



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

April 2023

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)

6. Richland Washington South – February 26th, 2023
12. Caldwell Idaho Snake River – March 26th, 2023
13. Eagle Mountain Utah Porter's Crossing – April, 16th, 2023
14. Trujillo Perú Jerusalén - April 30th, 2023

New Districts

1. Kisangani DR Congo - April 2nd, 2023

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

4. Sandy Utah Crescent Park Stake
4. Samara Russia District
5. Vladivostok Russia District
6. Volgograd Russia District
7. Minsk Belarus District
8. Norwa Australia District

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Maun, Botswana (4th, 85,350)
- Extrema, Minas Gerais, Brazil (92nd, 34,260)
- Atwedie, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Kakamega, Kenya (21st, 107,227)
- Mbale, Kenya (93rd, 17,404)
- Valley of the Mills, Jalisco, Mexico (20th, 39,327)
- Afaha Iman, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Afaha Offiong, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Alabata, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Angat, Philippines (N/A, 24,225)
- Norton, Zimbabwe (12th, 87,038)

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

- São Gonçalo, Minas Gerais, Brazil (134th, 21,200)
- Llano, Texas (530th, 3,325)

2022 Statistical Report Released

The Church reported its [annual statistical report](#) as of December 31st, 2022.

- Membership: 17,002,461 (increase of 197,061 from 2021; a 1.17% annual increase)
- Congregations: 31,330 (increase of 15 from 2021; a 0.048% annual increase)
- Stakes: 3,521 (increase of 23 from 2021; a 0.66% annual increase)
- Districts: 517 (decrease of 3 from 2021; a 0.58% annual decrease)
- Missions: 411 (increase of 4 from 2020; a 0.98% annual increase)
- Convert Baptisms: 212,172 (increase of 43,889 from 2021; a 26.1% annual increase)
- Increase of Children on Record: 89,059 (decrease of 10 from 2021; a 0.01% annual decrease)
- Full-time missionaries: 62,544 (increase of 8,005 from 2021; a 14.7% annual increase)
- Church service missionaries: 29,806 (decrease of 6,833 from 2021; a 18.6% annual decrease)

An analysis of these numbers can be found [here](#).

New Temples Announced

In early April, President Russell M. Nelson announced plans to construct new temples in 15 cities. These cities include:

- Retalhuleu, Guatemala
- Iquitos, Peru
- Teresina, Brazil
- Natal, Brazil
- Tuguegarao City, Philippines
- Iloilo, Philippines
- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Hamburg, Germany
- Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada
- San Jose, California
- Bakersfield, California
- Springfield, Missouri
- Winchester, Virginia
- Charlotte, North Carolina
- Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

With the announcement, there are now 315 temples that are planned, under construction, or dedicated in the Church.

More Districts Discontinued in Russia; Minsk Belarus District Discontinued

The Church recently discontinued three districts in Russia that were based in Samara, Vladivostok, and Volgograd. Moreover, the Church's only district in Belarus, which had just two branches, was discontinued, and the only branch outside of Minsk closed (Vitebsk) which has historically had fewer than 10 active members. The Minsk Branch was also reorganized as a ward in the Moscow Russia Stake. Furthermore, the Church has closed two wards in the city of Saratov, leaving the Saratov Russia Stake with only 3 wards and 4 branches. The Church in Russia has experienced an unprecedented closure in the number of congregations and districts in the past 12-18 months. There are now only three stakes and three districts in



Russia. In contrast, there were three stakes and 10 districts in 2018. The Russian war in Ukraine has appeared primarily responsible for the dissolution of so many districts and branches, albeit it is unclear whether there may have been many Russian members who have fled the country or gone inactive. Moreover, the Church in Russia has had its missionary force significantly disrupted due to greater religious freedom restrictions imposed in the 2010s (which required the use of volunteers instead of missionaries and severely limited proselytism) and the evacuation of foreign missionaries as a result of the war in Ukraine.

New District in the DR Congo

The Church organized a new district in the DR Congo. The Kisangani DR Congo District was organized in early April with six branches—all of which previously pertained to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa East Mission. The Church organized its first branch in Kisangani in 2015. There are now 27 stakes and 3 districts in the country.



First Branch Created in the Fourth Most Populous City in Botswana



The Church created a new branch in Maun, Botswana. Maun is the fourth most populous city in the country and has never had a branch before. There are now four cities in Botswana where branches operate that are under the direct supervision of the Botswana/Namibia Mission: Francistown, Kasane, Maun, and Serowe.