

Europe Area Plan

For 2014

Executive Summary

“As we retain our new and returning members, save our youth, and continue to reactivate the less-active, we will be able to double the active membership of the Europe Area within ten years.”

*Area Committee Report
September 2, 2009*

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”*

Matthew 28:19

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December 1, 2013

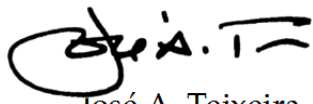
The Area Plan is intended to create a vision for conversion and real growth. Our goal is to double the active membership of the Church in the Europe Area and to prepare members to go to the temple, where they can receive the ordinances and make the covenants necessary for their exaltation and the exaltation of their families.

The priorities and initiatives of the 2014 Area Plan will help us strengthen the testimonies of all members, maintain sustainable growth, see an increase in baptisms and retention of new and returning members, and minister to the rising generation.

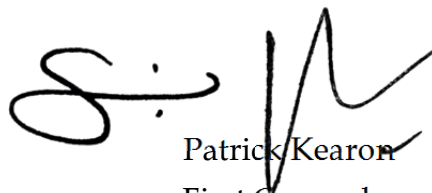
The Priesthood and Auxiliary Leadership Training Plan focuses on recent direction in the Worldwide Broadcasts, and the importance of raising our efforts to a new level to see conversion and real growth, and succeeding in the work of salvation with the much larger number of full-time missionaries.

We are grateful for the real growth we are witnessing throughout Europe. We rejoice that for the first time sacrament meeting attendance surpassed 100,000. We will continue to work with determination and faith and, with the Lord's help, continue to establish the Church in the many lands of Europe.

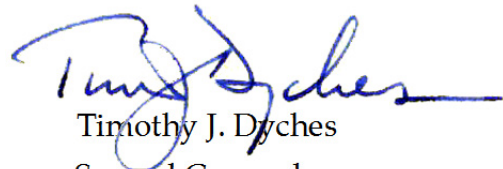
Sincerely,



José A. Teixeira
Area President



Patrick Kearon
First Counselor



Timothy J. Dyches
Second Counselor

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Area Priorities

Build up the Church in the Europe Area by doubling the active membership. The Area Presidency priorities to achieve this are:

- Invite members and missionaries to work in unity in the work of conversion¹ and in helping new and returning members remain active² in Church.
- Invite ward/branch councils to act and work together in the “work of salvation” to strengthen the testimonies of all members, in particular those of new and returning members. Help members receive all necessary ordinances, hold a current temple recommend, participate in temple ordinances for themselves and their ancestors, and remain faithful.
- Invite the youth and the young single adults to strengthen their testimonies through meaningful spiritual activities and experiences, and help them to be worthy to enter the temple and prepare for missionary service³.

2014 Emphasis

Train missionaries on the principles contained in *Preach My Gospel*. Invite all missions and stakes/districts to continue to work unitedly on the “Hastening the Work of Salvation”, finding people to teach and baptize, and strengthen the testimonies of new members and less-active.

Invite every stake and district to strengthen the testimonies of prospective elders and prepare them to be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Provide spiritual experiences for the rising generation. Continue to expand daily seminary for the youth. Devote our best efforts to ordain young men at the appropriate age. Identify and shepherd young single adults, and help them to enroll in Institute classes, rescue others, serve honorable missions, and prepare for temple marriage.

Support Area Seventies in their responsibilities to magnify the stake presidents and help strengthen ward councils in the work of salvation and the focus on real growth.

