



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

March 2019

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)

9. Lima Perú La Campiña - March 10th, 2019
10. Ballesteros Philippines - March 17th, 2019
11. Lima Perú Begonias - March 17th, 2019
12. Omaha Nebraska Millard - March 31st, 2019

New Districts

5. Araripina Brazil - February 24th, 2019
6. Duekoue Cote d'Ivoire - February 24th, 2019
7. Kingstown St Vincent - March 17th, 2019

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

2. Moscow Russia North District

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Media Agua, Argentina (N/A, 7,983)
- Lohja, Finland (22nd, 32,378)
- Buariki, Kiribati (N/A, N/A)
- Tekaman, Kiribati (N/A, N/A)
- Ogbogwu, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Orozo, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Tororo, Uganda (44th, 47,400)

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

- Stroud, England, UK (N/A, 34,173)
- Sabancuy, Campeche, Mexico (14th, 7,286)

First Convert Baptisms Occur in Timor-Leste (East Timor)

The Church had its first convert baptisms in Timor-Leste in February. Five converts joined the Church from the same family. These family members have attended church for months and have been carefully taught and prepared for baptism by senior missionaries in Dili and young, full-time missionaries via the Internet.

The Church has its own building in the capital city of Dili and holds meetings as a member group under the Indonesia Jakarta Mission. No young, proselytizing missionaries have ever been assigned to Timor-Leste even though the country was dedicated for missionary work by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland in 2015. It is unclear why full-time missionaries have not been assigned as there is no legislation that prohibits proselytism or foreign missionaries. Current Church activities focus on humanitarian and development work, and English classes.



Preliminary Membership Data from West Africa

Data published by the Africa West Area indicate that Church membership increased from 325,630 in January 15th, 2018 to 355,227 on January 31st, 2019. This is an increase of 9.09%. In contrast, the Church in the Africa West Area reported an annual membership increase of

8.07% in 2017 and 9.97% in 2016. It is anticipated that country-by-country membership and congregation data will be published in April shortly after General Conference.

Number of Branches in Nampula, Mozambique Doubles from Three to Six

Significant growth has occurred in the northern city of Nampula in Mozambique. Nampula is inhabited by approximately 750,000 people and is the third largest city in the country. The Church organized its first branch in Nampula in 2005 and experienced slow growth for the following decade. The Church created two new branches in Nampula in late 2017 and organized the three branches in the city into their own district. The Church organized three new branches in early 2019 for a total of six branches in the city. The last time the Church in Mozambique had experienced significant congregational growth in a minimally-reached city was in the early days of the Church in Mozambique in Beira and Maputo during the late 1990s and early 2000s. Three member groups also operate in northern Mozambique in Luaha, Maratane, and Nacala. Membership growth in Mozambique during 2017 accelerated to its most rapid rate since 2005 as church-reported membership increased by 15.2% for the year. There are now over 11,000 members, 37 official congregations (22 wards, 15 branches), three stakes, and one district in Mozambique.



District in the Republic of the Congo Close to Becoming a Stake

Local members in Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo report that the district is close to becoming a stake. There are now seven branches in the district, which was organized from several mission branches back in 2015. Each of the seven branches has approximately 150 active members. The first branch in Pointe-Noire was created in 1997 and slow growth occurred for the first decade of the Church's presence in the city. At the end of 2017 there were 7,187 members in the country. Currently there are two stakes, one district, 17 wards, nine branches, and one mission in the country.



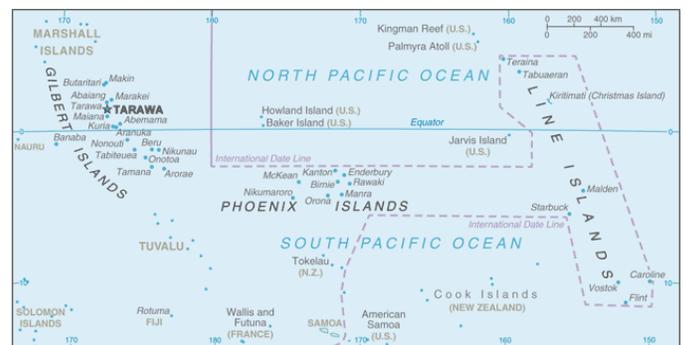
There is also a member group that functions in the city of Dolisie.

Progress in Kiribati – Census Data

Data from the 2015 census indicates that Kiritimati (Christmas) Island is the island in Kiribati with the highest percentage of Latter-day Saints per census data (8.3%). This is a significant development as the first branch was organized on the island only 20 years ago in 1999. Nationwide, census data indicate that self-affiliated Latter-day Saints constitute 5.3% of the population (compared to Church-reported membership for 2015 which constituted 16.5% of the population). The most dramatic change in membership by island occurred in Onotoa (population: 1,393) where the number of census-reported Latter-day Saints increased from one in 2010 to 35 in 2015. Many southern Islands reported significant percentage increases in census-reported Latter-day Saints due to expansion of missionary work and establishment of member groups in previously unreached locations. Progress with the opening of more islands to missionary work has also warranted some member groups to become branches. Within the past three months,

New Branch in Finland

The Church organized a new branch in Finland last Sunday in the city of Lohja. The new branch has approximately one hundred members. This is the first new ward or branch organized in Finland in over 15 years. However, unlike other northern European countries, the Church in Finland has not discontinued a ward or branch since 2006. The Church in Finland has a well-developed body of active members and good member activity rates. There are now two stakes, two districts, 15 wards, and 16 branches in Finland. Membership is currently at approximately 4,700.



four new branches have been organized in this area of the country due to steady growth and leadership development.

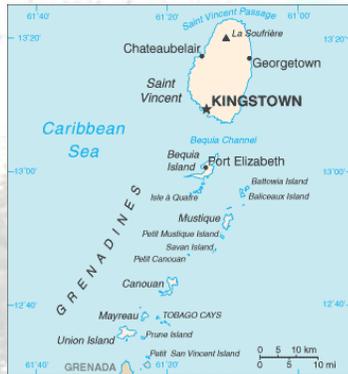
New Branch in Uganda



The Church organized its first branch in the city of Tororo, Uganda at the beginning of the month. This marks only the second time the Church in Uganda has organized its first branch in a previously unreached location since 2012. Approximately 70 people attended the first meeting of the new branch, including 30 prospective members. The new branch pertains to the recently organized Busia Uganda/Kenya District.

First District Organized in St Vincent and the Grenadines

The Church organized its first district in the Caribbean nation of St Vincent and the Grenadines during March. The Kingstown St Vincent District includes six branches located on St Vincent (3), St Lucia (2), and Grenada (1). The district altogether appears to have approximately 1,500 members. The Church in these three nations that comprise the district generally reports some of the most rapid growth in the region although this growth nevertheless is comparatively slow.



UPDATED RESOURCES

REACHING THE NATIONS COUNTRY PROFILES

We continue to update the country profiles for our comprehensive work, *Reaching the Nations: International Church Growth Almanac*. The following country profiles were updated and posted on our website, www.cumorah.com, during March 2019. We will continue to update additional country profiles in the coming months, with the goal to release the next edition of the almanac by 2020:

- [Andorra](#)
- [Bahamas](#)
- [French Guiana](#)
- [Guyana](#)
- [Jamaica](#)
- [Luxembourg](#)
- [Suriname](#)
- [Trinidad and Tobago](#)