



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

July 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)

- 21. Mati Philippines - July 10th, 2022
- 22. Queretaro Mexico Valle - July 10th, 2022

New Districts

None reported in July 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in July 2022

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Parakou, Benin (3rd, 255,478)
- Limbe, Cameroon (13th, 84,223)
- Mafi-Kumase, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Tuschen, Guyana (8th, 12,219)
- Tamara, Honduras (N/A, N/A)
- Lefkoşa, North Cyprus (1st, 51,836)
- Buruanga, Philippines (N/A, ~19,400)

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

- Rimouski, Quebec, Canada (22nd, 48,664)
- Cannock, England (129th, 66,900)
- Stourbridge, England (169th, 55,800)
- Astrakhan, Russia (34th, 524,371)
- Novokuybishevsk, Russia (N/A, 99,469)
- Ulianovsk, Russia (22nd, 625,462)

- Volzhskiy, Russia (59th, 323,853)

Full-time Missionaries Assigned to The Gambia

Mission leaders in the Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan West Mission report that the first full-time missionaries were assigned to the West African nations of The Gambia. The Church organized its first branch in The Gambia in June 2022. There are approximately two dozen Latter-day Saints who live in the country.



First Branch Organized in North Cyprus

The Church organized its first branch in the de facto country of North Cyprus in July 2022 with approximately 100 people in



attendance. The new branch appears to operate in Lefkoşa where a new meetinghouse was also dedicated. Full-time missionaries have regularly taught and met with Latter-day Saints and perspective members in North Cyprus for many years. There are now five branches in the Nicosia Cyprus District. The new branch in North Cyprus may be the first instance when the Church has organized an official branch in a de facto country that is not recognized by most sovereign nations.

Member Group Organized in Limbe, Cameroon

The Church in Cameroon organized a member group in a city that previously had no Latter-day Saint presence. Limbe is the third city in Cameroon to have a congregation established following Yaoundé (1993) and Douala (2004). Moreover, the member group is the Church's first congregation in the Southwest Region of Cameroon. Limbe had a population of more than 80,000 per the 2005 census. The new member group pertains to the Douala Cameroon District.



Member Group Organized in Parakou, Benin

The Church recently organized its first member group in Parakou, Benin according to the Church's online meetinghouse locator. Parakou is the first city in northern Benin to have had a Latter-day Saint presence established. Parakou was the third most populous city in Benin according to 2013 census data, and it is nearly tied with the capital city of Porto-Novo for the city with the second largest population.



Parakou is the sixth city to have an official Church presence established following Cotonou (first branch organized in 2005), Calavi (2014), Porto Novo (2014), Hilacondji (2017), and Bohicon (2019).

New Branch Organized in Guyana

The Church organized a branch in Tuschen, Guyana – a town that has never had its own branch but where a branch briefly operated in nearby Parika approximately 12 years ago. Tuschen was the second most populous town to not have a Church presence prior to the creation of the new branch. This marks the first time since 2009 that a branch has been organized in Guyana.



Guyana was the third most Latter-day Saints without a stake as of year-end 2021 membership data (following mainland China and Malaysia). There are now seven branches in the Georgetown Guyana District—the most likely district to become the first stake in the country.

Branch Consolidations and Closures Continue in Russia

The Church discontinued several additional branches in Russia during June 2022, including the Church's only branches in four cities: Astrakhan, Novokuybishevsk, Ulianovsk, and Volzskiy. Consequently, there is now only one branch in the Volgograd Russia District and only three branches in the Samara Russia District. Information on the Church in Russia has been very limited in regard to what current factors have influenced the Church's decision to close its only branches in approximately 14 cities since late 2021. However, disruption of foreign full-time missionary operations in Russia due to the current Russia-Ukraine war appears to be the most likely culprit as many of these branches were small congregations that often relied on full-time missionaries to properly function.

