



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

June 2026

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 Reported in June

(provided with chronological ranking and date of creation)

- 35. Lagos Nigeria Gberigbe - May 31, 2026
- 39. Gingoog Philippines - June 7, 2026
- 40. Salem Utah Summer Spring - June 7, 2026
- 41. Washington Utah Long Valley - June 7, 2026
- 42. Bowling Green Kentucky - June 14, 2026
- 43. Málaga Spain - June 21, 2026

** The Lagos Nigeria Gberigbe Stake was created May 31 but was first reported after publication of the May newsletter; stakes nos. 36–38 were previously reported.*

New Districts Reported in June

- 11. Maluku DR Congo – June 7, 2026
- 12. Orellana Ecuador - June 14, 2026
- 13. Tsévié Togo - June 14, 2026

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in June 2026

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.

- Obrera, Honduras

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(Locations where the first ward, branch, or member group was recently organized)

- Capilla del Señor, Argentina
- Goulburn, Australia
- Rio Branco do Sul, Paraná, Brazil
- Paquera, Costa Rica
- Niablé, Côte d'Ivoire
- Magengenge, DR Congo
- Manono, DR Congo
- Loreto, Ecuador
- Sacha, Ecuador
- Moyuta, Guatemala
- Imanga, Kenya
- Khayega, Kenya
- Malanga, Kenya
- Ujamaa, Kenya
- Daudu, Nigeria
- Okundi, Nigeria
- 80 Mile, Papua New Guinea
- Nadzap, Papua New Guinea
- Wawin, Papua New Guinea
- Gusap, Papua New Guinea
- Echarate, Peru
- Alae, Philippines
- Guinbaliwan, Philippines
- Laua-an, Philippines
- Santa Barbara, Philippines
- Masoyi, South Africa

NEWS AND UPDATES

Noteworthy Growth Developments in June 2026

Papua New Guinea: Five New Branches Organized along the Markham–Ramu Corridor Northwest of Lae; Seven More Organized in the Sepik and Wewak Areas

The Church in Papua New Guinea (PNG) recently organized five branches along the highway corridor extending northwest from Lae through the Markham and Ramu valleys. Five new branches were organized, including the 80 Mile, Gusap, Nadzap, Ramu, and Wawin Branches—all of which are assigned to the Lae PNG Stake which was organized in May of 2025. These branches stretch along the primary road that travels from Lae to Madang. Additionally, the Church organized four new branches in the Sepik River PNG District (Agrumara, Krinjambi, Mundomundo, Yuarma) and three new branches in the Wewak area (White Bridge, Wewak 2nd, Yawasoro) to create the Wewak PNG District for a total of four branches. This follows a pattern long established for the Church in PNG of many branches being organized simultaneously in an area where only one or no branches previously operated. Notable other examples include Sogere in the lower Fly River Delta of Western Province in the early 2010s, the Suki area in the early 2010s, and Lae in 2017.

With approximately 11 million people, PNG is not only the most populous nation in Oceania excluding Australia, but its population exceeds all other nations in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia combined. It is a key nation for the Church to concentrate missionary efforts in to help reach millions of Papuans who do not live near an established congregation and who have demonstrated good receptivity to the Latter-day Saint Gospel message. Careful mission planning and sustained outreach could make PNG one of the Church's most significant international growth centers within the next 1-2 decades. With the creation of the PNG Daru and PNG Madang Missions in July 2026, the country will have four missions—Daru, Port Moresby, Lae, and Madang—substantially increasing the Church's capacity to administer missionary work throughout the country. However, poorly developed infrastructure, violence, exceptional ethnolinguistic diversity and the resulting administrative and translation demands, modest literacy rates, and an overwhelmingly rural population present significant challenges to establishing the Church nationwide. The Church is selective about the countries from which it assigns foreign missionaries to serve in PNG given these conditions, thereby limiting available international resources. As of year-end 2025, approximately 0.43% of Papuans were Latter-day Saints on Church records, or one in 235. Many of the country's ethnolinguistic communities appear never to have received sustained missionary outreach or an organized Church presence. Moreover, several provinces have never had an official congregation established. Consequently, there are many opportunities for future growth that have yet to be realized.

