



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

December 2019

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)

- 56. Paita Peru - December 1st, 2019
- 57. Lubao Philippines - December 8th, 2019
- 58. Malandji DR Congo - December 8th, 2019
- 59. Faaa Tahiti Takarua - December 15th, 2019

New Districts

- 21. Chimoio Mozambique - December 15th, 2019

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 6. Pedro Carbo Ecuador District
- 7. Clorinda Argentina District

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (1st, 2.525 million)
- Tiebissou, Cote d'Ivoire (70th, 18,832)
- Zakaria, Cote d'Ivoire (N/A, 731)
- Santa Lucia, Ecuador (95th, 8,810)
- Gomi, Mali (N/A)

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

- Itati, Argentina (N/A, 6,562)
- Apalachicola, Florida (623rd, 2,231)
- Pokfulam, Hong Kong (16th, 77,441)
- Beach Grove, Indiana (59th, 14,193)

First Member Group Organized in Burkina Faso



The first member group (small congregation) of the Church was recently organized in Burkina Faso. The first convert baptisms also recently occurred in Ouagadougou where the member group operates. Missionary activity in Burkina Faso has been assigned to the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro

Mission and the first visit from the mission president recently occurred. Furthermore, authorization has been granted for the member group to be organized into an official branch of the Church in the immediate future. The Church is not officially registered with the government, but registration would likely be easily obtained due to widespread religious freedom. Burkina Faso is inhabited by approximately 20 million people and is 60% Muslim, 30% Christian, and 10% followers of indigenous religions.

Significant Year for Congregational Growth in the United States

The Church in the United States in 2019 had a significant year for the creation of new congregations. There were approximately 14,455 congregations as of year-end 2019 – 181 more than at year-end 2018. This increase in congregations constitutes a 1.27% annual increase – a small percentage increase but the highest reported by the Church in the United States since 2007 when there was a 1.47% annual increase in the number of congregations for the country. See below for the annual net change in the

number of congregations for the United States within the past decade:

- 2019 +181
- 2018 +49
- 2017 +0
- 2016 +65
- 2015 +142
- 2014 +152
- 2013 +124
- 2012 +114
- 2011 +27
- 2010 +126
- 2009 +112

Recent Census Data from New Zealand



The 2018 New Zealand census reported 54,123 Latter-day Saints – a significant increase from the 2006 New Zealand census when there were 43,536 Latter-day Saints reported. This is a 24.3% increase in self-reported Latter-day Saints in New Zealand during this 12-year period, whereas the total number of responses to the religious affiliation question on the census increased by only 13.6% during this same period. Even more impressive, Church-reported membership between 2006 and 2018 increased from 97,474 to 114,215 – a 17.2% increase.

This indicates that self-reported Latter-day Saints on the New Zealand census increased at a rate that was 41% higher than Church-reported membership for the same period. Thus, member activity rates and convert retention rates in New Zealand appear to have improved during this period. This conclusion is further supported by the number of Latter-day Saint congregations in New Zealand increasing from 202 in 2006 to 225 in 2018, albeit this increase in the number of congregations was at a slower rate (11.4%) than census-reported Latter-day Saints or Church-reported membership figures. Lastly, the number of stakes in New Zealand between 2006 and 2018 increased from 25 to 30 – a 16.7% increase.

Continued National Outreach Expansion in Cote d'Ivoire

The Church recently conducted a mission president visit to Korhogo, Cote d'Ivoire. Korhogo is the fourth most populous city in Cote d'Ivoire. Inhabited by approximately one-quarter of a million people, Korhogo is the only city in the country with more than 100,000 people without an official ward or branch. A small group of members meets for Sunday meetings in Korhogo, and plans are underway to organize these



members into an official member group. The Church also recently organized its first branch in the small city of Tiebissou, which is located between Yamoussoukro and Bouaké. Tiebissou numbers among the least populous Ivorian cities with an official ward or branch.

New District and Branches Organized in Mozambique

The Church in Mozambique organized two new branches in the city of Chimoio and established its first district in Chimoio with three branches. There are now two cities in the country with districts, and two cities in the country with stakes. The Church originally organized its first branch in Chimoio in 2012. Chimoio is the fifth most populous city in Mozambique, with 363,000 inhabitants. With the creation of the new district, all five of the most populous cities in Mozambique have at least either one stake or district.



NEW/UPDATED RESOURCES

CHURCH GROWTH CASE STUDY

Click [here](#) to access the Top Ten Most Encouraging and Top Ten Most Discouraging Growth and Missionary Developments for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2019: