



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

January 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)

1. Mesquite Nevada West - Jan. 15th, 2023
2. Johannesburg South Africa South - Jan. 29th, 2023
3. Queen Creek Arizona Empire - Jan. 29th, 2023

New Districts

None reported in January 2023

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

1. Korovou Fiji
2. Bucharest Romania
3. Cluj-Napoca Romania

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Menongue, Angola (13th, 251,178)
- Porto Batista, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (N/A, 2,910)
- Cahabón, Guatemala (N/A, N/A)
- Bomet, Kenya (N/A, 11,765)
- Analamalotra, Madagascar (N/A, N/A)
- Ikot Etetuk, Nigeria (N/A, ~169,200)
- Hinatuan, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Tandag, Philippines (N/A, 35,750)

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

- Passau, Germany (176th, 53,093)
- Izhevsk, Russia (21st, 623,472)
- Kurgan, Russia (63rd, 310,911)
- Novgorod, Russia (86th, 224,286)
- Orenburg, Russia (32nd, 543,654)
- Pskov, Russia (93rd, 193,082)
- Tyumen, Russia (18th, 847,488)

New Branch Created in Angola

The Church in Angola organized its first branch in the city of Menongue—the 13th most populous city in the country and the fourth city in the country to have had an official branch organized. Provided with the year when the first branch was organized, other cities with an official congregation of the Church include Luanda (1996), Lubango (2011), and Huambo (originally created in 2013, discontinued in 2015, reinstated in 2018). The Angola Luanda Mission opened 10 years ago but has made little progress with expanding outreach into additional cities. However, the Church organized its first and only stake in Angola in Luanda in 2018.



New Branches in Kenya

The Church organized its first branches in two cities in Kenya. The Nakuru Branch was organized approximately one decade after the Nakuru Group was organized. Nakuru is the third most populous city in Kenya and had a population of 570,674 in 2019. Also, the Church organized the new Bomet Branch in southern Kenya. Both branches are under the direct supervision of the Kenya Nairobi Mission. Ruiru (population: 490,120) is now the most populous city in Kenya without an official ward or branch. Most of the remaining cities in Kenya with 100,000 or more inhabitants are located in the Nairobi area.



Two Wards in Germany Created from Branches

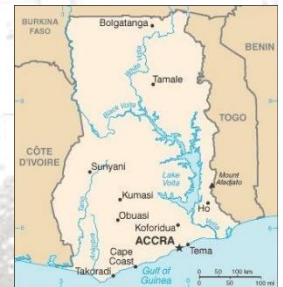


Members in Germany report that two branches were recently reorganized into wards, including the Elmshorn Ward in the Hamburg Germany Stake and the Heidelberg 2nd Spanish Ward in the Heidelberg Germany Stake. The new Spanish-speaking ward in Heidelberg appears to be the first

Spanish-speaking ward ever organized in Germany. Local members also report that several wards have experienced steady growth in church attendance and appear likely to divide to create new wards in the foreseeable future, such as in the Frankfurt area.

Three New Groups to Open in Ghana Kumasi Mission

Mission leaders in the Ghana Kumasi Mission reported that three new member groups will be organized soon, including the first member groups in the cities of Akrofuom and Nkoransa. The Church has opened relatively few previously unreached cities to missionary work in the Ghana Kumasi Mission since the COVID-19 pandemic, although several cities have recently had branches organized in the Bibiani area.



National Outreach Expansion Continues on the Eastern Coast of Mindanao, Philippines

Unprecedented expansion of the Church in the Philippines has recently occurred along the eastern coastline of Mindanao—a region of Mindanao that has historically had few locations with official wards or branches. Prior to 2020, the Church operated official congregations in only two cities: Bislig (where the first branch was created in 1980) and Mati (where the first branch was created in 1975). There are now five cities on the eastern coast of Mindanao with an official branch, including Barobo (2021), Hinatuan (2022), Lingig (2022), and Tandag (2022). Also, the Church created its first branch on Siargao Island in 2020. The only other location in the Philippines where the Church has experienced a similar significant expansion of outreach into previously unreached areas has been in western Mindoro where the Church has organized new branches in four cities since 2011.



All Districts in Romania Combined into a Single District

The Church's three Romanian member districts were consolidated into a single district (Braşov Romania District) that includes all 15 branches. The decision to consolidate all the districts into one was probably made to redirect leadership resources back to individual branches since none of the three original districts had feasible prospects of becoming stakes anytime in the foreseeable future. The Church made a similar decision in Poland in 2020 when all branches in the country were reorganized under the Warsaw Poland District. The Church has experienced essentially stagnant membership growth in Romania during the past decade. This summer, the Church will reinstate the Romania Bucharest Mission.



First Branch Created in Nigerian City

The Church organized its first branch in the Nigerian port city of Ikot Abasi (Ikot Etetuk). This marks the first time the Church has organized a branch in southwestern Akwa Ibom State. Some local government areas (LGAs) in Akwa Ibom may be as high as 10% Latter-day Saint, although there remain several LGAs in the state without an official church presence.