



# THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

October 2020

## 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. Edmonton Alberta YSA - October 11th, 2020
16. Layton Utah Shoreline - October 11th, 2020
17. Rigby Idaho Holbrooke - October 11th, 2020
18. Pointe-Noir Republic of the Congo - Oct. 18th
19. Farmington Utah Farmington Bay - Oct. 25, 2020
20. Lehi Utah Jordan River YSA - October 25th, 2020

### New Districts

*None reported in October 2020*

### Discontinued Stakes and Districts

*None reported in October 2020*

### Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Enugu-Ezike, Nigeria (N/A, N/A)
- South Rim, Utah (N/A, N/A)

### 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)

- Urakawa, Japan (N/A, 12,494)
- Coronel Bogado, Paraguay (N/A, N/A)
- Comanche, Texas (429<sup>th</sup>, 4,335)
- Tranqueras, Uruguay (54<sup>th</sup>, 7,236)

### Six New Temples Announced

At the beginning of October, Church President Russell M. Nelson announced plans to construct six new temples in the following locations:

- Tarawa, Kiribati
- Port Vila, Vanuatu
- Lindon, Utah
- Greater Guatemala City, Guatemala
- São Paulo East, São Paulo, Brazil
- Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Of these six new temples, two were announced in countries where no temples have ever been announced or constructed (Kiribati and Vanuatu). The new temple in Bolivia is the Church's second temple in the country after the dedication of the Cochabamba Bolivia Temple in 2000. Two of the temples announced were in cities that already have one temple (Guatemala City, Guatemala and São Paulo, Brazil). The new temple in Utah is the Church's 25<sup>th</sup> temple in the state. To put this into perspective, there are more temples in Utah than in any country of the world aside from the United States (Mexico is the country with the second most temples at 14 temples, Brazil is the country with the third most temples at 12 temples).

There are now 231 temples, including 168 dedicated temples, 24 temples under construction, and 39 temples announced in the planning stages. Of these 231 temples, 42% are in the United States, 26% are in Latin America and the Caribbean, 8% are in Asia, 7% are in Oceania, 7% are in Europe, 6% are in Africa, and 4% are in Canada. