



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

April 2020

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)

None reported in April 2020

New Districts

None reported in April 2020

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in April 2020

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)

precise population data from www.citypopulation.de

*City where a ward or branch previously operated within the past 10 years

- Glennallen, Alaska (120th, 483)
- Metlakatla, Alaska (54th, 1,405)
- Tok, Alaska (58th, 1,258)
- Yakutat, Alaska (96th, 662)
- Kamez, Albania (N/A, 66,841)
- Brest, Belarus (6th, 339,700)
- Grodno, Belarus (5th, 356,900)
- Mogilev, Belarus (4th, 357,100)
- Liasny, Belarus (N/A, N/A)
- Leuven, Belgium (8th, 95,463)
- Mouscron, Belgium (21st, 54,651)
- Compi, Bolivia* (N/A, N/A)
- Sliven, Bulgaria* (8th, 91,620)
- Yambol, Bulgaria* (13th, 74,132)
- Atalaia, Cabo Verde (N/A, N/A)
- Estancia Roque, Cabo Verde (N/A, N/A)
- Feijoal, Cabo Verde (N/A, N/A)
- Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada (12th, 5,146)
- Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada* (14th, 3,986)
- Puerto Carreño, Colombia (193rd, 13,500)
- Istmina, Colombia* (185th, 20,300)
- Quibdo, Colombia* (45th, 108,100)
- Mauke, Cook Islands (6th, 391)
- Huacas, Costa Rica (N/A, N/A)
- Kladno, Czechia (13th, 70,665)
- Mlada Boleslav, Czechia (26th, 43,939)
- Cumanda, Ecuador (96th, 8,626)
- Posorja, Ecuador (N/A, 24,136)
- Shushufindi, Ecuador (67th, 16,355)
- Saint Nazaire, France* (42nd, 149,508)
- Amanu, French Polynesia (106th, 174)
- Raivave, French Polynesia (75th, 468)
- Akatsi, Ghana (N/A, ~20,000)
- Tunayac, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Savona, Italy* (98th, 62,553)
- Sigonella, Italy (N/A, N/A)
- Island Falls, Maine (N/A, N/A)
- San Juan Cancuc, Chiapas, Mexico (N/A, N/A)
- Yocmula, Chiapas, Mexico (N/A, N/A)
- Catembe, Mozambique (N/A, 28,788)
- Amersfoort, Netherlands* (16th, 146,592)
- Gouda, Netherlands* (49th, 71,047)
- Harstad, Norway (45th, 24,820)
- Aucayacu, Peru (N/A, N/A)
- Pampa Hermosa, Peru (N/A, N/A)
- Moal Boal, Philippines (N/A, 31,130)
- Norzagaray, Philippines (N/A, 76,678)
- Praia da Vitoria, Portugal (N/A, 6,690)
- Bronkhorstspuit, South Africa (100th, 34,395)
- Embalenhle, South Africa (31st, 118,889)
- Dangjin, South Korea (91st, 47,891)

NOTE: Some of these locations may have had a member group for many years, but the location of these member groups was unknown to The Church Foundation until April 2020.

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 in April 2020

Eight New Temples Announced

Church President Russell M. Nelson announced eight new temples at the end of General Conference in early April. These new temples include:

- Bahia Blanca, Argentina
- Tallahassee, Florida
- Lubumbashi, DR Congo
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Benin City, Nigeria
- Syracuse, Utah
- Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Shanghai, China

These temple announcements include the Church's first temples in the United Arab Emirates and mainland China. With these announced temples, there are now a total of 225 temples that are planned or dedicated worldwide

Statistical Report 2019

The Church reported the 2019 Statistical Report with data current as of December 31st, 2019. See below for these data along with additional information on these numbers:

- Membership: 16,565,036 (increase of 251,301 from 2018; a 1.54% annual increase)
- Congregations: 30,940 (increase of 404 from 2018; a 1.32% annual increase)
- Stakes: 3,437 (increase of 54 from 2018; a 1.60% annual increase)
- Districts: 542 (decrease of 5 from 2018; a 0.91% annual decrease)
- Missions: 399 (decrease of 14 from 2018; a 1.97% annual decrease)
- Convert Baptisms: 248,835 (increase of 14,503 from 2018; a 6.19% annual increase)
- Increase of Children on Record: 94,266 (decrease of 7,836 from 2018; a 7.67% annual decrease)
- Full-time missionaries: 67,021 (increase of 1,884 from 2018; a 2.89% annual increase)
- Church service missionaries: 31,333 (decrease of 6,630 from 2018; a 17.5% annual decrease).

