



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

November 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)

21. Diata Republic of the Congo - November 8th, 2020
22. Navegantes Brazil - November 8th, 2020
23. Camiling Philippines - November 8th, 2020
24. Koumassi Cote d'Ivoire - November 15th, 2020
25. St George Utah Crimson Ridge West - Nov. 15
26. Nampa Idaho Ridgevue - November 22nd, 2020

New Districts

None reported in October 2020

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

1. Kirkland Washington Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Maravilha, Santa Catarina, Brazil (59th, 18,087)
- La Calera, Colombia (N/A, 29,868)
- Totolapan, Morelos, Mexico (43rd, 6,198)
- Tepeyahualco, Puebla, Mexico (283rd, 2,583)
- Chokocho, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Ogbodinibe, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Omagwa, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Lydenburg, South Africa (85th, 41,403)
- Rusape, Zimbabwe (20th, 30,316)

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 November 2020

Significant Congregational Growth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) has organized a record number of new wards and branches for the year 2020. Thus far, there have been 19 new wards and branches created since January—the most wards and branches ever organized in a single year in the country.



Most of these new congregations have been organized in the past 2-3 months. The prior record for the most congregations created in the DR Congo was 16 in 2016. There are now 230 official wards and branches in the DR Congo. Furthermore, six of the 23 stakes in the country appear likely to divide in the near future, including the:

- Katuba DR Congo Stake (11 wards)
- Kinshasa DR Congo Kimbanseke Stake (10 wards)
- Likasi DR Congo Stake (12 wards, 4 branches)
- Lubumbashi DR Congo Stake (10 wards)
- Luputa DR Congo Stake (10 wards, 1 branch)
- Mbuji-Mayi DR Congo Stake (12 wards, 1 branch)

Fourteenth Stake Created in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

The Church organized the Koumassi Cote d'Ivoire Stake in November, bringing the total number of stakes in Abidjan to 14. Abidjan is the city with the most stakes on the Afro-Eurasian landmass—a significant

accomplishment given that the first stake in the city was organized in 1997. Given significant growth in membership, stakes, and congregations, as well as the small size of the Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire Temple (which is still under construction), Abidjan appears likely to be the first city in Africa to have a second temple announced. There are now 16 stakes in Cote d'Ivoire.



of another new branch in Mutare in the past couple months, prospects appear favorable for Mutare to finally reach stakehood in the foreseeable future. The division of the Zimbabwe Harare Mission to organize the Zimbabwe Bulawayo Mission in 2018 has likely provided the mission presidency more resources to allocate to help the district reverse stagnant growth trends that have persisted for many years.

New Branch in Tanzania

The Church recently created its seventh branch in Dar Es Salaam. During the past two years, the Church in Dar Es Salaam has reversed decades-long stagnant growth in the number of congregations. For example, there were only four branches in Dar Es Salaam from 2004 to 2018. Despite this progress, the Dar Es Salaam Tanzania District appears years away from becoming a stake as there are still not enough members in the entire country to operate a stake base on year-end 2019 membership figures. The organization of the new Tanzania Dar Es Salaam Mission, the first mission of the Church in this country of more than 58 million, will likely provide much more resources and oversight to an area of Africa that has a high likelihood of significant future Latter-day Saint growth given patterns of growth demonstrated by other missionary-focused Christian denominations. There are only three cities that have an official branch in Tanzania: Dar Es Salaam (7), Arusha, and Mwanza.



Church Organizes New Branches in Angola

In a major milestone, the Church in Angola has organized a second branch in two additional cities in Angola. The Church divided each of its original branches in the cities of Huambo and Lubango. This marks the first time in Church history in Angola when the Church has operated more than one branch in a single city outside of the capital city of Luanda. This develop indicates that more significant growth has occurred in places outside of Luanda where more than 90% of Church membership resides. The Church in Angola remains extremely small with only 3,490 members in a country with more than 31 million people.



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Significant Congregational Growth in the United States Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

The Church in the United States continues to report net increases in the number of wards and branches despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of new congregations being created has far outpaced the number of congregations discontinued since January. There have been approximately 170 new congregations created in the United States in 2020, whereas there have been 60 congregations discontinued in the United States thus far in 2020. Unlike most previous years, the Church in the United States, and internationally, has reported a change in the ratio of created-to-discontinued congregations from 2 to 1 to 3 to 1.

New Branches in Zimbabwe



The Church recently organized its first branch in the city of Rusape in Zimbabwe. Rusape ranked among the 10 most populous cities in Zimbabwe without a ward or branch prior to the creation of the new branch. The new branch pertains to the Mutare Zimbabwe District—

one of the oldest districts in Africa that has for years struggled to become a stake. However, with the creation