leone - 11/25/2012

Cities Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Domeabra, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Espinal, Veracruz, Mexico (297th, 2,676)
- Murcia, Negros Occidental, Philippines(N/A, N/A)

Cities Recently Closed by the Church*

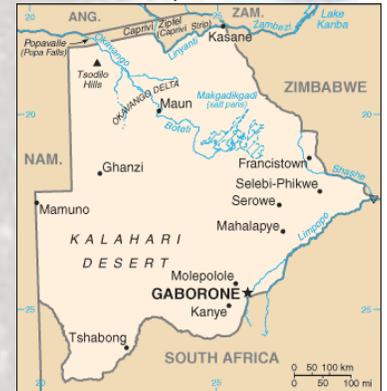
(city population rank, most recent population estimate)
data from www.citypopulation.de

- Antequera, Spain (N/A, 41,854)
- Kosciusko, Mississippi (53rd, 7,402)
- Princes Town, Trinidad and Tobago (16th, 7,062)
- Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada (14th, 3,986)

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

First LDS Stake Created in Botswana

On November 4th, the Church created its first stake in Botswana. The new stake consists of six wards (Gaborone Broadhurst, Gaborone West, Gaborone West YSA, Lobatse, Molepolole, and Mochudi) and two branches (Kanye and Mafeking). The Church has had an official presence in Botswana since 1991. Wards and branches in southern Botswana pertained to the Roodepoort South Africa Stake for nearly two decades prior to the organization of the first stake in Botswana. There are currently slightly more than 2,000 members nationwide;¹ twice as many as there were in 2002. One branch and several groups in northern Botswana remain under the jurisdiction of the South Africa Johannesburg Mission and do not pertain to a stake or district.



Larger Numbers of Missionaries to Serve in Missions in the United States

Mission presidents and missionaries report that the Church will increase the missionary compliment to 250 for most missions in the United States. The number of missionaries serving in most American missions will increase by 50 to 100 from their current levels.

¹ Wrigley, Heather Whittle. "Saints in Botswana Rejoice at Creation of First Stake," Church News and Events, 14 November 2012.
<http://www.lds.org/church/news/saints-in-botswana-rejoice-at-creation-of-first-stake>

Missionary Developments in India

Members and missionaries in India report that the Church will begin assigning young proselytizing "sister" missionaries in both the India Bangalore and India New Delhi Missions in the coming weeks. The Church reassigned a few Indian sister missionaries serving in the Philippines back to India to lay the groundwork to train new sister missionaries in the two Indian missions. Members and missionaries in the India New Delhi Mission also report that young, proselytizing missionaries will begin serving in Mumbai for the first time. Previously assigned to the India Bangalore Mission, Mumbai was



recently reassigned to the India New Delhi Mission. The Church has operated only one branch in Mumbai since December 1993. With 21 million inhabitants and ranking as the world's twelfth most populous urban agglomeration, Mumbai presents excellent opportunities for church growth if additional groups or small branches open in areas of the city distant from the current branch meetinghouse.

Accelerated Congregational Growth in Nigeria

The Church has experienced another period of rapid congregational growth in Nigeria for 2012. The number of wards and branches in Nigeria has increased by 30 so far in 2012; a 9.5% increase from year-end 2011 and a larger numerical increase than any other country besides the United States for 2012. Congregational growth has been most rapid in southeastern Nigeria.



Number of New Stakes Created in 2012 in Europe the Most Since 1982

With six new stakes this year in Europe (three in Spain, one in Italy, one in Norway, and one in Russia), 2012 will be the year with the most new stakes created in Europe since 1982. There has not appeared to be any significant change in growth over the past year that has prompted the creation of additional stakes. Rather, this

development has come after years or decades of slow, steady growth.

Central African Republic Dedicated for Missionary Work

Missionaries in Africa report that LDS apostle Elder Jeffrey R. Holland dedicated the Central African Republic to missionary work in late October. The decision to dedicate the Central African Republic appears linked to increased mission president visits to the country from the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa Mission, recent approval from government officials to send foreign missionaries, and interest from mission leaders to expand outreach in Central Africa. The Church has only one branch that operates in Bangui that has had increasing numbers of local members serve missions within the past couple years. With increasing mission resources channeled into Central Africa, prospects



appear favorable that the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa Mission will split in the near future and a separate mission based in Cameroon could potentially serve the Central African Republic. The Church initially established a presence in the Central African Republic in the early 1990s but has experienced slow growth. In 2011, there were less than 500 members nationwide.

