



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

April 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)

5. Mbaise Nigeria - March 13th, 2022
7. Eagle Mountain Utah Eagle Valley - Apr. 24th
8. Lehi Utah Meadow View - April 24th, 2022
9. St. George Utah Hidden Valley - May 1st, 2022

New Districts

2. Ugep Nigeria - April 10th, 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

3. Asahikawa Japan Stake
1. Kushiro Japan District

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Mataiva, French Polynesia (94th, 294)
- Elubo, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Jackson, Idaho (N/A, N/A)
- Tubmanburg, Liberia (12th, 14,576)
- Mukongi, Sierra Leone (N/A, N/A)
- Rhome, Texas (798th, 1,630)

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

- Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, Mexico (113th, 7,600)

Seventeen New Temples Announced

The Church announced plans on April 3rd to construct 17 new temples in the following locations:

- Wellington, New Zealand
- Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- Barcelona, Spain
- Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Cusco, Peru
- Maceió, Brazil
- Santos, Brazil
- San Luis Potosí, Mexico
- Mexico City Benemérito, Mexico
- Tampa, Florida
- Knoxville, Tennessee
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Wichita, Kansas
- Austin, Texas
- Missoula, Montana
- Montpelier, Idaho
- Modesto, California

New temples in the Republic of the Congo and Kansas will be the Church's first temples in these countries/states. Also, President Nelson has now announced 100 temples since he became president of the Church in 2018.

The surge in temple announcements in the past 4-5 years has not been in response to recent Church growth in most of these locations. Rather, this development has appeared to have been primarily influenced by the Church improving the accessibility of temples to its members and the growth and stability of the Church in many areas over the past half century.

Country-by-Country Membership and Congregational Statistics Released for 2021

For the first time in two years, the Church published year-end membership figures for most countries where there is an official Church presence. See below for the nations with the highest membership growth rates during the two-year period from year-end 2019 to year-end 2021. The biennial membership growth rate is provided as well as the number of Church-reported Latter-day Saints as of year-end 2021:

1. DR Congo - 29.4% - 89,136
2. Tanzania - 28.8% - 2,309
3. Liberia - 22.6% - 17,823
4. Angola - 19.2% - 4,160
5. Benin - 18.6% - 4,765
6. Republic of the Congo - 15.8% - 9,892
7. Malawi - 14.9% - 3,612
8. Sierra Leone - 14.6% - 26,108
9. Papua New Guinea - 13.7% - 35,033
10. Tuvalu - 13.2% - 335
11. Togo - 12.7% - 5,997
12. Turkey - 11.9% - 573
13. Rwanda - 11.7% - 843
14. Iceland - 10.3% - 331

See below for a list of the nations with the highest negative growth rates during this two-year period. Again, the percentage growth rate and the number of members as of year-end 2021 is provided for each nation:

1. Montenegro - -16.7% - 30
2. Reunion (Department of France) - -12.2% - 841
3. Kazakhstan - -10.9% - 205
4. Grenada - -9.59% - 396
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina - -8.22% - 67
6. Guernsey (part of the UK) - -8.06% - 57
7. Saint Kitts and Nevis - -7.83% - 212
8. Bahrain - -6.94% - 228
9. France - -4.33% - 38,200
10. Sint Maarten - -3.70% - 286

The Church also published statistical information regarding the number of congregations by country. See below for the countries with the largest net increases in congregations between year-end 2019 and year-end 2021.

