



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

October 2021

## 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)

- 34. Saratoga Springs Utah Lake Mountain - Oct. 10th
- 35. Wellington Sierra Leone - October 10th, 2021

### New Districts

- 7. União da Vitória Brazil - October 24th, 2021

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 8. Roy Utah Central Stake

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)  
precise population data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Kapolowe, DR Congo (N/A, N/A)
- Rock Creek, Idaho (N/A, N/A)
- Dehradun, India (68<sup>th</sup>, 706,124)
- Gurugram, India (62<sup>nd</sup>, 902,112)
- Tombil, Papua New Guinea (N/A, N/A)
- Waragita, Papua New Guinea (N/A, N/A)
- Idiaba-Odot Nsit, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Umuosu, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (N/A, N/A)
- Lake Wylie, South Carolina (44<sup>th</sup>, 13,655)
- Carthage, Texas (340<sup>th</sup>, 6,569)

### 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](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Freeport, Texas (249<sup>th</sup>, 10,696)

### New Temples Announced

During the October 2021 General Conference, Church President Russell M. Nelson [announced plans](#) to construct 13 more temples in the following locations:

- Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- Tacloban City, Philippines
- Monrovia, Liberia
- Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Antananarivo, Madagascar
- Culiacán, México
- Vitória, Brazil
- La Paz, Bolivia
- Santiago West, Chile
- Fort Worth, Texas
- Cody, Wyoming
- Rexburg North, Idaho
- Heber Valley, Utah

The new temples in Liberia and Madagascar will be the Church's first temples in those nations. Liberia and Madagascar were the countries with the second and third most Latter-day Saints without a temple according to year-end 2019 membership figures (year-end 2020 data remains unavailable for individual countries). There are now 265 temples in operation, under construction, or planned. Uganda (17,887 members in 2019) and Mongolia (12,261 members in 2019) are now the countries with the most Latter-day Saints without a temple.

## New Member Groups Organized in India

The Church recently created several new member groups in India—two of which operate in cities where member groups or branches have never operated before. The Dehradun Group is the Church's first group in Indian state of Uttarakhand. The Dehradun metropolitan area has approximately three-quarters of a million inhabitants. The first converts traveled to New Delhi to join the Church, and then returned to Dehradun to establish a member group. There is a total of 11.3 million people who reside in Uttarakhand. The Gurugram Group is the Church's first branch in Gurugram—a city of approximately one million people on the outskirts of New Delhi. The Gurugram Groups is also the Church's first congregation in the Indian state of Haryana (population 28.2 million). Finally, the Church also appears to have recently organized a member group in central Kakinada. Kakinada has one ward that has a meetinghouse in the northern part of this city of approximately half a million people.



## New Branches in Papua New Guinea

The Church organized two new branches in the Minj Papua New Guinea District—one of the two districts that operate in the highlands of central Papua New Guinea. The Tombil and Warigita Branches were organized in villages near the town of Minj. There are now seven branches in the Minj Papua New Guinea District. The district was originally organized in 2010 from the Goroka Papua New Guinea District (the Church's first district in the highlands of Papua New Guinea that was organized in 2002). The Church has a comparatively small and limited presence in the central highlands of Papua New Guinea in comparison to other areas of the Church. The Church in Papua New Guinea is most prominent in some of the least populated and most isolated provinces, such as Western Province and Gulf Province, as well as in Port Moresby. There are 12 districts and 2 stakes in Papua New Guinea.



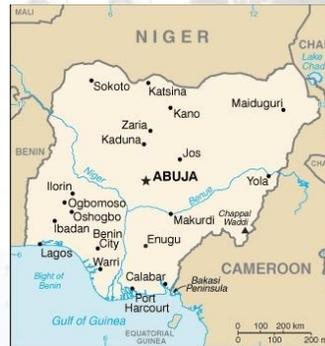
## Pakistani Congregations and Districts No Longer Sensitive



For the first time in approximately 20 years, the Church in Pakistan is no longer sensitive in terms of the names, locations, and organization of branches. Currently, the Church operates 13 branches, 3 districts, and 2 member groups. Pakistani members have reported

increasing numbers of convert baptisms in recent months. Moreover, the first non-Pakistani senior missionary couple was assigned to Pakistan for the first time in 20 years. The Church has consistently maintained a native Pakistani missionary force in Pakistan, although the number of members serving full-time missions in Pakistan can widely fluctuate. This has posed problems for the Church to consistently maintain proselytizing areas given the ebb and flow of full-time missionaries available.

## Congregational Growth Rates Returning to Pre-COVID-19 Levels in Nigeria



In recent months, the Church in Nigeria has begun to return to congregational growth rates seen before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Church in Nigeria has particularly begun to regularly organize new wards and branches again on nearly a weekly basis. Only the Church in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo has maintained steady congregational growth rates throughout the pandemic among African countries with at least 50,000 Latter-day Saints. The Church in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and South Africa has experienced extremely slow congregational growth rates since the onset of the pandemic.