First Convert Baptism in Macedonia

Local members in Skopje, Macedonia report that the first LDS convert baptism in Macedonia occurred on October 20th. The Adriatic South Mission assigned full-time missionaries to Macedonia for the first time last spring. There appear to be fewer than 10 members in the entire country; most of whom are foreigners. Recent missionary reports indicate that the Church does not currently perform open proselytism in Macedonia for reasons that are not entirely clear.



Macedonia was the last country of the former Yugoslavia to have a native convert baptism occur. The first native convert baptism in Montenegro occurred this past July.

NEW RESOURCES

CASE STUDIES

[Analysis of LDS Growth in Seoul, South Korea](#)

The LDS Church has maintained a presence in Seoul for half a century and reports over two dozen congregations, six stakes, and one district headquartered within the city limits. This case study reviews past LDS growth in Seoul and identifies successes, opportunities, challenges, and future prospects for growth. The growth of the LDS Church is compared to other nontraditional Christian faiths.

[LDS Growth among the Otavalo Quichua Amerindians in Ecuador](#)

This case study examines the historical and cultural background of the Otavalo people, reviews the history of LDS proselytism efforts, and analyzes successes, opportunities, and challenges for church growth. A comparative growth section contrasts the growth of the LDS Church with other nontraditional proselytizing Christian faiths. Lastly, future prospects for growth are discussed.

[LDS Outreach among the Q'eqchi' of Guatemala](#)

The LDS Church has maintained a presence among the Q'eqchi' since the 1970s and has experienced some of the greatest growth among Amerindian groups in Latin America. This case study reviews the history of the Church among the Q'eqchi' and analyzes successes, opportunities, challenges, and future prospects for growth. A comparative growth section compares and contrasts the growth of the LDS Church with other nontraditional Christian denominations in the area.

[Lowering the Minimum Mission Age: Analysis and Predictions for Growth for the LDS Church](#)

This case study examines various missionary-related statistics and projects future growth based on growth trends over the past 33 years. Future growth in the number of missionaries and the number of missions is explored and analyzed in regards to past trends and potential increases in the number of missionaries serving as a result of lowering the minimum mission age. Potential concerns that may arise due to this change in policy are examined and prospects for church growth as a whole are summarized.

[Prospective LDS Outreach among the Sami of Scandinavia](#)

This case study examines prospective LDS outreach that specifically targets Sami populations in Scandinavia through identifying successes, opportunities, challenges, and future prospects for growth. The growth of other missionary-focused Christian groups among the Sami is contrasted with the LDS Church.

[Prospective LDS Outreach in Papua Province, Indonesia](#)

The LDS Church currently reports no official presence in Papua notwithstanding its predominantly Christian population, high receptivity to outreach-focused faiths, and the Church's recent successes expanding outreach in Papua New Guinea. This case study explores the opportunities, challenges, and future prospects of establishing an LDS presence in Papua Province and highlights the achievements of other Christian groups in the province.

[Recent Congregational Growth Trends in Argentina](#)

The LDS Church has maintained a presence in Argentina since the 1920s - longer than any other nation in South America. The Church experienced rapid growth in virtually all church growth indicators until the late 1990s and experienced slow growth in the early to mid 2000s. Beginning in 2008, the Church has experienced a steady decline in the number of congregations nationwide. This case study analyzes congregational growth in Argentina over the past decade and identifies factors that have contributed to its slowdown and decline within the past five years.

[Recent LDS Church Developments in Kazakhstan](#)

In recent years, the Church has revamped its outreach efforts in Kazakhstan through emphasis on Kazakh language fluency for missionaries, the opening of a second city to missionary activity in 2011, and the reassignment of the country from the Russia Moscow West Mission to the Russia Novosibirsk Mission in 2012. This case study reviews the history of the Church in Kazakhstan and analyzes successes, opportunities, challenges, and future prospects for growth.