

Second Stake Reestablished in Mazatenango, Guatemala



The Church created the Mazatenango Guatemala Las Flores Stake in June, essentially reinstating the previously discontinued Mazatenango Guatemala East Stake which operated from 1998 to 2008 (and was the second stake ever to be discontinued in Guatemala). Only a few new congregations have been

organized in the Mazatenango area in the past decade, although some branches have appeared to become wards during this time. The creation of the new stake is significant as it demonstrates that the Church is able to reverse trends in decline or stagnant even in locations that have had a long-term church presence. However, it is important to note that such examples are uncommon, although there have been increasing instances of stakes and congregations being reinstated or being created after consolidations in recent years, particularly in Latin America.

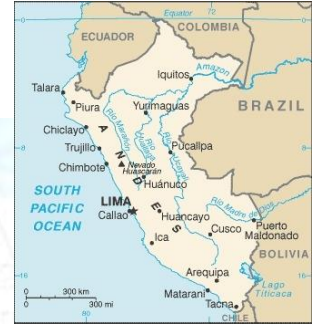
Branch Created on Tiny Island in the Philippines

The Church recently organized the Green Island Branch on the extremely small island of Green Island off the coast of Palawan in the Philippines. With a population of less than 400, Green Island is the least populated island in the Philippines to ever have a branch organized. The Church in the Philippines has had extremely few congregations on smaller islands, even in locations with sizable populations. For example, there remain many islands in the Philippines with tens of thousands of inhabitants without a ward or branch, such as Romblon and Dinagat. The new Green Island Branch pertains to the Puerto Princesa Philippines Stake.



Expansion of the Church into Communities South of Lima, Peru

Two new branches were recently created in the communities of Pucusana and San Bartolo which are located south of the Lima metropolitan area. This marks the first time that branches have been organized in the many small cities and towns clustered along the coast between Lima and the city of Mala which is located approximately 40 miles south of Lima. The Church in Peru has experienced slow expansion into previously unreached cities and towns for many years, although there was a steady creation of new wards in the largest cities in the country until the COVID-19 pandemic.



Fourth District Created in Tanzania

Another new district was created in Tanzania, marking the third new district created in the country within the past 12 months. The Mwanza Tanzania District was created from three mission branches located in the Mwanza area. The Church organized its first branch in Mwanza in 2011, but a second branch in the city was not created until 2021. The creation of the Tanzania Dar Es Salaam Mission has served as a major catalyst for rapid growth in Tanzania during the past several years, taking the Church from decades of slow membership growth and nearly stagnant congregational growth to the proliferation of congregations and the opening of additional cities to the Church such as Moshi and Dodoma. Use of Swahili in church services and proselytism has also been a major contributor to recent growth in Tanzania.

