



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

November 2021

## 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)

- 36. Smithfield Utah West - November 7th, 2021
- 37. Carapicuiba Brazil - November 14th, 2021
- 38. Washington DC YSA North - Nov. 14th, 2021
- 39. Winnipeg Manitoba West - Nov. 14th, 2021
- 40. Dayton Ohio North - Nov. 21st, 2021

### New Districts

None reported in November 2021

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

- 9. Jurupa California Stake
- 12. Fort Francis Ontario District

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)  
precise population data from [www.citypopulation.de](http://www.citypopulation.de)

- Enns, Austria
- Vuda, Fiji
- Seneagya, Ghana
- Decorah, Iowa
- Banraeaba, Kiribati (11<sup>th</sup>, 1,789)
- Sykesville, Maryland
- Tenango, Chiapas, Mexico
- Kurumul, Papua New Guinea
- Matru, Sierra Leone
- Tabligbo, Togo

### 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](http://www.citypopulation.de)

Not Updated for November – Will Update in December 2021

### Second Stake Organized in Manitoba, Canada; Proliferation of Tagalog-Speaking Congregations in Alberta, Canada



The Church organized its second stake in the Canadian province of Manitoba during November. The Winnipeg Manitoba West Stake was organized from a division of the Winnipeg Manitoba Stake which was originally created in 1978. The new stake includes four wards and five branches and covers nearly the entire province of Manitoba. The original Winnipeg Manitoba Stake was renamed the Winnipeg Manitoba East Stake and now includes congregations in the former Fort Francis Ontario District which compassed a significant portion of northwestern Ontario province as well as a small area of extreme northern Minnesota. There are now 53 stakes and four districts in Canada.

The Church has also steadily organized new Tagalog-speaking congregations in Alberta, Canada since [the first Tagalog-specific ward was organized in the province in March 2019](#). There are now four wards (three in Calgary, one in Edmonton) and two branches (one in Okotoks, one in Tabor) in Alberta that are designated as Tagalog-speaking. Immigration of Filipino Latter-day Saints from the Philippines appears the primary factor that has driven this significant growth in Tagalog-speaking units in Alberta.

### Church Creates Four Branches in Previously Unreached Cities and Villages in Sierra Leone 2021

The Church in Sierra Leone has organized its first branches in four cities during 2021, including Dia, Magburaka, Matagalemah, and Matru. There are now 20 cities, towns, and villages in Sierra Leone with an official ward or branch. In contrast, the Church had an official congregation in only three cities in 1990, five cities in 2005, and seven cities in 2015. With only one mission and high rates of membership and congregational growth, Sierra Leone appears highly likely to have a second mission organized in the immediate future, probably within the second most populous city of Bo where the Church has one of the highest percentages of Latter-day Saints in an urban area in Africa. Most recently, the Church reported 22,787 members and an annual membership growth rate of 7.1% as of year-end 2019. Sierra Leone has been one of the few African nations that has experienced significant ongoing progress with expanding into previously unreached cities, towns, and villages. Outreach expansion efforts in most African nations have significantly slowed or ceased altogether since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 6.8 million people who live in Sierra Leone.



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### Four Stakes Discontinued in California in 2021—New Record for Most Stakes Ever Discontinued in California in a Single Year

The Church in California discontinued its fourth stake in 2021 during November, the Jurupa California Stake. Other stakes discontinued in California during the year include the San Diego California North Stake, the Santee California Stake, and the Pleasanton California Stake. The discontinuation all four of these stakes has been due to the steady consolidation of wards in the metropolitan areas of San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco/Oakland that has been primarily due to many

active Latter-day Saints moving out of the state. It is unclear whether the COVID-19 has accelerated this trend of outmigration. The Church in California has experienced a long-term trend of stake consolidations since the early 1990s. The Church in California discontinued two stakes in 2020, one stake in 2019, one stake in 2017, one stake in 2016, one stake in 2015, one stake in 2012, one stake in 2011, and two stakes in 2008.

### New Ward Organized in Kiribati for the First Time since 2000

The Church in Kiribati organized a new ward for the first time since 2000. The Banraeaba Ward was organized in the Tarawa Kiribati West Stake. Banraeaba was previously the second most populous village in Kiribati without a ward or branch. Member inactivity has appeared the primary barrier that has prevented the organization of additional wards on Tarawa Atoll where the Church's only two stakes operate. Additionally, the Church organized a new branch in Betio where three wards also operate. Although the Banraeaba Ward is the Church's first new ward organized in Kiribati since 2000, the Church has regularly organized new branches in recent years on other atolls and islands. The Church announced a temple for Tarawa, Kiribati in October 2020.



### New Ward Created in Austria

The Church organized a new ward in Austria in the Salzburg Austria Stake [The Enns Ward was organized from a division of the Linz Ward which was previously the largest congregation in Austria](#). This marks the first time in decades that a new ward has been organized in Austria. Although it indicates a major milestone after decades of stagnant growth, the Church in Austria also recently discontinued one of its four German-speaking wards in Vienna where the Church has operated four German-speaking wards for multiple decades. However, [an article on the Church's Austria Newsroom website](#) indicates that this change was also influenced by the need to free more leadership to staff the Vienna Austria Temple when it is complete.

