



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

July 2020

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)

None reported in July 2020

New Districts

None reported in July 2020

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in July 2020

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)

precise population data from www.citypopulation.de

*City where a ward or branch previously operated within the past 10 years

None reported in July 2020

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

- Bridgetown, Australia (N/A, 1,149)
- Carrizo Springs, Texas (366th, 5,368)

Significant Ward Consolidations in Taiwan

The Church has discontinued seven congregations in Taiwan since the beginning of the year, including the Ching Hsin Ward (Taipei Taiwan South Stake), Chingshui Branch (Taichung Taiwan West Stake), Tali Ward (Taichung Taiwan East Stake), Taoyuan 1st Ward

(Taoyuan Taiwan Stake), Taoyuan 4th Ward (Taoyuan Taiwan Stake), Tungfeng Ward (Taichung Taiwan East Stake), and the Tunghai Ward (Taichung Taiwan West Stake). In 2019, the Church discontinued nine congregations in the country. The Church reached an all-time high for the number of congregations in Taiwan in 2016 at 117 which was sustained until 2018. Now, there are 101 official wards and branches in Taiwan—the same number of congregations in 2013 when there were approximately 5,000 fewer members of the Church. The Church in Taiwan undertook an aggressive congregation creation campaign in the 2010s that sought to significantly augment the number of stakes in Taiwan from 12 to 18 (albeit this was never achieved but came close at 17 stakes from 2016-2018). Returned missionary reports have indicated the number of convert baptisms decreased significantly in Taiwan in the 2010s compared to the previous decade and without any noticeable improvement in convert retention. Also many wards had 40-80 active members by the late 2010s. Congregation consolidations since 2019 have likely occurred to strengthen active membership in wake of unrealized expectations for future growth.

Fast Offerings Increase during COVID-19 Pandemic

In [a recent video interview](#), Church President Russell M. Nelson reported that fast offerings have increased during the current COVID-19 pandemic. He stated, "Remarkably, through all of this, the voluntary fast offerings of our members have increased." This is one of the rare instances the Church has commented on monetary donations from its members.

NEW/UPDATED RESOURCES

COUNTRY STATISTICAL PROFILES

See below for links to updated state profiles for the United States.

UNITED STATES

- [Nevada](#)
- [New Hampshire](#)
- [New Jersey](#)
- [New Mexico](#)
- [New York](#)
- [North Carolina](#)
- [North Dakota](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Oklahoma](#)
- [Oregon](#)
- [Pennsylvania](#)
- [Rhode Island](#)