Some noteworthy developments in the 2019 Statistical Report include:

- 2019 was the first year since 2012 in which the rate of membership growth has accelerated instead of decelerated.

- 2019 is the first year since 2014 that the annual number of convert baptisms has increased by a sizable amount compared to the prior year.
- The discrepancy between the summation of increase in children of record and convert baptisms and the actual annual increase in Church membership significantly decreased in 2019 in comparison to 2018, indicating fewer name removals due to death, excommunication, resignation, or unbaptized children of record over age 8.
- The Church in 2019 reported its lowest number of children added to Church records since 2007 at 91,800.
- The Church in 2019 reported its largest net increase in the number of congregations (i.e. wards and branches) since 2005.
- The number of full-time missionaries serving in 2019 increased for the first time since the surge in the number of full-time missionaries serving in 2013 and 2014 caused by the reduction in the minimal mission age.
- The Church reported a significant decrease in the number of Church service missionaries serving in 2019. This statistic has increased dramatically in the past decade as there were approximately 23,000 Church service missionaries in 2012. I am unsure why this statistic has decreased and I would be interested in hearing ideas on what this may indicate.

For more analysis of the 2019 Statistical Report, click [here](#).

Country-Specific Growth for 2019

See below for a list of countries that reported the highest membership growth rates in 2019 according to official Church-reported numbers:

1. Montenegro - 56.5% - 36
2. Mozambique - 22.5% - 15,032
3. Angola - 19.0% - 3,490
4. Kazakhstan - 16.8% - 230
5. Benin - 16.0% - 4,018
6. Togo - 12.3% - 5,320
7. Cyprus - 12.2% - 507
8. Lesotho - 10.5% - 1,303
9. Tuvalu - 10.5% - 296
10. Luxembourg - 10.3% - 505
11. Democratic Republic of the Congo - 10.1% - 68,871

See below for a list of countries where the highest net increases in the number of congregations occurred during 2019:

1. United States +185 (1.30% increase)
2. Nigeria +73 (11.25% increase)

3. Brazil +31 (1.47% increase)
4. Peru +21 (2.77% increase)
5. Cote d'Ivoire +19 (8.23% increase)
6. DR Congo +15 (7.65% increase)
7. Ghana +14 (4.46% increase)
8. Bolivia +13 (5.06% increase)
9. Philippines +12 (0.98% increase)
10. Mozambique +10 (29.41% increase)
11. Sierra Leone +10 (14.49% increase)
12. Ecuador +8 (2.62% increase)
13. Zimbabwe +7 (8.75% increase)
14. Kenya +6 (12.50% increase)
15. Australia +5 (1.65% increase)
16. Canada +5 (1.02% increase)
17. Kiribati +5 (15.63% increase)
18. Liberia +5 (10.42% increase)
19. Samoa +4 (2.53% increase)

Member Group Locations Listed on Church Meetinghouse Locator Website

The Church has recently begun to publish meetinghouse locations in cities and towns where no official ward or branch operates. Reports from local members around the world confirm that most of these meetinghouses without an assigned ward or branch are utilized by a member group. As a result of this development, the location of approximately 60 member groups previously unknown by The Cumorah Foundation have now been identified and included on our International Atlas. The Church's meetinghouse locator website is able to be accessed at <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/maps/meetinghouses>.

UPDATED RESOURCES

COUNTRY STATISTICAL PROFILES

We have updated Country Statistical Profiles on www.cumorah.com during the month of April for all countries outside of the North America, Central America, and the Caribbean with official statistical figures. The remainder of the Country Statistical Profiles will be updated soon. Only countries listed on the Church's official Newsroom site at <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/facts-and-statistics/> have been updated. Access the statistical profiles by clicking [here](#).