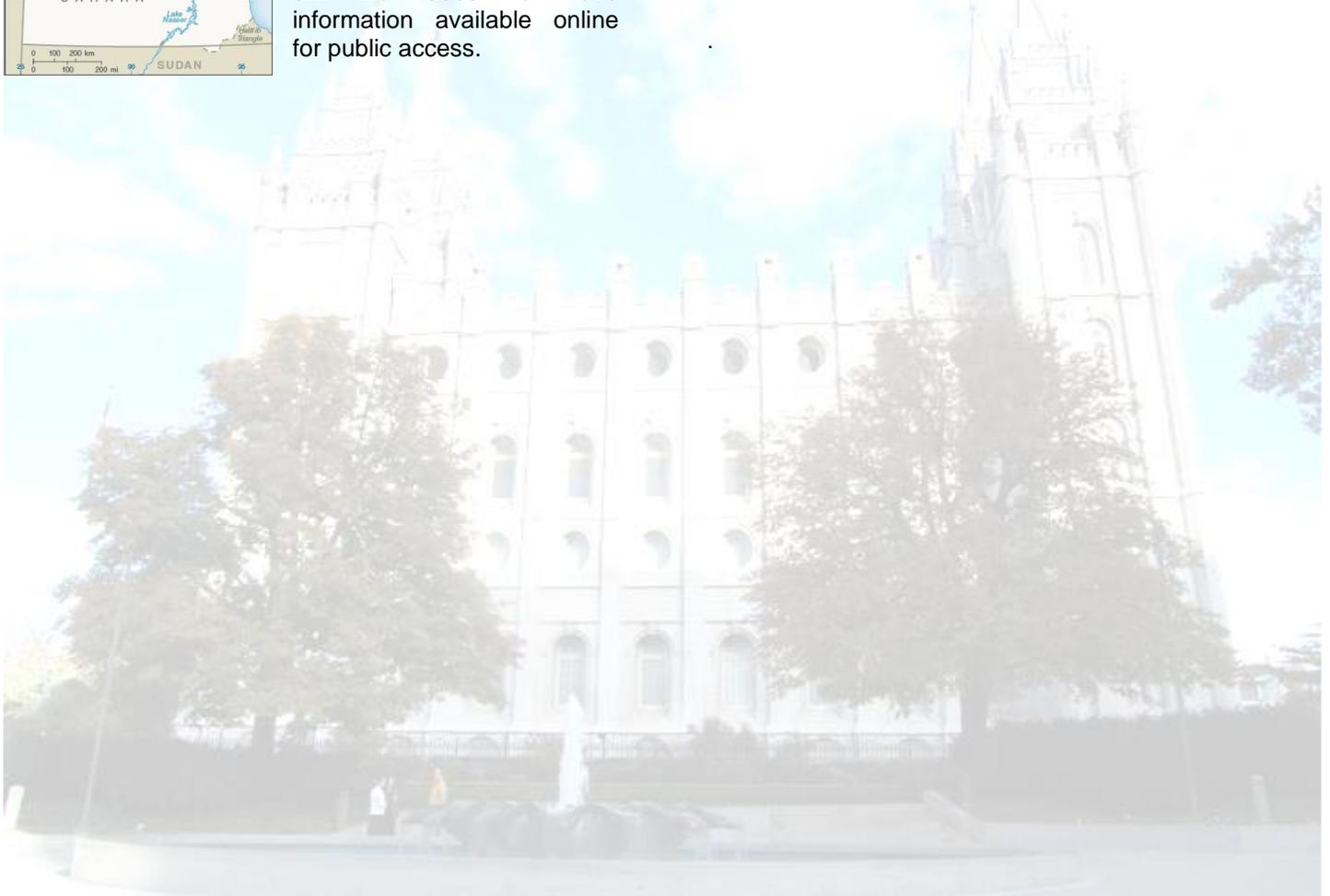
## Update on the Church in Egypt and Iraq

International Church leaders recently visited Latter-day Saints in Egypt and Iraq as part of a ministry to members in the region. The Church reported that there are now two branches that operate in Cairo—one for English speakers and one for Arabic speakers who are originally from other African countries—that had at least 60 local Latter-day



Saints who met with visiting Church leaders.<sup>1</sup> The Church renamed the Amman Jordan District to the Cairo Egypt District within the past couple years. The Arabic-speaking branch in Cairo is a sensitive unit that does not have information available online for public access.

The Church reported that there have been at least one young single elder returned missionary and one young single sister missionary who have served from Iraqi Kurdistan where the Church was established approximately 5-10 years ago.<sup>2</sup> Latter-day Saints who live in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah held a virtual devotional with visiting Church leaders. Member groups operate in multiple cities in Iraqi Kurdistan that pertain to the Beirut Lebanon District.



<sup>1</sup> "Church Leaders Visit Egyptian Saints in Cairo." 27 October 2021. <https://news-middleeast.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/elder-funk-sister-bingham-minister-cairo-egypt>

<sup>2</sup> "Relief Society Leaders Visit Refugee Camp in Middle East." 30 October 2021. <https://news-middleeast.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/relief-society-leaders-visit-refugee-camp-middle-east>