



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

November 2019

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)

- 53. Akwa Nigeria - November 24th, 2019
- 54. Herriman Utah Towne Center - Nov. 24th, 2019
- 55. Kenema Sierra Leone - November 24th, 2019

New Districts

None reported during November 2019

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported during November 2019

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Pirongia, New Zealand (N/A, 1,250)
- Ukpana, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Belmont, North Carolina (84th, 10,076)
- Mian Channu, Pakistan (N/A, 90,130)
- Mahe, Vanuatu (N/A, N/A)

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 during November 2019

Eight New Missions to be Created in July 2020

The Church [announced plans to organized eight new missions in July 2020](#). No mission closures or consolidations were reported in the announcement. The following new missions were announced:

- Brazil Recife South
- Cameroon Yaounde
- Ecuador Guayaquil East
- Ethiopia Addis Ababa
- Mozambique Beira
- Tanzania Dar Es Salaam
- Texas Austin
- Texas Dallas East

The new missions announced will permit greater mission resources to be allocated to many minimally reached areas by the Church, particularly in Africa. For example, Cameroon (25.6 million people), Ethiopia (108.4 million people), and Tanzania (55.5 million people) currently do not have their own missions and instead are administered by a mission in a neighboring country despite their large populations. New missions in the Americas appear related to increases in the number of full-time missionaries serving from these countries, as well as steady growth in the number of Church units in areas with large populations to warrant additional mission resources. Also encouraging is that the Church reported that the full-time missionary force currently numbers more than 68,000 – an over 4% increase from year-end 2018, and the first increase in the number of full-time missionaries serving since the end of the “surge” in the number of full-time missionaries serving that occurred several years ago. The worldwide total of missions in the Church will be 407 once the eight new missions are organized.

Seventh Stake Organized in Sierra Leone



The Church organized the Kenema Sierra Leone Stake in November, the seventh stake in the country. Of the seven stakes in the country, six have been organized since 2017. The maturation of districts into stakes has primarily explained the prolific growth of stakes in Sierra Leone in the late

2010s. The creation of the Kenema Sierra Leone Stake also coincided with the organization of the first branch of the Church in the city of Tongo. Furthermore, the Sierra Leone Freetown Mission boundaries were recently realigned as the Conakry Branch in Guinea was transferred to the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro Mission.

Historic Attendance at Church Devotionals with President Nelson in Southeast Asia

President Nelson completed his ministry tour in Southeast Asia in November as he visited Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, and Indonesia. Church News articles reported attendance at some of the devotionals and meetings held, such as [almost 3,000 in Phnom Penh](#), [1,765 in Jakarta](#), [over 600 in Ho Chi Minh City](#), and [432 in Hanoi](#). Devotional attendance as a percentage of Church-reported membership for year-end 2018 was 42% for Vietnam, 24% for Indonesia, and 20% for Cambodia, reflecting widespread low member activity rates for the region and the highest rates of member activity in Vietnam where there has been the most recent Church establishment.

Ninth Branch in Yaoundé, Cameroon Organized

The Church created its ninth branch in Yaoundé, Cameroon during November. Steady growth has occurred in Yaoundé as the number of branches in the city has steadily increased from three in 2009 to nine

today. The Yaoundé Cameroon District appears likely to become a stake in the near future once it meets the minimum threshold needed for wards to be organized from five or more of the branches. The creation of a new mission specifically headquartered in Cameroon in 2020 will also help the Church to grow and reach its potential in this populous country in Central Africa.



New Branches Organized in Mozambique

Two new branches were organized in northern Mozambique, albeit one of the branches was technically a reinstated branch that was previously discontinued (Luaha). The Nacala Branch is the Church's first branch in the large city of Nacala located along the Indian Ocean coast. The Church in northern Mozambique has experienced prolific growth, particularly in the city of Nampula where the number of branches increased from one to six in approximately two years. Missionaries report diligent efforts from the Mozambique Maputo Mission to help the Nampula Mozambique District to become a stake, especially given that the district now has eight branches and appears close to reaching the minimum membership requirements for a stake to operate. The new mission in Beira to open in 2020 will be helpful to establish the Church in the region, especially given that [eight of the ten most populous cities in Mozambique are in northern areas](#).



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 November 2019. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac in late 2020:

- [Armenia](#)
- [China](#)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Hong Kong](#)
- [Macau](#)
- [Pakistan](#)

