



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

February 2020

## 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)

1. West Jordan Utah Maples - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020
2. Pleasant View Utah Orchard Springs - February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
3. Saratoga Springs Utah Springside - February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020
4. Herriman Utah Blackridge - February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

### New Districts

3. Klerksdorp South Africa - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

*None reported in February 2020*

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Quixelô, Ceara, Brazil (186<sup>th</sup>, 3,767)
- Itapecuru Mirim, Maranhão, Brazil (19<sup>th</sup>, 34,668)
- Antonina, Parana, Brazil (84<sup>th</sup>, 15,576)
- Carambei, Parana, Brazil (90<sup>th</sup>, 13,918)
- Santa Cruz do Capibaribe, PE, Brazil (16<sup>th</sup>, 82,685)
- Mangaratiba, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (83<sup>rd</sup>, 14,419)
- Jaru, Rondônia, Brazil (8<sup>th</sup>, 32,834)
- Bandundu, DR Congo (23<sup>rd</sup>, 117,197)
- Franklin, Kentucky (50<sup>th</sup>, 8,408)
- Chamula, Chiapas, Mexico (74<sup>th</sup>, 5,592)
- Jala, Nayarit, Mexico (24<sup>th</sup>, 5,586)

### 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)

- Middletown, California (972<sup>nd</sup>, 1,323)

- San Luis, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Guildford, England, UK (115<sup>th</sup>, 72,600)

### Coronavirus Significantly Disrupts Missionary Work and Church Operations

The Church reported [several announcements during February](#) due to the spread of the coronavirus. The Church has temporarily closed the Taipei Taiwan Temple, the Seoul Korea Temple, the Fukuoka Japan Temple, and the Sapporo Japan Temple. More than 100 missionaries serving in the China Hong Kong Mission were released or reassigned to other missions. Missionaries serving in the Cambodia Phnom Penh Mission, Singapore Mission, and Thailand Bangkok Mission were required to remain in their apartments and teach interested individuals through phone calls and technology. Missionaries serving in the Mongolia Ulaanbaatar Mission continue to make limited visits with people when invited but also take similar precautions. Missionaries in the four Korean missions have been self-isolating. The Church announced it would reduce the number of missionaries assigned to Cambodia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Worship services are either limited or cancelled for the time being in Hong Kong, Mongolia, Korea, and Japan. At the current moment, the impact on disrupted missionary work in these nations does not appear likely to significantly affect the growth of the Church in these countries given that stagnant or very slow growth has persisted in these countries for many years.

### Fifth Stake to be organized in Mozambique

The Church will organize its fifth stake in Mozambique on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the city of Nampula. The Church in Nampula has grown from one branch to an entire stake in less than three years, marking one of the most rapid instances of church growth in Church history. The Church

originally created its first branch in Nampula in 2005 albeit it was not until 2017 when additional branches were organized and a district was formed. Full-time missionaries have reported significant progress with the growth of the Church in Nampula in the past 3-4 years. Two additional cities/villages have also had branches recently organized nearby Nampula, including Nacala and Luaha. The Church has reported rapid growth in Mozambique for several consecutive years. More specifically, annual membership growth rates have exceeded 10% since 2017, the number of congregations has increased from 20 in 2013 to 42 at present, and all four stakes that currently operate were created in the past five years.



## First Latter-day Saint Group Organized in Congolese City

The Church recently organized its first member group in the large city of Bandundu. Bandundu is located approximately 160 miles northeast of Kinshasa and has had isolated members for many years. The Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa East Mission recently created its first member group in the city. Bandundu is one of the most populous cities to have had an official member group organized since the first member group was organized in Kisangani. Prospects appear favorable for the Bandundu Group to become an official branch in the near future. Bandundu is the first city in the region immediately east of Kinshasa to have a Church presence established.



## Many New Member Groups Open in Brazil



The Church in Brazil has recently experienced a proliferation of new member groups that have been established in cities where no previous Church presence operated. Some of these cities, such as Santa Cruz do Capibaribe, number among the most populous cities in Brazil where there was previously

no Latter-day Saint presence. The Church in Brazil typically organizes its first ward, branch, or member group in dozens of additional cities per year. Nevertheless, there are approximately 400 cities in Brazil inhabited by 20,000 or more people where the Church operates no congregations.

## Congregation Consolidations Continue in Taiwan

The Church in Taiwan continues to discontinue wards in several areas of the country. Most recently, the Church discontinued two wards in Taoyuan and one ward in the Taichung area. This trend in ward consolidations began in 2019 and included the first instance of a discontinued stake in the Church in Taiwan's history (Pingtung). Continued ward consolidations appears likely to continue for the foreseeable future as many wards appear to have few active members due to the creation of new units in the past decade with the minimum number of active members to organize additional units. Furthermore, membership growth rates in Taiwan have slowed substantially in the past decade to less than two percent.



# NEW/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](http://www.cumorah.com), during February 2020. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac in late 2020:

- [Central African Republic](#)
- [South Sudan](#)
- [Turkey](#)