



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

January 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)

1. Holland Michigan – January 16th, 2022

New Districts

None reported in January 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

1. Tacoma Washington South Stake
2. Porlamar Venezuela Stake (downgraded to district)

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Georgetown, Australia
- Palmeira, Parana, Brazil
- Pierce City, Missouri
- Saint-Louis, Senegal

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

- Tafa, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Wone, Federated States of Micronesia
- Ålesund, Norway

New Stake Organized in Michigan; Stake Discontinued in Washington State

The Church organized a new stake in western Michigan. The Holland Michigan Stake is the Church's 10th stake in Michigan and the second new stake to be organized in the state within the past 12 months. Prior to the creation of the new stake in 2021 (the Farmington Hills Michigan Stake), no new stakes had been organized in Michigan since 1979 when the Kalamazoo Michigan Stake was created. The Church in Michigan has experienced a decline in the number of congregations since it reached an all-time high of 108 congregations in 2007 (there were 96 congregations at year-end 2019). There do not appear to be any realistic prospects for additional stakes to be organized in Michigan aside from the Traverse City Michigan District becoming a stake, albeit long-term efforts to help the district to become a stake have yet to be successful.

The Church also discontinued the Tacoma Washington South Stake in January, marking the second time the Church has ever discontinued a stake in Washington State (the first stake to be discontinued in Washington was the Kirkland Washington Stake in 2020). The Church has experienced a steady decline in the number of congregations and active members in the greater Seattle metropolitan area.



Stake Discontinued in Venezuela

The Church discontinued a stake in Venezuela, marking only the second time in the Church's history that a stake has been discontinued in Venezuela. The Porlamar Venezuela Stake was discontinued and reverted to district status. The four wards in the former stake were downgraded to branches, and there are now five branches in the district. The stake was originally organized in 2012 with five wards and one branch on Margarita Island, but the Church discontinued the Villa Rosa Ward in 2018. The Church in many areas of Venezuela has significantly struggled with stability in local leadership and active membership due to political instability for much of the past decade. There are now 33 stakes and five districts in Venezuela.



Rapid Growth in Kumasi, Ghana

The Church is experiencing significant growth in the second most populous Ghanaian city of Kumasi. The Church had only one stake in Kumasi in 2012, whereas today there are now four stakes (five stakes if Konongo is included which was organized in 2021). New branches have recently been organized in the Kumasi Ghana University Stake, and the stake will soon have 15 congregations. Mission leaders have regularly organized, and continue to explore opportunities to organize, member groups in lesser-reached locations near existing branches and wards in the mission. The Church announced a temple for Kumasi in April 2021. The Ghana Kumasi Mission was organized in 2012.



Church Organizes Third Branch in Senegal



The Church created its third branch in Senegal on January 30th which is also the first branch of the Church in a city outside of the capital, Dakar. The Saint-Louis Branch was organized with approximately 25 members in attendance. The mission has carefully prepared new converts to join the Church in Saint-Louis over the past

approximately two years, especially given the lack of experienced members in the city and its long distance from mission headquarters in Abidjan and the two branches in Dakar. Saint-Louis is the seventh most populous city in Senegal and is located on the border with Mauritania—a country with significant restrictions on religious freedom and no Latter-day Saint presence. Prospects appear favorable for the organization of a mission headquartered in Senegal given long distance to currently established missions in West Africa, religious freedom in Senegal, a population of 16.1 million people, and opportunities for expanding mission outreach into additional locations (for example, the second most populous city in Senegal is Touba which has a metropolitan population of more than one million people). Finally, mission leadership report that the Dakar Senegal District will be organized on February 13th, 2022.

Second New Unit Created in Perú since COVID-19 Pandemic Onset



The Church recently organized the Arica Branch in the Lima Perú Villa María Stake—the first new congregation to be organized in Lima since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and only the second new congregation to be created in the entire country of Perú since the onset of the pandemic.

The Church had experienced steady congregational growth prior to the onset of the pandemic, but missionary activity and church services were significantly restricted at the beginning of the pandemic. Lima is the metropolitan area in the world outside of the United States with the most stakes (49). Local members report that plans to organize many new wards and branches were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.