



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

May 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)

10. Aba Nigeria Osisioma - May 15th, 2022
11. Herriman Utah Mountain Ridge - May 22nd, 2022
12. Vineyard Utah Springwater - May 22nd, 2022
13. Abobo Cote d'Ivoire Quatre Étages – May 29th, 2022
14. Ohafia Nigeria – May 29th, 2022

New Districts

2. Ugep Nigeria - April 10th, 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

4. Osaka Japan North Stake
5. Osaka Japan Sakai Stake
2. Fukuchiyama Japan District

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Lutz, Florida (183rd, 19,344)
- Manistee, Michigan (151st, 6,259)
- El Reno, Oklahoma (30th, 16,989)
- Odiongan, Philippines (N/A, 49,200)
- Dodoma, Tanzania (9th, 213,636)
- Antalya, Turkey (8th, 1.19 million)

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

- California City, California (406th, 14,973)
- Geneva, Illinois (115th, 21,393)
- Abashiri, Japan (N/A, 35,759)
- Ako, Japan (N/A, 45,892)
- Amagasaki, Japan (N/A, 459,593)
- Ebetsu, Japan (205th, 121,056)
- Hirakata, Japan (48th, 397,289)
- Kakogawa, Japan (85th, 260,878)
- Maizuru, Japan (N/A, 80,336)
- Miki, Japan (N/A, 75,294)
- Nabari, Japan (N/A, 76,387)
- Nemuro, Japan (N/A, 24,636)
- Tanabe, Japan (N/A, 69,870)
- Shingu, Japan (N/A, 27,171)
- Sumoto, Japan (N/A, 41,236)
- Takatsuki, Japan (N/A, 352,698)
- Kaluga, Russia (56th, 331,842)
- Lipetsk, Russia (38th, 503,216)
- Lotoshino, Russia (N/A, 4,863)
- Ryazan, Russia (32nd, 534,801)
- Smolensk, Russia (60th, 320,170)
- Tula, Russia (41st, 467,955)
- Tver, Russia (46th, 424,969)
- Yaroslavl, Russia (26th, 601,403)

Church Closes its Only Branches in Eight Russian Cities

The Church in Russia closed its only branches in eight Russian cities nearby Moscow, including Kaluga, Lipetsk, Lotoshino, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tula, Tver, and Yaroslavl. The Church organized its first branches in nearly all these cities between 2001 and 2002. These cities have a combined population of 3.2 million people, or 2.2% of the entire population of Russia. Thus, the closure of the branches of the Church in these cities has decreased the Church's national outreach (defined by cities with an official ward or branch) by 2.2% of what it was previously (approximately 33%). The Church also significantly expanded the geographical boundaries of the Moscow Russia Stake into the areas where these branches were closed to include nearly all regions in the Central Federal District that has a combined population of approximately 39.3 million. This decision was likely due to limited missionary resources to help support these branches that had extremely few active members. For example, some of the branches that closed had less than 10 active members as of 5-7 years ago. Including these cities within the boundaries of the stake may provide for greater Russian leadership support for member groups that probably continue to function in most of these cities.



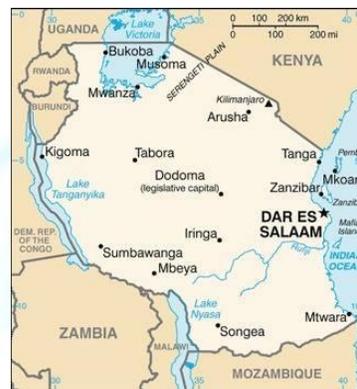
Fifteenth Stake Created in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

The Church organized its fifteenth stake in the Abidjan metropolitan area on May 29th. The Church in Abidjan organized its first stake 1997. The number of stakes in Abidjan increased to two in 2000, three in 2006, four in 2010, five in 2012, seven in 2014, eight in 2015, 10 in 2016, 12 in 2017, 14 in 2020, and 15 in 2022. Rapid growth occurred in Cote d'Ivoire between 2012 and 2018 as annual membership growth rates exceeded 20% for some years. However, annual membership growth has significantly slowed to 7.1% in 2019 and 8.73% for the two-year period of 2020-2021. Moreover, the Church has



also organized only two new wards in Abidjan since 2020. Abidjan is the metropolitan city on the Afro-Eurasian landmass with the most stakes—a considerable accomplishment given the Church has only operated stakes in Abidjan for 25 years.

First Group Created in Tanzanian Capital



The Church recently organized its first member group in Dodoma—the legislative capital city of Tanzania. Dodoma was the sixth most populous city without a Church presence prior to the organization of the member group. There are now five cities in Tanzania with an official

Church presence: Dar Es Salaam (eight branches), Arusha (three branches), Mwanza (two branches), Moshi (one branch), and Dodoma (one group). The Church in Tanzania reported significant membership growth during the 2020-2021 period, marking the first time rapid membership growth has occurred in Tanzania since the early 2000s (the last time when there were two consecutive years with at least a 10% annual membership growth rate). Returned missionaries report that the creation of a second district in the country in Arusha appears imminent and that there are good prospects for the Dar Es Salaam Tanzania District to become the first stake in the country within the near future. Despite this recent progress, there were only 2,309 Latter-day Saints as of year-end 2021. The estimated population of Tanzania is 63.9 million. Thus, there is only one Latter-day Saint per 27,654 people in Tanzania.

Good Attendance at District Conference in Sierra Leone

The Makeni Sierra Leone district recently had 505 people gathered for the Sunday session of district conference. There are only five branches in the district—four of which are located in the city of Makeni. The Church organized its first branch in Makeni in 2013.



The city of Magburaka also pertains to the district where the first branch was organized in 2021.

First Branch organized in Romblon Province, Philippines



The Church created its first branch in the Philippine province of Romblon—an administrative division in the Philippines with approximately 309,000 people. Romblon was previously the most populous unreached province with a predominantly Christian population in the Philippines. The new branch was organized in the city of Odiangan where there are approximately 49,200 people. The new branch pertains to the Mindoro Oriental Philippines District. The provincial capital of Romblon remains unreached by the Church and has approximately 40,000 people. There remain several

additional unreached, predominantly Christian provinces in the Philippines with at least 100,000 inhabitants such as Apayao, the Dinagat Islands, and Mountain Province.

Two Stakes and One District Discontinued in Central Honshu, Japan

Similar to the significant consolidation of wards and branches in Hokkaido last month, the Church underwent a major restructuring of its stakes in the Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto metropolitan area in May. The Church discontinued the Osaka Japan North Stake (organized in 1977) and the Osaka Japan Sakai Stake (organized in 1982). Also, the Church discontinued the Fukuchiyama Japan District (organized in 1980). The Church has experienced some of the most significant decline in the number of congregations and stakes/districts in the Osaka/Kobe/Kyoto area. There are now only three stakes in the metropolitan area and surrounding regions, whereas there were six stakes and two districts in 2000. At one point, the Church also briefly operated a second stake in Kyoto from 1992-1993. Moreover, the Church in Japan closed its only ward or branch in 13 cities during the past two months—10 of which were in the Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto area. Most of these cities had a ward or branch continuously operating for 40-50 years, and now members must travel to another city to attend church unless member groups may function under the supervision of a nearby ward or branch. However, it is important to note that most of the wards and branches closed as part of this consolidation have had few active members for many years. For example, many of the wards closed in the Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto area have had 50 or fewer active members for at least 5-7 years. There are now 22 stakes and 11 districts in Japan. In contrast, the Church in Japan reached an all-time high of 31 stakes and 19 districts in 2000.

