



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

February 2023

## 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)

- Iloilo Philippines Central - Feb. 5th, 2023
- Guayaquil Ecuador Alborada - Feb. 26th, 2023

### New Districts

None reported in February 2023

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in February 2023

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Kimpese, DR Congo (56<sup>th</sup>, 45,942)
- Samo, Cote d'Ivoire (N/A, ~6,500)
- Beposo, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Dabanyin, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Makindu, Kenya (100<sup>th</sup>, 15,038)
- Oyugis, Kenya (89<sup>th</sup>, 19,947)
- Cocula, Jalisco, Mexico (53<sup>rd</sup>, 14,548)
- Figueira da Foz, Portugal (39<sup>th</sup>, 29,690)

### 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)

- Kilcoy, Australia (N/A, 2,351)
- Covilha, Portugal (34<sup>th</sup>, 31,950)
- Motril, Spain (123<sup>rd</sup>, 60,884)
- Reinach, Switzerland (54<sup>th</sup>, 19,340)

### Top Church Growth Developments in 2022

Click [here](#) to access an article that summarizes the top 10 most encouraging church growth developments and the top 10 most discouraging church growth developments for the year 2022.

### New Stake on Panay Island, Philippines

The Church created its fifth stake on Panay Island in the Philippines. The Iloilo Philippines Central Stake was divided from the Iloilo Philippines North Stake—a stake which has not divided since it was organized in 1997. In 2001, there were only four wards and five branches in the Iloilo Philippines North Stake, and much of the growth that has resulted in the creation of the new stake has come from branches becoming wards. The new stake brings the total number of stakes in the Philippines to 126. With three stakes in Iloilo City, prospects appear favorable for the announcement of a small temple one day. However, growth on Panay island has been slow for most of the Church's history. The first branch on Panay Island was organized in Iloilo city in 1969. Most cities and towns with an official ward or branch had their first Latter-day Saint congregations organized in the 1990s.



## New Branch in the DR Congo in Previously Unreached City



The Church organized its first branch in the Congolese city of Kimpese. The new branch pertains to the Matadi DR Congo District which now has seven branches. Significant progress has recently occurred in the far western areas of the DR Congo bordering the Atlantic Ocean. Of the four cities with official branches in the region, three of these cities have had the first branches created since 2018. The first branch in this area of the country was organized in Matadi in 2010. There are now 24 cities, towns, and villages in the DR Congo with an official ward or branch.

## Updated Map for Locations of Prospective Temple Sites

Click [here](#) to access the most up-to-date map of prospective sites for future temple announcements. Many new locations have been added to the map given changes in the trends for locations where temples have been recently announced.