¹ Handbook 2 - 5.1.3 – Leadership Training Library – Mission Leader - Serving in the Ward Mission

² Handbook 2 - 5.2 – Leadership Training Library – Mission Leader - Retention

³ Handbook 2 - 8.7 – Leadership Training Library – Aaronic Priesthood - Preparing Young Men for Missionary Service

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Key Indicators to Monitor Progress of the Europe Area Plan

Key Indicators	Results					Goals		Real Growth 2009-2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 (*)	2013	2014	
Convert baptisms	6,782	6,668	7,209	7,992	7,900*	8,500	8,500	+36,551
Baptisms per missionary	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.1*	2.6	2,5	+0.4
Sacrament meeting attendance	95,135	95,111	96,661	96,264	100,397	101,000	110,000	+5,262
Active Melchizedek Priesthood	25,401	25,934	26,285	27,075	27,237	27,500	28,000	+1,836
Endowed adults with a temple recommend	44,950	45,539	46,738	48,073	48,668	48,200	50,000	+3,718
Missionaries called	510	563	631	785	1,100*	800	1,000	+590
Active young single adults	9,874	10,753	10,200	10,194	10,412	11,000	11,000	+538

Progress Report towards Goals Outlined in Previous Year's Plan

As we review the statistical reports for the second quarter of 2013, we are able to see signs of real growth and the fruits of our labors. Our goals in most of our key indicators have been achieved. This quarter we registered the largest attendance to sacrament meeting of the last 5 years which surpassed 100,000 for the first time. Convert baptisms however are not increasing proportionally to the increase of full-time missionaries.

We will continue with our efforts to increase the active members of the Church with a greater emphasis on increasing convert baptisms.

Note: The figures for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 of *sacrament meeting attendance*, *active Melchizedek Priesthood holders*, *endowed adults with a temple recommend*, and *active young single adults* are from the 2nd quarter Member and Statistical Reports to provide a more accurate comparison by looking at the same time period across the years.

(*) Year-end estimate for 2013

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Conversion and Real Growth

The Area Presidency will use the teachings and resources of “Hastening the Work of Salvation” and apply these simple principles to continue to foster conversion and real growth in the Europe Area.

For Missionaries

1. Stay anchored to chapter 9 of *Preach My Gospel*
2. Find investigators who can help build the kingdom
3. Focus on finding methods that build on member relationships
4. Teach people so that they are committed and meet the qualifications for baptism
5. Work in unity with the ward council to strengthen new and returning members and the less active

For Members

1. Invite friends to attend church
2. Fellowship unfamiliar people in church meetings
3. Participate in teaching investigators and less-active members with missionaries
4. Offer homes for teaching investigators and new and returning members
5. Invite friends and acquaintances to be taught by the missionaries
6. Use online tools to share the gospel

For Leaders

1. Ensure every unit has a strong and well trained ward/branch mission leader
2. Focus the ward council on the work of salvation by helping members, and in particular new and returning members, to strengthen their testimonies and receive all saving ordinances
3. Discuss individual investigators, converts, and less-active members using the Progress Record and the New and Returning Member Progress Record
4. Involve new members in temple and family history work, including helping new members qualify to go to the temple to perform baptisms for the dead

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Priesthood and Auxiliary Leadership Training Plan – Part 1 of 3

Vision

Increase faith that through Christ-like leadership we can bless others to strengthen their testimony and conversion and can achieve and sustain real growth in Europe.

Key Objectives

1. Invite each stake to work in unity with the mission to increase convert baptisms and retain converts.
2. Invite every ward/branch council to help new and returning members strengthen their testimonies and help them prepare to go to the temple.
3. Invite the youth to strengthen their testimonies and receive saving ordinances for themselves and for their ancestors.
4. Invite all those who are eligible to serve a mission and help them to qualify to serve a mission.