New Branches Continue to be Organized in Rural Western Kenya

The proliferation of branches in rural communities northwest of Kisumu, Kenya, has continued in recent months. The Church organized its first official branch in these rural communities in 2019 (Luanda). Since 2023, the Church has organized branches in 12 additional villages or towns, prompting the creation of the Vihiga Kenya District in 2025 which currently has 10 branches—three of which were just organized. Rapid growth has also occurred in densely populated rural areas to the north of Kisumu in the Kitale Kenya District, prompting its division to create the Bungoma Kenya District in 2025. New branches have also been organized in the Busia Kenya District (Bumala in 2024 and Ukwala in 2025) and south of Kisumu in Oyugis (2023), Kisii (2025), and Migori (2025). In March of 2026, the Bomet Kenya District was organized to the southeast of Kisumu with three branches—the oldest of which was created in 2023. Taken together, there are now 33 cities, towns, and villages in western Kenya with an official branch, whereas there were only eight such locations in western Kenya with an official branch as of year-end 2018. The creation of the Kenya Kisumu Mission in July 2026 has appeared related to the rapid expansion of the Church in western Kenya. There remain no stakes in western Kenya, although districts in Eldoret and Kisumu appear most likely to become stakes in the coming months and years.

First District Created in Togo Outside the Capital City of Lomé

The Church in Togo organized its first district outside of Lomé in June. The Tsévié Togo District includes five branches that meet in three cities: Kpalimé (2), Tsévié/Davie (2), and Notse. The first branches outside of Lomé were organized in Kpalimé and Tsévié in 2018. With the creation of the Togo Lomé Mission in July 2026, prospects appear favorable for additional expansion of the Church in Togo, especially considering there are no official congregations in the northern three-quarters of the country. Togo has nearly nine million inhabitants. There were 8,349 Latter-day Saints, three stakes, and 31 official congregations as of year-end 2025. The new district provides an administrative foundation from which the Church may eventually expand farther into central and northern Togo.

First District Created in Northeastern Ecuador

The steady increase in the number of mission branches in the Amazon Basin of northeastern Ecuador in Orellana and Sucumbíos Provinces (combined population of nearly 400,000) has prompted the creation of the first district of the Church in this region of the country. The Orellana Ecuador District was organized in June and includes seven branches that were previously under the direct administration of the Ecuador Quito North Mission. Steady growth has occurred since the first branch in this region of Ecuador was organized in Orellana in 2009. Cities and towns with branches in the new district include Nueva Loja (2), Orellana/Coca (2), Joya de Los Sachas, Loreto, and Shushufindi. Every city with at least 5,000 inhabitants in northeastern Ecuador now has an official branch of the Church. The district's creation illustrates how sustained outreach in smaller Amazonian cities can eventually produce a viable regional administrative structure that may one day become a stake.

Church Materials Now Available in Additional Languages

The Church has recently made materials available for the first time in several additional languages on its website and in the Gospel Library app. Languages recently added include Australian Sign Language, Blackfoot, British Sign Language, Central Kurdish, Crioulo (Cape Verdean Creole), Gujarati, Ibibio, Luganda, Luxembourgish, Oromo, and Stoney Nakoda. Additionally, the Book of Mormon translation into Chichewa, which is spoken in Malawi, was completed this year, and most of the Doctrine and Covenants has now been translated into Chichewa. The Book of Mormon translations in Kazakh (Kazakhstan), Luganda (Uganda), Oromo (Ethiopia), and Sesotho (Lesotho) are in progress. Other recently completed Book of Mormon translations include Kinyarwanda (Rwanda and the DR Congo), Maltese (Malta), Swati (Eswatini), and Tshiluba (DR Congo). These additions suggest increasing attention to smaller language communities that have historically had little or no access to Church materials. A list of available translations of the Book of Mormon and year of publication can be found [here](#).

