



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on LDS Church Growth and Missionary Work

October 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)

- 42. Rexburg Idaho YSA 11th - September 30th, 2018
- 43. Lima Peru Mayorazgo - October 14th, 2018
- 44. Santa Cruz Bolivia La Libertad - October 14th, 2018
- 45. Abakaliki Nigeria - October 28th, 2018

New Districts

- 11. Iași România - October 21st, 2018

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

Districts

None reported in October 2018

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Pesqueira, Pernambuco, Brazil (33rd, 40,042)
- Balete, Philippines (N/A, ~23,000)
- Boane, Mozambique (48th, 30,200)
- Dondo, Mozambique (22nd, 76,200)
- Franklinton, North Carolina (309th, 2,023)
- Nieuw Amsterdam, Suriname (17th, 5,489)
- Colonia Nicolich, Uruguay (44th, 9,624)

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

- Leones, Argentina (N/A, 10,391)
- Ivoti, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (91st, 18,062)
- Pleven, Bulgaria (7th, 106,954)

- El Melón, Chile (N/A, 9,890)
- Rochelle, Illinois (226th, 9,574)
- Olbia, Italy (119th, 56,066)
- Chichimequillas, Zacatecas, Mexico (128th, 1,422)
- Mendoza, Zacatecas, Mexico (467th, 435)
- Rincon de la Florida, Zacatecas, Mexico (365th, 565)
- Santiago de la Peña, Veracruz, Mexico (98th, 8,657)
- Hampton Bays, New York (146th, 13,603)
- Los Altos de Sucre, Venezuela (N/A, 4,355)

Twelve New Temples Announced

On October 7th, 2018, Church President Russell M. Nelson announced plans to construct twelve new temples. This marks the largest number of temple announcements ever made by the Church on a single day. Furthermore, with the announcement of twelve new temples in October and seven new temples the previous April, there have been nineteen new temples announced for the year 2018 – the second most new temples announced in a single year after 1998 when there were twenty-seven temples announced. The twelve new temples announced in October 2018 include:

- Mendoza, Argentina
- Salvador, Brazil
- Yuba City, California
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Praia, Cape Verde
- Yigo, Guam
- Puebla, Mexico
- Auckland, New Zealand
- Lagos, Nigeria
- Davao, Philippines
- San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Washington County, Utah

Of the twelve new temples announced, four were announced in countries or territories where the Church has never operated temples before, including Cambodia, Cape Verde, Guam, and Puerto Rico. There are now fifty-seven countries and territories/dependencies with a temple dedicated or in the planning/construction stages. There are now 201 temples in the Church (160 dedicated, 31 announced, 10 under construction).

Progress in Mozambique



The Church in Mozambique has recently achieved good progress in regards to member activity and the organization of new congregations. Thus far in 2018, there have been five new wards or branches organized – a 17.2% increase from year-end 2017. This finding suggests that many new converts have likely been retained, especially considering church membership in Mozambique rose by 15.2% in 2017 – the highest annual membership growth rate for the Church in the country since 2005. Furthermore, two additional cities recently had congregations organized:

Dondo (branch) and Boane (member group). Additionally, average sacrament meeting attendance in the formerly small Marromeu Branch stands at 190, with 300 who attended a recent branch conference. The Church used to operate two branches in the city, but combined the branches in 2011 due to inactivity problems.

First Stake Organized in Ebonyi State, Nigeria

The Church organized Abakaliki Nigeria Stake from the Abakaliki Nigeria District in late October. The Abakaliki Nigeria District was organized in September 2014 from four mission branches (Abakaliki, Afikpo 1st, Afikpo 2nd, and Okposi). Significant growth has occurred during the past four years as there were ten branches in the district when it became a stake – six of which are located in the Afikpo area. Local members report most branches became wards in the new stake. The new stake is the Church's first stake to be organized in Ebonyi State, Nigeria where there are 2.9 million people. Additionally, the new stake is the Church's fifth stake to be created within the present-day boundaries of the Nigeria Enugu Mission.



Rapid Growth Continues in Monrovia, Liberia

The Church in Liberia continues to report rapid growth during 2018. The number of official congregations (i.e. wards or branches) has increased from 35 to 45 – a 28.6% increase. Most new congregations have been organized in Monrovia where the 38th congregation in the city was organized. Rapid growth has occurred in the city within the past decade as there were only nine branches in



Monrovia in 2008. Nevertheless, the average ward or branch in Monrovia has 39,000 people within its geographical boundaries – significantly more than nearby Bo, Sierra Leone where the average ward or branch has a mere 8,750 people within its geographical boundaries.

Number of Branches in Bulgaria Continues to Decline

The Church in Bulgaria continues to close additional branches despite efforts over the past decade to strengthen these congregations and increase the standards for branches to operate. In the past few months, branches in Sliven and Pleven have closed, and it is unclear whether



member groups continue to operate in these locations. These branches were initially created in the late 1990s. The Church continues to not operate a district in Bulgaria and reports only seven branches nationwide (down from twenty-one in 2007). Church membership in Bulgaria has flat-lined at approximately 2,400 since 2013. Earlier this year, the Bulgaria Sofia Mission was discontinued and consolidated with the Central Eurasian Mission. However, mission headquarters were relocated from Istanbul, Turkey to Sofia, Bulgaria following the removal of full-time missionaries from Turkey several months ago.

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 October 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:

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Iraq](#)
- [Kyrgyzstan](#)
- [Syria](#)
- [Tajikistan](#)
- [Turkmenistan](#)

