

THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

August 2022

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)

23. San Luis Potosi Mexico Industrias - Aug. 21st

24. Syracuse Utah Freemont Park - August 21st, 2022

New Districts

None reported in August 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in August 2022

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Balsa Nova, Parana, Brazil (N/A, 13,092)
- Picos, Piauí, Brazil (3rd, 62,450)
- San Joaquin, Philippines (N/A, 5,969)
- Huahin, Thailand (34th, 63,091)

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

Mendenhall, Mississippi (112th, 2,199)

Third Branch Created in Gabon

The Cameroon Yaoundé Mission organized the Church's third branch in the Central African nation of Gabon during August. The Charbonnage Branch was organized in northern Libreville—the capital city of Gabon and where the two other branches in the country operate. With a third branch in the city, Libreville appears likely to have a district organized in the foreseeable future. The Church does not publish information on annual membership figures for Gabon for unclear reasons as the Church has full legal status in Gabon, there are no religious freedom restrictions, and the population is predominantly Christian. However, returned missionary reports noted that there were approximately 300 Latter-day Saints in Gabon in 2020. The Church organized its first branch in Gabon in

2012. No other cities in Gabon have an official Church presence, albeit returned missionary reports years ago noted that there were a few isolated members in Port-Gentil.



Third Stake Created in San Luis Potosi, Mexico

The Church organized its third stake in San Luis Potosi a large city in central Mexico with 1.34 million people. The Church organized its first stake in the city in 1981 followed by a second stake in 1996. Like most of the most populous cities in Mexico, no stakes have ever been discontinued in San Luis Potosi. The Church announced plans to build a temple in San Luis Potosi in April 2022.



New Branch in Thailand

BURMA

Chia

VIETNAN

Ubon

CAMBOD

MALAYSIA

Church recently The organized a new branch in the previously unreached city of Huahin. Huahin is the second city in the Kra Isthmus region of Thailand to have a branch organized (the first branch in the created in region was Phuket in 2018). Returned missionaries from the 1970s report that the lack of Church presence in а southern Thailand is primarily due to concerns with expanding missionary outreach into areas with Malay insurgency in the late 20th century. Thailand is one of the only Southeast Asian nations that has continued to have

previously unreached cities regularly open to missionary work and have branches organized in recent years. Additional Thai cities that have had branches organized in the past seven years include Chonburi (2017) and Kamphaeng Phet (2016). Member groups have also opened in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Ratchaburi.

Member Group Organized in Third Most Populous City in Piauí State, Brazil

The Church recently organized its first member group, an unofficial congregation that operates under the supervision of an official congregation like a ward or branch, in the Brazilian city of Picos. Picos has a population of approximately 62,000 and is located in the remote southern region of Piauí state. Remote location is likely one of the primary factors that delayed the establishment of a Church presence in Picos until recently. Now, all cities in Piauí State with at least 25,000 people have a ward, branch, or member group. Teresina is the capital city of Piauí State, and this city appear a likely candidate for a future temple given there are three stakes, and the closest temple is located in Fortaleza more than 300 miles away.

