



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

December 2018

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)

52. Laredo Texas - December 2nd, 2018
53. Luanda Angola - December 2nd, 2018
54. Machala Ecuador Puerto Bolívar - Dec. 2nd, 2018
55. Mexico City Los Heroes Tecamac - Dec. 2nd, 2018
56. Tizayuca Mexico - December 2nd, 2018

New Districts

13. Mexico City Chimalhuacan - December 9th, 2018
14. Texcoco Mexico - December 16th, 2018

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Districts

8. Viana Angola

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Otuam, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Legnica, Poland (39th, 104,031)

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

None reported in December 2018

First Stake in Angola Organized



The Church organized its first stake in Angola in late 2018 in Luanda with six wards and six branches. The Angola Luanda Mission was organized in 2013 and currently has few missionaries assigned to serve within its boundaries primarily due to high living costs. The Church organized its first branch in

Angola in 1996 and assigned the first full-time missionaries to serve in the country in 2008. Rapid membership growth has occurred as annual membership growth rates have exceeded 10% since 2009.

Congregational Growth Rates in the United States Improve in 2018 Compared to 2017



The Church in the United States has reported a net increase of approximately 50 wards and branches during 2018.

Although less than typical years during the past couple decades, this increase in congregations is significantly more than what occurred in 2017 when there was no net change in the number of wards and branches. There are approximately 14,275 wards and branches in the United States. Historically, the Church in the United States has reported a net increase of 100-200 congregations a year during the past two decades.

Rapid Congregational Growth in the DR Congo

The Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) has reported a net increase of 15 wards and branches thus far in 2018. As a result, 2018 has tied with 2014 for the year with the second largest increase in the number of congregations in a single year after 2010 when there was a net increase of 16 wards and branches. The Church has very cautiously expanded into a few select areas of the country since its initial establishment in the mid-1980s. Nevertheless, rapid growth has occurred in most locations where a Church presence has been officially established. There are now 196 wards and branches in the DR Congo. The Church reached 100 wards and branches in the country in 2011.



Growth Developments in Nigeria

There has been a net increase of at least 48 wards and branches in Nigeria thus far in 2018. The Church reported a net increase of 101 wards and branches in 2017 – an increase of more than 20% even though membership grew by 7.1%. A significant number of new wards/branches organized in 2018 suggests continued growth, especially after the unprecedented number of new ward/branch creations reported in 2017. The Church in Nigeria also continues to expand outreach. For example, in Osun State the city of Ikire recently had its first branch organized under the Nigeria Ibadan Mission. Ikire appears to have more than 200,000 inhabitants and was one of the most populous cities in southwestern Nigeria without a Church presence.



New Stake Created in Laredo, Texas

The Church organized its first stake in Laredo, Texas last Sunday. Prior to the creation of the new stake, the Laredo Texas District was one seven remaining districts in the United States. There are now 75 stakes and two districts in Texas.

New Ward in Botswana



The Church organized a new ward in the Gaborone metropolitan area during December. The Mogoditshane Ward was organized in the northwestern part of the city and is the fifth ward to operate in Gaborone. The Church in Botswana has reported significant fluctuations in growth trends

since its establishment in the early 1990s. Most recently, the Church in Botswana has reported slow growth which has appeared primarily due to shortages of full-time missionaries serving in the country. These missionary shortages have been due to visa problems with the government. The Church reported 3,376 members and 14 official congregations at year-end 2017. The Church organized its first mission in Botswana in 2012 although this mission has been headquartered in Pretoria, South Africa for many years due to visa problems with the Botswanan government.

First Branch Organized in Rural Uganda

The Church organized its first branch in rural Uganda during the past month. The Kamonkali Branch was organized from a member group that began to function in a rural community west of Mbale called Mile 5. This member group was officially organized in March 2018 with 175 in attendance. Missionaries reported 80-90 who consistently attended church prior to the organization of the new branch. There are many opportunities for expansion into rural areas in Uganda where three-quarters of the national population of 41 million resides.



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 December 2018. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac by 2020:

- [Bulgaria](#)
- [Cyprus](#)
- [Czechia](#)
- [Greece](#)
- [Hungary](#)
- [Moldova](#)
- [Poland](#)
- [Romania](#)
- [Slovakia](#)

