



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

February 2022

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)

2. Post Falls Idaho - February 20th, 2022

New Districts

1. Dakar Senegal - February 13th, 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None Reported in February 2022

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Kamina, DR Congo (24th, 115,626)
- Korhogo, Cote d'Ivoire (4th, 243,048)
- Bavaro, Dominican Republic (N/A, N/A)
- Agogo, Ghana (45th, 36,249)
- Zacapoaxtla, Puebla, Mexico (71st, 8,384)
- San Rafael, Philippines (102nd, 52,377)
- Malololelei, Samoa (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

- Kabul, Afghanistan (1st, 4.63 million)
- Adiake, Cote d'Ivoire (69th, 19,055)
- Marabut, Philippines (N/A, 17,842)

The Gambia Dedicated for Missionary Work; Membership in The Gambia Doubles from 12 to 24

Apostle Elder D. Todd Christofferson dedicated the West African nation of The Gambia to missionary work on February 24th. Moreover, one dozen new converts were baptized during February, and this resulted in Church membership in The Gambia increasing from 12 to 24. No official branch operates in The Gambia. However, a member group functions in Banjul under the direction of the Africa West Area Branch. Moreover, The Gambia remains officially unassigned to a full-time mission. The Church reported [19 Latter-day Saints in The Gambia in 2013](#), although there was no organized Church presence or regular contact from area leadership until approximately



2018 when area leadership visited Banjul to meet with isolated members. The population of The Gambia is 2.3 million people.

Prospects appear favorable for the creation of a mission headquartered in Dakar, Senegal within the near future to provide greater mission president oversight and larger amounts of resources allocated to this region of West Africa where there are no missions headquartered. Currently, countries in the area are assigned to several different missions such as the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro (Guinea and unofficially Burkina Faso) and Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan East (Mali). There are 90.8 million people who live in Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal.

Rapid Growth in Liberia

The Liberia Monrovia Mission reported that there were more than 2,200 convert baptisms during 2021 - the highest number of converts baptized in the mission since its establishment in 2013. The mission now has 150 missionaries assigned, and all wards and branches have at least one missionary companionship assigned. Several new branches were recently organized, including two new branches in Harbel and one new branch in Buchanan. Prospects appear favorable for the creation of a district that includes the four mission branches in Harbel where the Church organized its first branch in 2008.



First Branch Created in Northern Cote d'Ivoire; Branch Discontinued in Cote d'Ivoire for the First Time in Approximately 15 Years

The Church organized its first branch in northern Cote d'Ivoire according to reports received from local members. The Korhogo Branch was organized in the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro Mission. Korhogo was previously the most populous city in the country without a branch. With approximately a quarter of a million people, Korhogo has had small numbers of Latter-day Saints for several years, but there has not been enough active members to organize an official congregation until now. Also, the Church discontinued a branch in Cote d'Ivoire for the first time in approximately 15 years when the Church discontinued the original branch in Bouake as a result of the civil war.



The Adiake Branch was discontinued in the Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan East Mission. However, it is important to note that the closure of the branch coincided with the expansion of the Grand-Bassam Cote d'Ivoire Stake boundaries to include Adiake and surrounding towns and villages that previously were under the direct supervision of the mission. Thus, it is likely that the branch was downgraded to a member group rather than the congregation being closed altogether.

Extremely Slow Stake Growth in 2022

The Church has experienced extremely slow stake growth thus far in 2022. No other year in many decades has had only two stakes organized during the first two months of the year. Usually, the Church has organized several new stakes per month during the first quarter of the year. The lack of new stakes organized in 2022 appears primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially given there was a significant increase in cases during early 2022. There are many large stakes throughout the world that appear likely to divide in the immediate future. A list of likely stakes to divide outside of the United States and Canada may be found [here](#).

Full-time Missionaries Evacuated from Ukraine; War in Ukraine

The Church evacuated full-time missionaries from Ukraine in late January 2022, and war has enveloped the country after the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in late February 2022. The significant damage to the country's infrastructure, millions of refugees who have



fled westward, and economic hardships are likely to significantly disrupt the Church's operations in Ukraine for years to come. The Church has already begun to organize humanitarian efforts to alleviate suffering.

Rapid Growth Returns to Pakistan

The Church's recently organized Pakistan Service Mission has reported significant increases in convert baptisms in recent weeks. Many cities have begun to report nearly weekly baptisms. In the most significant instance, there were 21 converts baptized in a single day in the Mian Channu Group. The Church in Pakistan has historically experienced significant variations in member activity rates which has appeared impacted by local leadership development challenges.