Training Needs

- Teach the importance of regular sacrament meeting attendance, to participate in the ordinance of the sacrament and be spiritually uplifted.
- Teach ward councils how to unite their efforts in the work of salvation:
 - ✓ Focus on conversion and real growth (attendance at sacrament meeting, active Melchizedek Priesthood holders, and endowed adults with a current temple recommend)
 - ✓ Prepare young men to understand the duties and power of the priesthood and to be ordained to the offices of the priesthood at the appropriate age
 - ✓ Help new and returning members go to the temple
 - ✓ Help all youth qualify to hold a limited-use temple recommend and to attend the temple regularly
 - ✓ Help prepare all young men and young women who so desire to serve a full-time mission
- Train ward mission leaders
- Train leaders using the materials of the most recent broadcasts, and in particular use the resources in the site - hasteningthework.lds.org

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Priesthood and Auxiliary Leadership Training Plan – Part 2 of 3

Training Resources

- Scriptures
- Handbook 2, Chapters 1 to 5 and especially “1. Families and the Church in God’s Plan” and “2. Priesthood Principles”
- Online Leadership Training Library at: <http://lds.org/service/leadership>
- Worldwide training broadcasts - hasteningthework.lds.org
- Training provided by the Area Presidency

Training Content

First Presidency Training Topics

2013 Worldwide Broadcast: Hastening The Work of Salvation

Leadership Training Library: Mission Leader – Handbook 2, 5.1.8

- ✓ Segment 1: *The Ward Mission Plan*

Leadership Training Library: Bishopric

- ✓ Segment: *Purpose of Sacrament Meeting*
- ✓ Segment: *Preparing Young Men for Missions*
- ✓ Segment: *Advancement in the Priesthood*
- ✓ Segment: *Inviting Others to Come unto Christ*
- ✓ Segment: *Preparing Families to Make Covenants*

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Priesthood and Auxiliary Leadership Training Plan – Part 3 of 3

