



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

March 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)

6. Nairobi Kenya South - March 5th, 2023
7. Pucallpa Perú Centenario - March 5th, 2023
8. Ngandajika DR Congo - March 12th, 2023
9. Lehi Utah Cold Spring Ranch - Mar. 19th, 2023
10. Wake Forest North Carolina - March 19th, 2023

New Districts

None reported in March 2023

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

1. Salt Lake Foothill Stake
2. Salt Lake Cottonwood Heights Stake
3. Milwaukie Oregon Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Benguela, Angola (5th, 555,124)
- Caála, Angola (19th, 130,000)
- Kuito, Angola (9th, 355,423)
- Malanje, Angola (6th, 455,000)
- Kikuyu, Kenya (7th, 323,881)
- Mangu, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Mian Channu, Pakistan (N/A, 90,157)

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

- Orovada, Nevada (116th, 117)
- Schurz, Nevada (77th, 656)
- Hamilton, Scotland, UK (169th, 54,640)

Third Stake Created in Kenya



The Church organized its third stake in Kenya in March. The Nairobi Kenya South Stake was created from a division of the two previously operating Nairobi stakes (organized in 2001 and 2016). Furthermore, several new congregations were also organized during the month as part of the creation of the new stake, and multiple

branches also advanced into wards. Approximately [1,450 people attended the meeting](#) to create the new stake. The Church announced a temple for Nairobi, Kenya in 2017 that remains under construction. Moreover, the Church in Kenya has recently organized several new branches in cities where no branches have ever operated, including Makindu, Nakuru and Oyugis, as well as additional branches in Eldoret and Mombasa. The creation of the Africa Central Area in 2020 with headquarters in Nairobi has appeared to be a major catalyst in challenging more resources into one of the most underserved areas of the world with a high potential for current and future growth.

Significant Expansion of Outreach in Angola

Unprecedented expansion and growth is occurring in the African nation of Angola. Within the past year, the Church has organized member groups in several previously unreached cities, and recently, several of these member groups have been organized into official branches. There are now six cities in Angola with an official ward or branch—three of which had the first branch organized within the past 6 months. Local members report that the most rapid growth has occurred in the city of Huambo where a fourth branch was recently organized. The Huambo Angola District, organized in late 2021, now has more than 1,000 members even though there was only one branch in Huambo until late 2020. Local members indicate that there are plans for the district to become a stake by the end of 2023. Member groups operate in at least two more cities at present, including Benguela and Kuito (the latter is reportedly approved also to become a branch). Local members also report that leaders from local churches have joined the Church, some of whom have lead groups of congregations numbering in the tens of thousands of members.



and the Cottonwood Heights Utah Brighton Stake. Three of the six wards were discontinued as part of the reorganization, and one ward each from the Salt Lake Cottonwood Heights Stake was reassigned to a neighboring stake.

The Church has regularly discontinued stakes in the Salt Lake City area since the early 2000s primarily due to active members moving to newer communities in Salt Lake County or in Utah County and being replaced by those who are not Latter-day Saints or Latter-day Saints who are not active. However, the Church had an unusually long stretch of no stake consolidations in Salt Lake City that lasted from 2016 until early 2023. The Church in the greater Salt Lake City area discontinued three stakes in 2016, two stakes in 2015, and four stakes in 2011. Altogether, 11 stakes have been discontinued in Salt Lake County since 2010. However, the Church in Salt Lake County has organized 24 new stakes since 2010. Additional stake consolidations appear likely in Salt Lake City within the near future, as there are many stakes that have had a decline in the number of congregations during the past 20 years.

First New Stake Created in Peru Since COVID-19 Pandemic



The Church created its second stake in the remote city of Pucallpa. Three new wards were created in Pucallpa in 2019, which increased the number of wards in the stake to 10. The last time the Church created a new stake in Peru was in December 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted

church operations in Peru for approximately two years. There are now 113 stakes and 17 districts in Peru.

Two Stakes Discontinued in Salt Lake City, Utah

Two stakes were recently discontinued in Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake Foothill Stake was reduced from eight wards to five wards in April 2008 and remained at five wards and one branch until the stake combined with the neighboring Salt Lake Hillside Stake (which has had five wards, but this stake used to have nine wards until 2008 when several wards were discontinued). The Salt Lake Hillside Stake was renamed the Salt Lake Wasatch Stake and now has seven wards and one branch, as three wards were discontinued when the stakes were merged into a single stake.

The Salt Lake Cottonwood Heights Stake (which had seven wards and one branch in the late 2000s) had six wards and one branch prior to consolidating with Salt Lake Butler West Stake, the Salt Lake Cottonwood Stake,