



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

February 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)

4. Mwene-Ditu DR Congo - February 3rd, 2019
5. Kinshasa DR Congo Lukunga - February 10th, 2019
6. Salt Lake Utah West (Tongan) - February 10th, 2019
7. Aiken South Carolina - February 17th, 2019
8. Hilton Head South Carolina - February 24th, 2019

- Vera Cruz, Santa Catarina, Brazil (115th, 13,320)
- Jaguaruna, Santa Catarina, Brazil (81st, 13,198)
- Esparza, Costa Rica (18th, 21,374)
- Franklin, Georgia (360th, 993)
- Adiembra, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Aiyinabrim, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Bitonto, Italy (115th, 56,462)
- Las Rosas, Chiapas, Mexico (18th, 18,817)
- Amersfoort, Netherlands (16th, 146,592)

New Districts

None reported in February 2019

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

1. Pierre South Dakota

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Laja, Bolivia (N/A, N/A)
- Godoua, Cote d'Ivoire (4,289, N/A)
- Pebi, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Lagunas, Oaxaca, Mexico (159th, 2,703)
- New Nyanya, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Unisan, Philippines (N/A, ~27,000)
- Mota Lava, Vanuatu (N/A, 1,678)

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

- Almafuerde, Argentina (N/A, 11,422)
- Ayr, Australia (N/A, 8,283)
- Charters Towers, Australia (N/A, 8,126)

First Proselytizing Missionaries Assigned to Guinea, West Africa



The Church recently assigned the first young, full-time missionaries to serve in the West African nation of Guinea. A single companionship of young, French-speaking Black African elders from the Sierra Leone Freetown Mission was assigned to serve in the Conakry Branch – the only branch

in the entire country. Missionary activity at present appears primarily focused on teaching and mentoring new converts in the branch. Guinea is inhabited by nearly 12 million people. The population is 87% Muslim, 7% Christian, and 6% followers of other faiths.

There have been several significant developments in Guinea. The Church organized the Conakry Branch in June 2017 shortly after [Elder David A. Bednar visited Guinea in May 2017](#). The new branch was assigned to the Sierra Leone Freetown Mission although most of the country has remained assigned directly to the Africa West

Area. Four members from the Conakry Branch in Guinea, West Africa began their missions at the Ghana Missionary Training Center (MTC) in April 2018 according to [a news article from the Africa West Area Ids.org page](#). Local members reported approximately 30 members in late 2017. The Church reported 56 members in Guinea as of April 2018.

Widespread Reports of Significant Increases in Temple Attendance

I have received dozens of reports over the last couple of months that there have been significant increases in temple attendance in many temples around the world. It appears that the most significant increases have occurred in temples in the United States, especially in the Intermountain West, although I have received reports from temples in places like Australia and Mexico where there have also been significant increases in attendance. These trends appear augmented by changes at the beginning of the new year but began in most temples in the latter portion of 2018.

Two New Branches Organized in Tanzania

The Church organized its fifth and sixth branches in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in February. These are the first new branches to be organized in this city of 6.15 million people since 2004. The last new branch to be organized in Tanzania was in 2011 in Mwanza. Unlike many other Sub-Saharan African countries, the Church in Tanzania has grown slowly since the first branch was organized in 1992. There were 1,624 members and six branches in the entire country as of year-end 2017, yet the current population of Tanzania is approximately 55.5 million. Latter-day Saint annual membership growth rates have typically ranged from 4-10% in the past decade. To contrast, Jehovah's Witnesses reported nearly 19,000 active members and 455 congregations at year-end 2018, whereas Seventh-Day Adventists reported 568,571 members, 2,832 churches (large or well-established congregations), and 2,374 companies (small or recently established congregations) at year-end 2016.



South Sudanese-Specific Outreach in Salt Lake City Progresses

The Church recently called a senior missionary couple to serve in the Salt Lake City area to coordinate missionary efforts among South Sudanese who have relocated to the area. Efforts have been successful using social media to find and coordinate these efforts. During one Sunday in

February, there were 43 South Sudanese who worshipped together at a ward in Murray. There is also an effort to meet the language needs of South Sudanese in the Dinka and Arabic languages. South Sudanese Latter-day Saints also reside in South Sudan although there is no official Church presence or branches due to current political instability.

Four New Branches Organized in a Single Day in Gboko, Nigeria

The Church in Nigeria organized four new branches on one day in the city of Gboko in Benue State. Prior to the organization of the new branches, there was only one branch in Gboko. This is the largest number of branches organized in a single city in one day where there was only one branch that previously functioned in the city. The largest number of branches organized in a city with no previous branches was in Daloa, Cote d'Ivoire in 2014 when six branches were organized on one day. Also, three of the branches in Gboko are designated as Tiv speaking, making these branches the first official Tiv-speaking branches in the worldwide Church. The Tiv are a people related to the Igbo located in Benue State.



Two New Stakes Organized in the DR Congo

The Church organized two new stakes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) in February. The Church organized its first stake in the city of Mwene-Ditu where the Church created its first branch in 2008 and organized the first district in the city in 2014. Also, the Church created its eleventh stake in Kinshasa later in the month. Kinshasa now ties with Accra, Ghana as the metropolitan area on the landmass of Africa, Asia, and Europe with the second most stakes. Currently Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire has the most stakes of any urban agglomeration on the Afro-Eurasian landmass with 12 stakes. There are 21 stakes and two districts in the DR Congo.



Full-time Missionaries Assigned to Nacala, Mozambique



For the first time, the Church has assigned missionaries to serve in Nacala, Mozambique. The assignment of missionaries has resulted in significant increases in church attendance in the Nacala Group as no branch operates in the city yet. The number of people who attend church in the Nacala Group increased from 14 to 65 as of the end of January. Missionaries appear to be carefully preparing prospective members for baptism in order to improve convert retention and prepare new members for future leadership roles in the fledging congregation. Nacala is the ninth

largest city in Mozambique with nearly one-quarter of a million people.

UPDATED RESOURCES

REACHING THE NATIONS COUNTRY PROFILES

We continue to update the country profiles for our comprehensive work, *Reaching the Nations: International Church Growth Almanac*. The following country profiles were updated and posted on our website, www.cumorah.com, during February 2019. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac by 2020:

- [Antigua and Barbuda](#)
- [Aruba](#)
- [Barbados](#)
- [Curaçao](#)
- [Dominica](#)
- [Guadeloupe](#)
- [Martinique](#)
- [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#)
- [Saint Lucia](#)
- [Saint Martin/Sint Maarten](#)
- [Virgin Islands \(US\)](#)