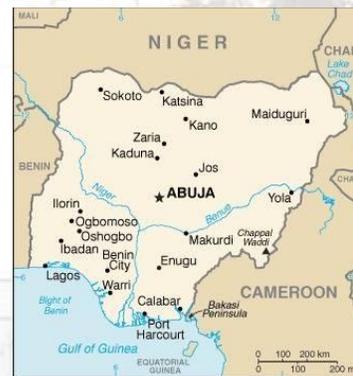
1. United States +217 (1.50% increase)
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo +44 (20.9% increase)
3. Nigeria +36 (4.99% increase)
4. Brazil +34 (1.59% increase)
5. Philippines +17 (1.37% increase)
6. Ghana +13 (3.96% increase)
7. Cote d'Ivoire +7 (2.80% increase)
8. Sierra Leone +7 (8.86% increase)
9. Mexico +6 (0.33% increase)

10. Mozambique +6 (13.6% increase)
11. Papua New Guinea +6 (7.41% increase)
12. Colombia +5 (2.01% increase)
13. Dominican Republic +5 (2.55% increase)
14. Kiribati +5 (13.51% increase)
15. Liberia +5 (9.43% increase)
16. Tanzania +5 (62.5% increase)
17. Venezuela +5 (2.19% increase)
18. Malawi +4 (50.0% increase)
19. Zambia +4 (30.8% increase)
20. Zimbabwe +4 (8.75% increase)

See below for the nations that experienced the largest net decrease in the number of congregations during this two-year period:

1. Japan -10 (3.83% decrease)
2. Taiwan -10 (9.26% decrease)
3. Argentina -9 (1.23% decrease)
4. Russia -7 (7.22% decrease)
5. Armenia -6 (54.6% decrease)
6. Uruguay -5 (3.73% decrease)
7. Portugal -5 (7.46% decrease)

First District Created in Central/Northern Cross River State, Nigeria



The Church in Nigeria organized its first district in central/northern Cross River State. The Ugep Nigeria District was organized from four mission branches located in Ugep (2), Ikom, and Ekori. The Church organized its first branches in the region in 2016 in Ugep and Ikom, and the

Church organized its branch in Ekori in 2021. Prior to 2016, the Church had only operated in southern Cross River State. There were 3.9 million people in Cross River State as of 2016.

New Branch in French Polynesia

The Church organized a new branch in French Polynesia on the Island of Mataiva. The Church has not appeared to have ever operated a branch on Mataiva. As of the most recent census data, there were only 294 inhabitants on the island. Mataiva is located in the Tuamotu Archipelago

First Member Group Created in Bomi County, Liberia

The Church organized its first member group in Bomi County, Liberia during April. Mission leaders have recently conducted investigatory trips to the city to assess conditions and locate isolated members and interested individuals. Bomi County had approximately 84,000 inhabitants as of 2008.



Nine of the 15 Liberian counties now have an official congregation or a member group. In contrast, only three Liberian counties had an official Church presence five years ago.

Young Single Adult Branch Reestablished in Seoul, South Korea



The Church in Seoul, South Korea organized a new branch to service young single adult members who live in the Seoul metropolitan area. This marks the first time in approximately 20 years since a YSA congregation has operated in Korea. The most recent instance when a YSA

congregation operated in Korea was a YSA branch that previously functioned in the Seoul suburb of Seongnam which closed in the early 2000s.

One Stake and One District Discontinued in Hokkaido, Japan



The Church underwent a significant consolidation and reorganization on the northern Japanese Island of Hokkaido in April. As a result of the changes, the number of stakes decreased from three to two and

the sole district on the island was discontinued. The discontinued Asahikawa Japan Stake was discontinued in 1998, whereas the Kushiro Japan District was organized in 1974. There were also at least three wards and three branches that were also discontinued as part of the discontinuation of the stake and district. Unlike essentially every other area of Japan, the Church in Hokkaido had not undergone a significant reorganization of congregations and closure of stakes/districts. For example, 20 years ago there were nearly the same number of wards/branches on Hokkaido as there were prior to April 2022. The Church dedicated its sole temple on Hokkaido, the Sapporo Japan Temple, in 2016. Although it is possible the temple may have prevented some Latter-day Saints from leaving the area, the construction of the new temple did not reverse the decades-long trend of stagnant growth or decline that has persisted in the area and in Japan as a whole since the early 2000s. There are now 24 stakes and 12 districts in Japan. In contrast, the Church in Japan reached an all-time high of 31 stakes and 19 districts in 2000.