



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

May 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)

15. Gore Oklahoma - May 7th, 2023
16. Lomé Togo Agoe - May 7th, 2023
17. Owasso Oklahoma - May 7th, 2023
18. Beira Mozambique Munhava - May 14th, 2023
19. Iquitos Perú San Juan - May 21st, 2023
20. Riobamba Ecuador - May 21st, 2023
21. West Haven Utah North - May 21st, 2023

New Districts

1. Kisangani DR Congo - April 2nd, 2023

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

5. Kearns Utah Western Hills Stake
6. Watford England Stake
7. Fort Lauderdale Florida Stake
8. Miami Florida South Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Guaramanao, Cuba (N/A, N/A)
- Luiza, DR Congo (N/A, N/A)
- Coyah, Guinea (17th, 49,574)
- Gracias, Honduras (36th, 18,550)
- Imosan, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Orerokpe, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- Asia, Philippines (N/A, N/A)
- Falealupo, Samoa (N/A, 539)
- Laurens, South Carolina (64th, 9,340)

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

None Reported in May 2023

Membership Growth by Country: 2022

The Church published its country-by-country membership figures for the year 2022. See below for the countries with the most rapid membership growth rates during 2022.

- Burundi - 50.7% - 1,240
- Rwanda - 36.9% - 1,154
- Tanzania - 29.9% - 2,999
- Mozambique - 18.6% - 18,443
- Benin - 17.7% - 5,606
- Republic of the Congo - 16.1% - 11,481
- Iceland - 15.4% - 382
- DR Congo - 15.4% - 102,862
- Turkey - 14.8% - 658
- Angola - 14.4% - 4,760
- Liberia - 14.1% - 20,335
- Cameroon - 13.0% - 2,721
- Kazakhstan - 11.7% - 229
- Namibia - 11.2% - 1,110
- Sierra Leone - 10.6% - 28,867
- Bahrain - 10.5% - 252
- Dominica - 10.3% - 160

Several Stakes Discontinued

Several stakes have been recently discontinued, including two stakes in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale metropolitan area in Florida. This decision appeared motivated to help strengthen the stakes in the area. The Church had organized two new stakes in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area approximately 10 years ago, and thus, the Church's organization in South Florida has essentially returned to what it was prior to 2014. There has been essentially stagnant overall congregational growth in South Florida since the organization of the two new stakes 10 years ago. Church growth trends in Florida are variable, and the Church has most recently experienced its greatest growth in the state in central Florida, particularly in the Orlando area.

Also, the Church recently discontinued a stake in England and a stake in Utah (the fourth stake to be discontinued in Utah in 2023). This marks the second time a stake has ever been discontinued in England. Stake discontinuations are usually the result of efforts to strengthen congregations in the area in locations where stagnant growth or decline has occurred, often due to historically low member activity rates and active members moving away.

Second Branch Created in Guinea

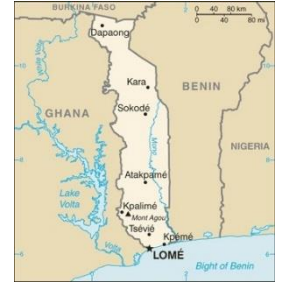
The Church organized its second branch in the West African country of Guinea. The Coyah Branch was created in the city of Coyah which is essentially a suburb of the greater Conakry metropolitan area. Guinea pertains



to the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro Mission. The Church organized its first branch in Guinea in Conakry in 2017. The Church has not published recent membership figures for Guinea. The most recent figure published by the Church was in 2018 when there were 61 members in the country.

New Stake in Togo

The Church organized its third stake in the West African nation of Togo. The Church has grown rapidly in Togo since the organization of the first branch in the country in 1999. The first stake was organized in 2013 and a second stake was created in 2017. Togo appears likely to become its own mission in the near future due to good opportunities for expanding national outreach and rapid growth in the Benin Cotonou Mission which services both Benin and Togo.



Rapid Growth in Beira, Mozambique

The Church created its third stake in Beira, Mozambique in May at a special conference of the Beira Mozambique Stake with more than 1,000 people in attendance. Two new wards and one new branch were organized in the conference, and there were a total of 145 men sustained to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood. More information about the creation of the new stake can be found [here](#). The Church announced a temple for Beira in April 2021. The first official congregation of the Church in Beira was organized in 1999. The Mozambique Beira Mission was created in 2021.



Three New Wards Created in Bo, Sierra Leone

Three new wards were recently created in the Bo Sierra Leone North Stake, bringing the total number of wards in the stake to 12. The Church has experienced rapid growth in Bo for approximately one decade now, as the Church grew from a single district with approximately half a dozen branches to three stakes with 27 wards today. The average ward includes less than 10,000 people within its geographical boundaries. Moreover, the percentage of Latter-day Saints in the city population of Bo exceeds nearly all major metropolitan areas in Latin America despite a Church presence in Bo since 1990. Prospects appear good for the creation of a fourth stake, the organization of a mission, and the announcement of a temple in Bo in the immediate future.