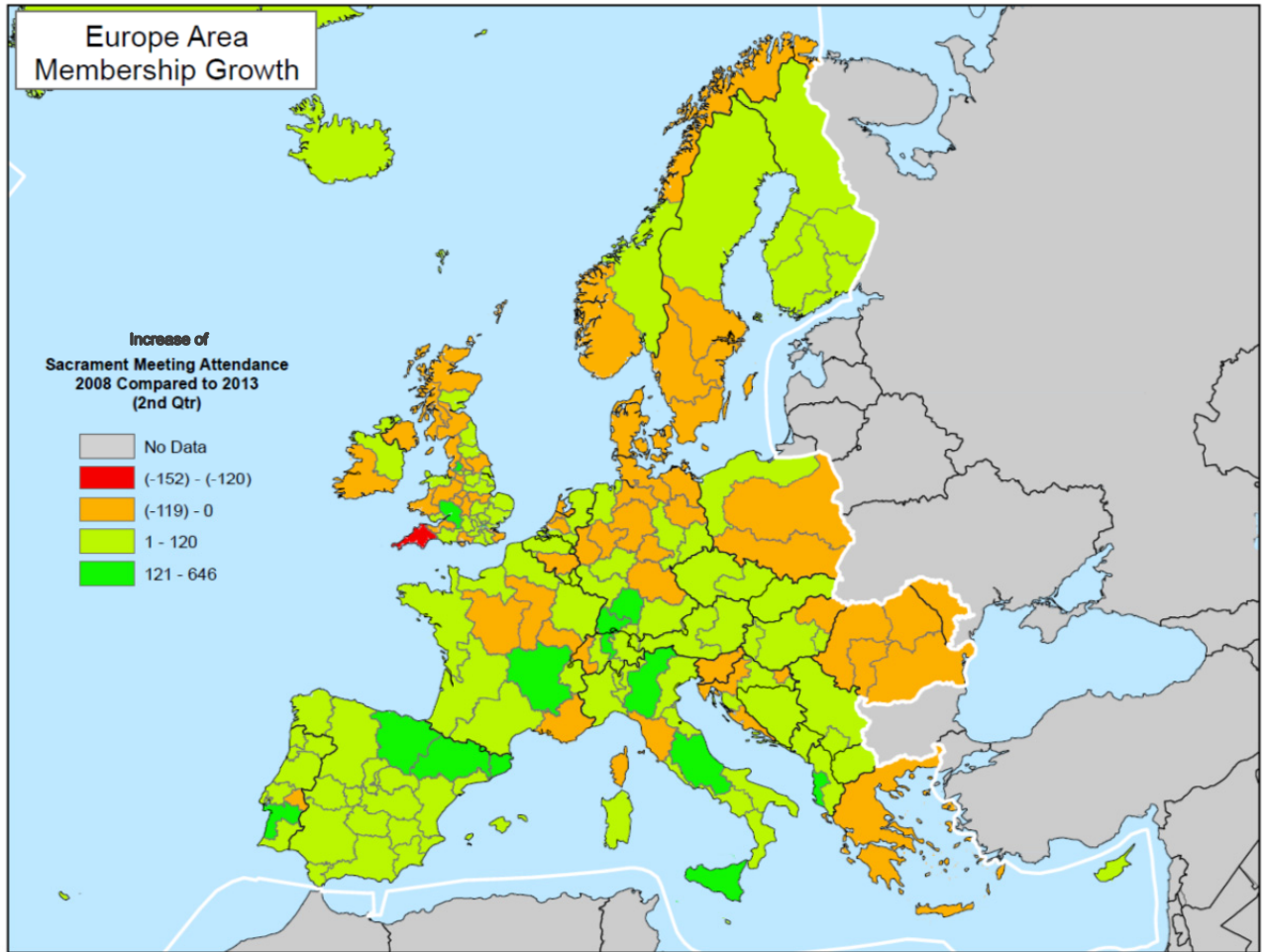
Training Calendar

Date	Meeting/Initiative	Participants	Purpose
Quarterly	Area Council	Area Seventies	Review vision, plans; evaluate progress
Yearly	Priesthood leadership meetings	Stake and district presidents	Review vision, plans; evaluate progress
Yearly	Mission presidents' seminars	Mission presidents	Review vision, plans; evaluate progress
Apr 2014 Oct 2014	Invitation from the Area Presidency	Area Seventies and stake presidents	Encourage participation in sacrament meeting and in temple and family history work
During the year	In conjunction with mission tours and stake conferences	Priesthood leadership and stake auxiliaries	Reinforce training received in broadcasts

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Europe at a Glance



Real Growth – Sacrament Meeting Trends Analysis (2nd Qtr 2008 versus the 2nd Qtr 2013)

We continue to see an improvement of growth in 2013 compared with the period of 2008–2012. Attendance in sacrament meeting surpassed 100,000 for the first time.

Real growth for the past several years resulted in the creation of four new stakes in Spain, two in Italy and one in France over the past last 18 months.

