



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

January 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)

1. Nampula Mozambique – January 31st, 2021

New Districts

5. Ufa Russia - December 20th, 2020

1. Great Salt Lake Utah (Correctional Facility) - January 3rd
2. Matadi DR Congo - January 10th, 2021
3. Lesser Antilles North - January 24th, 2021

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

6. Ipoh Malaysia (2020)

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Goma, DR Congo (N/A, ~670,000)
- La Independencia, Ecuador (N/A, N/A)
- Duayaw Nkwanta, Ghana (70th, 17,130)
- Sefwi Wiawso, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Milpas Altas, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Las Margaritas, Chiapas, Mexico (17th, 20,786)
- Las Rosas, Chiapas, Mexico (18th, 18,817)
- Union Juarez, Chiapas, Mexico (2,046th, 379)
- Zvishavane, Zimbabwe (15th, 45,230)

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 January 2021

First Branch Created in Zvishavane, Zimbabwe

The Church created its first branch in the medium-sized city of Zvishavane in early January. Zvishavane

numbered among the most populous cities in Zimbabwe without a Church presence prior to the organization of the new branch. Zvishavane is the second medium-sized city to have its first branch organized in recent months,

as the Church organized its first branch in Rusape in late 2020. This also marks the first time the Zimbabwe Bulawayo Mission (created in 2018) has organized a branch in a city that previously did not have a Church presence.



New Branches Organized in Three Cities in Chiapas State, Mexico

The Church created three new branches on the same day in the Comitán Mexico District. The Las Margaritas, Las Rosas, and Union Juarez Branches were created in late December 2020. The Las Rosas Branch was originally organized in 2016, but it was discontinued in 2019. The Comitán Mexico District now has eight branches. Of the three cities where a branch was organized for the first time, two numbered among the ten most populous cities in Chiapas. Half of the branches in the district have been organized since 2017.

Progress Expanding into the Eastern DR Congo



The Church has recently made significant inroads with its establishment in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) where the Church has an extremely limited presence (only one city [Uvira] with official branches. The DR Congo Kinshasa East Mission President visited Goma in late January and

oversaw the baptism of approximately one dozen new converts. A member group now operates in Goma, and there are good prospects for the member group to become a branch in the near future. Furthermore, the Church also plans to organize its first branch in the city of Bukavu where there have been scores, if not hundreds, of prospective members and isolated members who have waited for as long as a decade for an official Church establishment in this major city. Finally, the mission will also create a third branch in the city of Kisangani.

First Correctional Facility District Organized in the Church

The Church created its first specialized district to administer correctional facility branches. The Great Salt Lake Utah (Correctional Facility) District was organized with nine branches. These branches service inmates in Utah State Prison and nearby correctional facilities. Prior to this decision, these branches were serviced by various stakes in the Salt Lake City and Draper areas. If this administrative change is more effective to service incarcerated members, then several more correctional facility districts may be organized in locations with sizable numbers of such congregations (primarily in Utah). There are more than 100 correctional facility branches in the United States. None of the members of these branches hold callings, and these branches are staffed by outside membership.

New District in the Lesser Antilles

The Church organized a new district in the northern Lesser Antilles to service branches in Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and the United States Virgin Islands. This is not the first time the Church has organized a district in this area of the Lesser Antilles. For example, the Church operated a district headquartered in St Kitts and Nevis from 2004 to 2010. The new district is located within the Puerto Rico San Juan Mission.

New Stake Created in Mozambique; Mozambique Beira Mission to be Organized this July

The Church organized the Nampula Mozambique Stake on January 31st, 2021. The new stake includes six wards (all located within the city of Nampula) and two branches (located in the village of Luaha and the city of Nacala). The creation of the new stake was a major accomplishment for the Mozambique Maputo Mission. The Church in Mozambique has struggled to quickly organize stakes from districts as evidenced by more than a decade passing before districts in Beira and Maputo became stakes in 2015. In contrast, the Church organized the Nampula Mozambique District with only three branches in October 2017, and the district was



originally going to be organized into a stake by April 2020 albeit these plans were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Nampula Mozambique Stake numbers among the stakes in the Church most quickly organized from a single branch within the city as this process took less than four years. There are now five stakes and one district in Mozambique. Also, the Church plans to organize the Mozambique Beira Mission this July—one year later than originally planned. This delay appeared due to the COVID-19 pandemic.