



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

October 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)

- 48. Matola Mozambique - September 22nd, 2019
- 49. Piracicaba Brazil Rezende - October 13th, 2019
- 50. Chiclayo Peru Federico Villarreal - 10/13/2019
- 51. Riverena Australia - October 20th, 2019
- 52. São Paulo Brazil Sapopemba - Oct. 27th, 2019

New Districts

- 19. Quezon Philippines Palawan – September 29th, 2019
- 20. Sinfra Cote d'Ivoire - October 27th, 2019

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported during October 2019

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Kilcoy, Australia (N/A, 1,897)
- Bohicon, Benin (7th, 93,773)
- Muanda, DR Congo (31st, 74,397)
- Ancon, Ecuador (N/A, 6,877)
- Ganta, Liberia (4th, 42,077)
- Waynesburg, Pennsylvania (90th, 10,568)
- Santa Cruz, Mindoro, Philippines (N/A, ~37,000)
- Mohlakeng, South Africa (N/A, N/A)
- China Springs, Texas (865th, 1,281)

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 October 2019

Eight New Temples Announced

Church President Russell M. Nelson announced plans in early October to construct eight new temples in the following locations:

- Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Orem, Utah
- Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
- Bentonville, Arkansas
- Bacolod, Philippines
- McAllen, Texas
- Cobán, Guatemala
- Taylorsville, Utah

Prior to the announcement, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone were the two countries with the most Latter-day Saints without a temple planned or dedicated. Also, the new temple in Bentonville will be the Church's first temple in Arkansas. There are now 217 temples worldwide (166 dedicated, 51 planned).

Fourth Stake Organized in Mozambique

The Church organized its fourth stake in Mozambique in late September from a division of the Maputo Mozambique Stake. There are now two stakes each in the Maputo and Beira metropolitan areas. The Church in Mozambique has achieved significant progress with the establishment of stakes within the past five years as all four stakes have been organized since 2015. The mission president also recently reported plans to organize an additional 1-2 stakes within the near future. However, none of the stakes in Mozambique at



present have enough wards to create additional stakes. Thus, the organization of additional wards will be needed to create more stakes. Within the past month, one new ward was organized in Beira, and there appear plans to create additional wards due to significant increases in active members, especially in Beira.

First Branch in Interior Benin Organized

For the first time in Church history in the West African country of Benin, a branch has been organized in the interior of the country. The new branch was organized in the city of Bohicon, the seventh most populous city in the country with approximately 100,000 inhabitants. Since the organization of the first branch in Benin in 2005 (the Cotonou Branch), all other cities with congregations have been on the Atlantic coast, including Calavi (organized in 2014), Port Novo (2014), and Hilacondji (2017). Missionaries first began visiting Bohicon to investigate opportunities to organize a member group and teach isolated members and prospective members in 2017. The organization of the new branch is a major development for the Church in Benin as the Church has maintained an extremely limited national presence in only a few cities along the Atlantic Coast.



Branch Organized in Previously Unreached City in the DR Congo

The Church created its first branch in the Atlantic Ocean port city of Muanda. Muanda likely has a population of over 100,000 people at present. Muanda is the third city in the far western part of the DR Congo to have had a branch organized after Matadi (2010) and Boma (2018). The first missionaries arrived in Muanda in May 2019, and there were forty baptisms in the city between May and October of this year. Approximately one hundred people attended the meeting to organize the new branch.



Another City in Liberia Opens to Missionary Work



The Church organized its first member group in the northern Liberian city of Ganta. Ganta is located on the Guinean border and is the fourth most populous city in Liberia. Ganta is now the city in Liberia with the most northern Church presence. The Church in Liberia has experienced unprecedented expansion into previously unreached areas within the past three years as the number of cities with a ward, branch, or member group has increased from three to twelve.

New District Organized on Palawan; Steady Expansion of the Church on Mindoro



The Church organized a new district on Palawan Island. The new district was organized from a division of the Narra Philippines District and includes four branches in southern Palawan. The Church organized its first district on Palawan in Puerto Princesa in 1987 followed by a second district created in Narra in 1996. The Puerto Princesa Philippines District became a stake in 2017. Palawan is assigned to the Philippines Manila Mission

The Church has also reported steady expansion into previously unreached areas on Mindoro Island. Prior to 2011, there were no branches on the northwestern coast of Mindoro, whereas at present there are four branches, including Sablayan (2011), San Francisco (2016), Mamburao (2017), and Santa Cruz (2019). The Santa Cruz Branch was organized within the past month.

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 September 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:

- [Laos](#)
- [Mauritius](#)
- [Reunion](#)

CHURCH GROWTH PRESENTATION

Dr. Matt Martinich gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) in St. Louis, Missouri on October 25th, 2019 in regards to the results of more than 6,800 surveys from returned missionaries and members worldwide from 2012-2019. Click [here](#) to access the presentation.

