



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on Church Growth and Missionary Work for
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

April 2021

WELCOME!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide monthly updates on the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 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)

10. Fishers Indiana - April 11th, 2021
11. Abura Ghana - April 18th, 2021
12. Kharkiv Ukraine - April 25th, 2021

New Districts

None reported in April 2021

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in April 2021

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Holguín, Cuba (4th, 299,498)
- Agbala, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Avu, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- La Concepcion, Venezuela (74th, 71,000)

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

- Sunchales, Argentina (174th, 20,537)
- Imabari, Japan (144th, 166,532)
- Kremenchuk, Ukraine (28th, 227,611)

Twenty New Temples Announced

Church President Russell M. Nelson announced plans to construct 20 new temples during the April 2021 General Conference. These new temples will be built in the following locations:

- Oslo, Norway (first in Norway)
- Brussels, Belgium (first in Belgium)
- Vienna, Austria (first in Austria)
- Kumasi, Ghana (second in Ghana)
- Beira, Mozambique (first in Mozambique)
- Cape Town, South Africa (third in South Africa)
- Singapore, Republic of Singapore (first in Singapore)
- Belo Horizonte, Brazil (13th in Brazil)
- Cali, Colombia (third in Colombia)
- Querétaro, México (15th in Mexico)
- Torreón, México (16th in Mexico)
- Helena, Montana (second in Montana)
- Casper, Wyoming (second in Wyoming)
- Grand Junction, Colorado (third in Colorado)
- Farmington, New Mexico (second in New Mexico)
- Burley, Idaho (seventh in Idaho)
- Eugene, Oregon (third in Oregon)
- Elko, Nevada (third in Nevada)
- Yorba Linda, California (ninth in California)
- Smithfield, Utah (27th in Utah)

With this announcement, the Church will have 251 temples announced or dedicated worldwide.

2020 Statistical Report Released

The Church published the following [statistical report](#) with data from year-end 2020:

- Membership: 16,663,663 (increase of 98,627 from 2019; a 0.60% annual increase)
- Congregations: 31,136 (increase of 196 from 2019; a 0.63% annual increase)
- Stakes: 3,463 (increase of 26 from 2019; a 0.76% annual increase)
- Districts: 537 (decrease of 5 from 2019; a 0.92% annual decrease)
- Missions: 405 (increase of 6 from 2019; a 1.25% annual decrease)
- Convert Baptisms: 125,930 (decrease of 122,905 from 2019; a 49.4% annual decrease)
- Increase of Children on Record: 65,440 (decrease of 28,826 from 2019; a 30.6% annual decrease)
- Full-time missionaries: 51,819 (decrease of 15,202 from 2019; a 22.7% annual decrease)
- Church service missionaries: 30,527 (decrease of 806 from 2019; a 2.57% annual decrease)

An analysis of these data can be found [here](#).

Second Stake Organized in Ukraine



After many years of preparation, the Church has finally organized a second stake in Ukraine. The Kharkiv Ukraine Stake was organized from the Kharkiv Ukraine District. The new stake includes congregations in Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, and Poltava. The organization of the stake is a major development that indicates sufficient strength in local Ukrainian leadership to adequately staff and maintain a stake which requires minimal standards for the number of active, full-tithe paying Melchizedek Priesthood holders (typically at least 100). However, the creation of the new stake has come at a significant cost of many unit consolidations over the past two decades. The Church at one time operated the Dnepropetrovsk Ukraine District which consolidated with the Kharkiv Ukraine District in 2018 to prepare the region for a stake. The Church used to operate seven branches in Kharkiv and four branches in Dnipro as of 2001, whereas the Church reported four branches in Kharkiv and three branches in Dnipro as of early 2021. The Donetsk Ukraine District originally appeared most likely to

become the second stake in Ukraine. However, the district had most of its branches discontinued following war in eastern Ukraine, and prospects for a stake in the area appear unlikely within the foreseeable future as there are no longer any official branches that meet within the Donetsk metropolitan area.

New Branch in Cuba

In a major development, the Church organized its first branch in a major city in Cuba outside of Havana. The Holguin Branch was organized in the city of Holguin—Cuba's fourth most populous city with approximately 300,000 inhabitants. The Havana Cuba District now includes five branches including one in the city of Havana, two on the outskirts of Havana in the town of Cotorro, the Holguin Branch, and the district branch to service members who live outside of the Havana metropolitan area and Holguin. Cuba is not currently assigned to a mission, and the country is directly administered by the Caribbean Area Presidency. The number of branches in Cuba increased from one to two in 2014, three in 2017, four in 2019, and five as of April 2021. The Havana Cuba District was organized in 2017. There are approximately 11 million people who live in Cuba.



New Branches in Matadi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo)



The Church organized two new branches in Matadi, DR Congo which brings the total number of branches in the city to six. The Church organized its first branch in Matadi in 2010. The Matadi Democratic Republic of the Congo District was organized in January 2021. Missionary reports indicate that the extreme

western portion of the DR Congo has experienced rapid growth in recent years as attested by the proliferation of branches in Matadi as well as the creation of the first branches in the nearby cities of Boma (2018) and Muanda (2019).

New Stake Created in Ghana

The Church organized its third stake in the Cape Coast metropolitan area of Ghana in April—less than five years after the original Cape Coast Ghana Stake divided to create the Yamoransa Ghana Stake. There are now seven stakes and three districts in the Ghana Cape Coast Mission, whereas there were only three stakes and zero districts in the mission after it had divided to organize the Ghana Kumasi Mission in 2012.



NEW/UPDATED RESOURCES

REACHING THE NATIONS COUNTRY PROFILES

We continue 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 April. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac in 2022:

- [Rwanda](#)