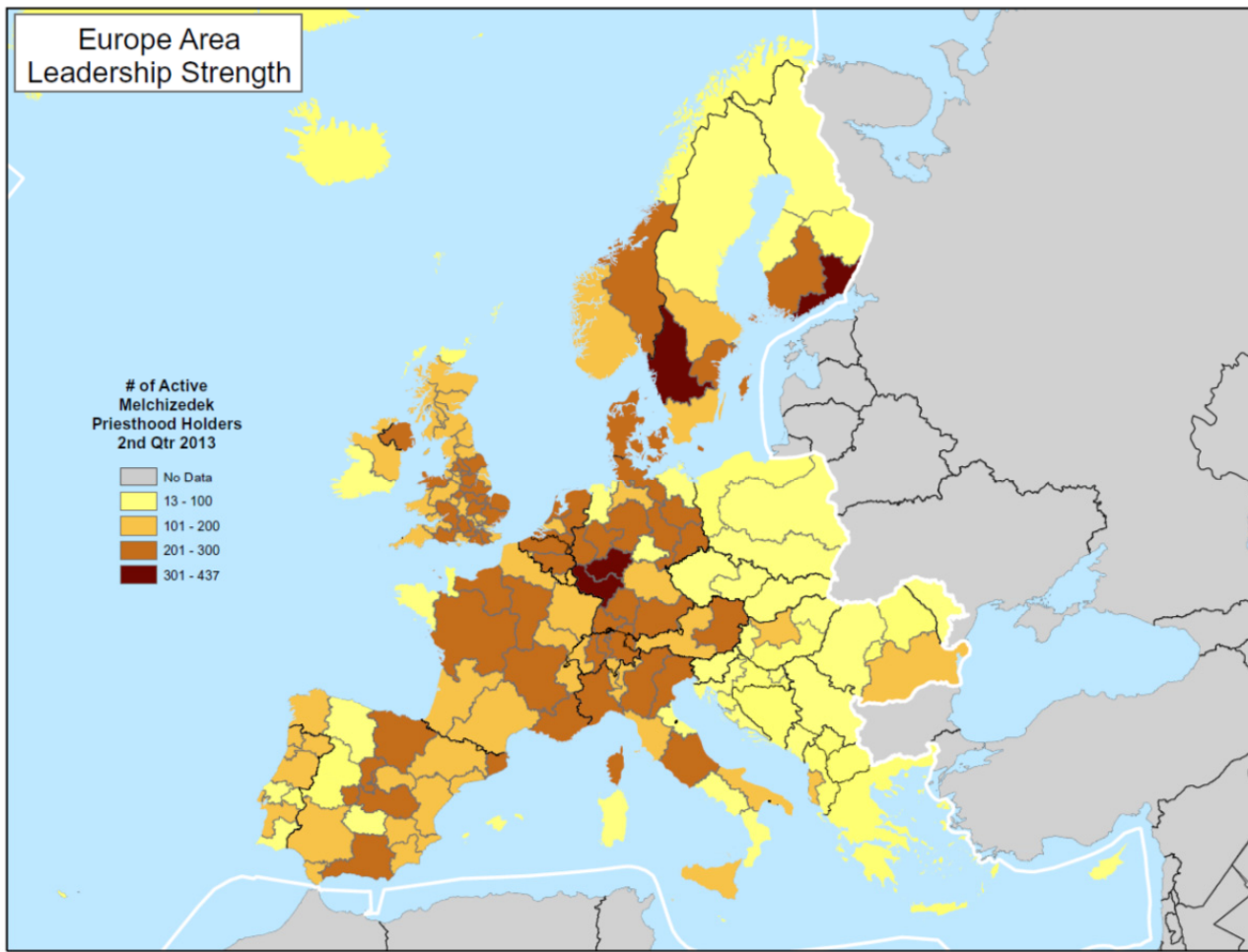
Renewed focus on real growth in the United Kingdom will continue to take place in 2014.

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Europe at a Glance

Real Growth – Leadership Strength (2nd Qtr 2013)



Leadership strength (active Melchizedek Priesthood holders) continues to prevail in central Europe, Scandinavia and the southern part of the United Kingdom. We are now seeing equally strong numbers of Melchizedek Priesthood holders in stakes in Italy, Spain and Cape Verde.

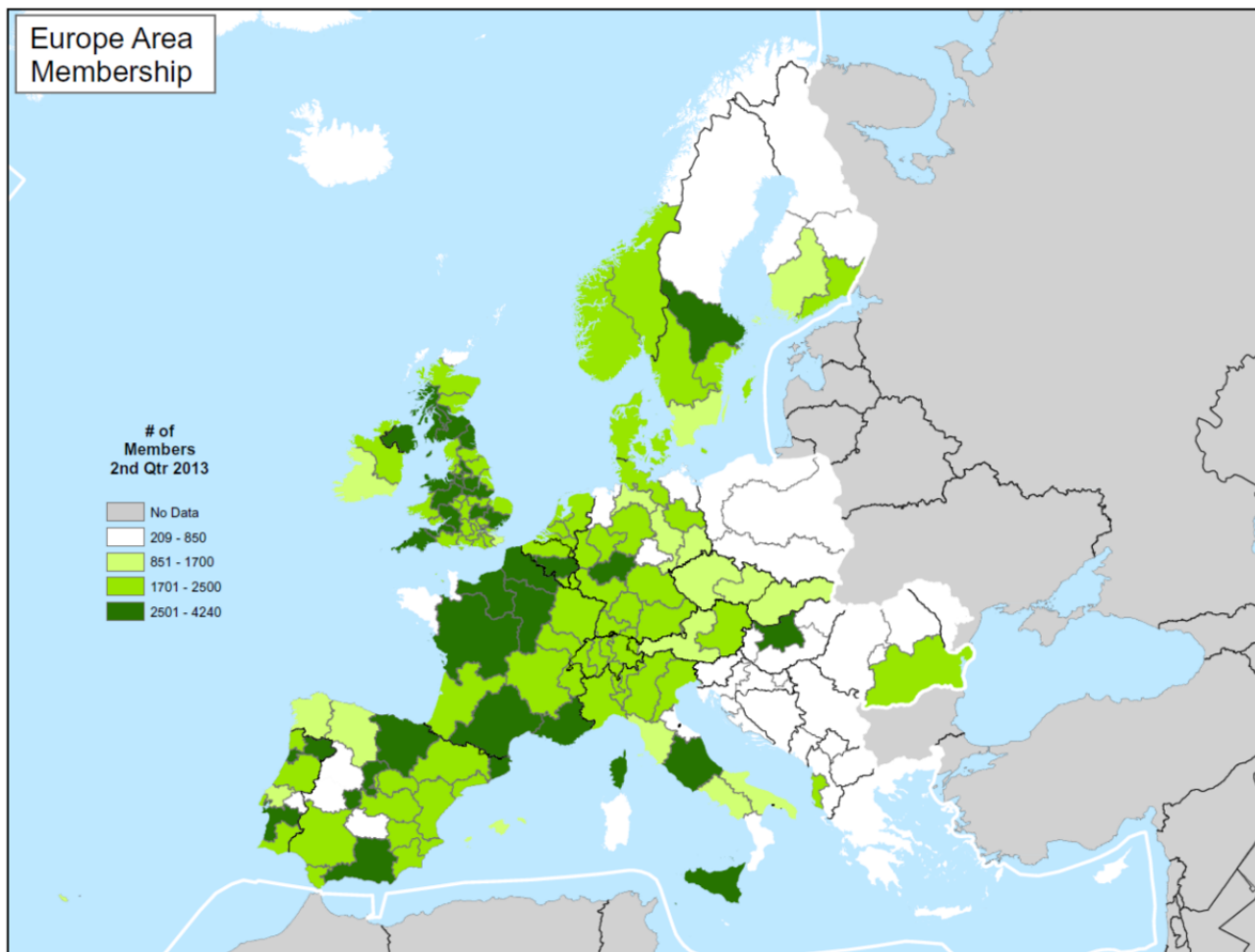
Europe at a Glance

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Europe at a Glance

Real Growth – Membership (2nd Qtr 2013)



Europe at a Glance

Membership growth is now expanding into the eastern part of Europe. The Church grows faster in Southern Europe and in the United Kingdom. We anticipate that in each of the next 5 years, the growth rate of our membership to increase further in southern Europe as convert baptisms continues at higher levels there than other parts of Europe. We also expect growth levels to increase in the British Isles.

