



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

December 2024

## 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)

- 53. Kasapa DR Congo - December 1st, 2024
- 54. Kinshasa DR Congo Mikonga - Dec. 1st, 2024
- 55. Kintambo DR Congo - Dec. 8th, 2024
- 56. Forney Texas - December 8th, 2024
- 57. Bento Gonçalves Brazil - Dec 15th, 2024
- 58. Colombo Brazil - December 15th, 2024
- 59. Makurdi Nigeria - December 15th, 2024

### New Districts

- 23. Busia Uganda - November 17th, 2024
- 24. Mbale Uganda - November 17th, 2024
- 25. Oda Ghana - December 1st, 2024
- 26. Kanye Botswana - December 8th, 2024
- 27. Ubay Philippines - December 8th, 2024
- 28. Sablayan Philippines - December 15th, 2024

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

#### Stakes

- 9. Guatemala City Utatlán
- 10. West Jordan Utah East
- 11. Ogden Utah Lorin Farr
- 12. Kearns Utah Central
- 13. Kearns Utah East
- 14. Kearns Utah West
- 15. Hastings New Zealand

#### Districts

- 9. Tupã Brazil
- 10. Cabo Frio Brazil
- 11. Madera México
- 12. Itapetininga Brazil
- 13. Phuthaditjhaba South Africa
- 14. Matsuyama Japan

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Bumala, Kenya (N/A, N/A)
- Ndivisi, Kenya (N/A, N/A)
- Cayan Este, Philippines (N/A, ~81,000)
- Gayaza, Uganda (N/A, 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](http://www.citypopulation.de)

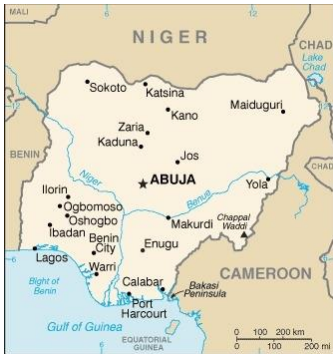
*None reported for this month*

### Stake Consolidations in Utah Reach All-time High

The Church discontinued 11 stakes in Utah during 2024—the most ever discontinued in Utah in a single year. However, the Church also organized 17 new stakes in Utah during 2024, resulting in a net increase of six stakes for the year—a typical net increase for the number of stakes in Utah in recent years. As of year-end 2024, there were 639 stakes and 6 districts. Stakes discontinued in Utah in recent years have been primarily concentrated in Salt Lake County, particularly in older, urban areas. As of year-end 2023, there were 2.19 million members on Church records in Utah totaling 64.1% of the state population. The percentage of Latter-day Saints in the Utah population has steadily declined since reaching a peak of 77.7% in 1987. Despite this decline in its share of the state population, the Church in Utah continues to report year-over-year growth in all major metrics of growth, including the number of stakes, congregations, and

members, albeit the number of non-Latter-day Saints has been increasing at a more rapid rate than Latter-day Saints.

### Makurdi Nigeria Stake Created



Over 1,500 attended the special conference to create the Makurdi Nigeria Stake in mid-December. The first official branch in Makurdi was organized less than 10 years ago in Makurdi. There were five branches in the district, which was organized in 2017, when the new stake was organized. Information

on what congregations are assigned to the new stake remains unavailable, although it appears that all five branches likely became wards in the new stake. Makurdi is the most populous city in Benue State (population 6.1 million)—a state that has experienced rapid Latter-day Saint growth since the first branches were created in Makurdi and Otukpo in 2015. Growth has been especially rapid in Makurdi within the past two years, as there have been group baptisms that have numbered in the 100s in a single day. The success of the Church in Makurdi highlights the need for expansion into the many large cities and towns that continue to remain almost totally unreached in most areas of central Nigeria today.

### Four New Branches in Cape Verde

The Church organized four new branches in the island nation of Cape Verde in 2024—three of which were in the Praia area.



Increased standards for the organization of new wards has probably influenced the decision to create branches rather than wards in Cape Verde which has historically struggled with low activity rates and leadership development problems. There are now 44 official congregations in Cape Verde—the most that has ever operated in the country in Church history. Cape Verde is the African country with the highest percentage of Latter-day Saints (2.86%).

### Net Increase of Approximately 30 Congregations in the Philippines in 2024

The Church in the Philippines had a net increase of more than 30 congregations during 2024, most of which were branches. This marks the largest increase in the number of congregations in the Philippines since 2014 when there was a net increase of 33 congregations. Once all the units are officially reported, it is possible that 2024 may have matched or surpassed this number. Prior 2014, the year with the largest net increase in congregations was in 2001 when there was an increase of 71 congregations. The Church in the Philippines has reported a steady increase



in the number of congregations due to steady expansion into previously unreached areas and growing numbers of active Latter-day Saints. New congregations have been organized in nearly all major areas of the country in 2024. The Church in 2023 reported a net increase of 24 congregations. As of the end of 2024, there were approximately 1,330 official congregations, 131 stakes, 56 districts, 13 temples (includes temples that are dedicated or announced), and 26 missions. Church membership in the Philippines is currently approximately 900,000.