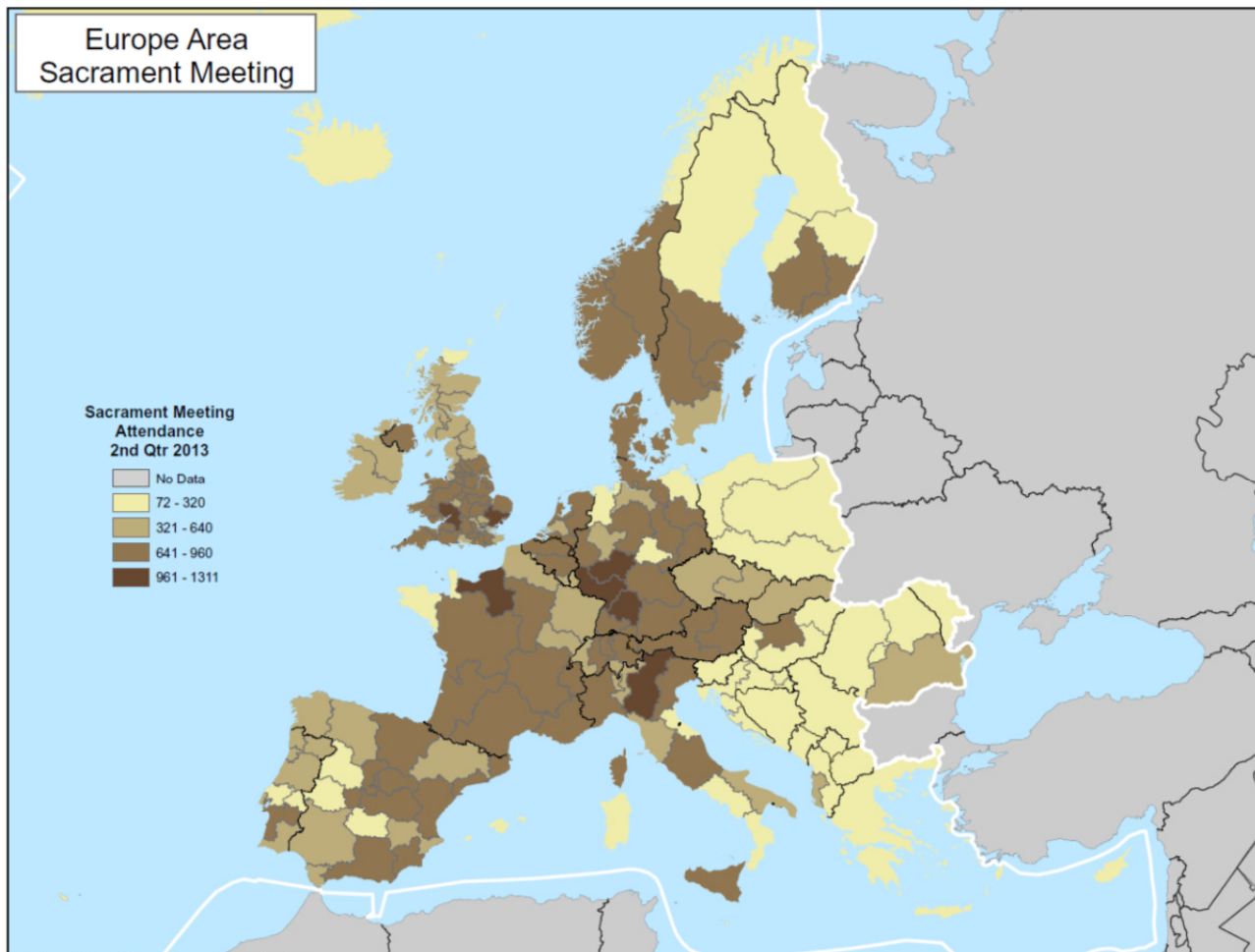
In the next 5 years we expect an important development of the Church in Eastern Europe, where we are working to establish several stakes.

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Europe at a Glance

Real Growth – Sacrament Meeting Attendance (2nd Qtr 2013)



Our focus in 2014 will be to work with stakes that need to strengthen attendance activity. Rescue efforts & plans will be discussed in coordinating councils. Increase emphasis on the “Hastening of the Work of Salvation”, help members change the way they think about missionary work and help missionaries understand what they can do to increase convert baptisms.

A similar map for the 2nd quarter of 2014 will be compared with the same analysis represented here for the 2nd quarter of 2013 to measure our progress.

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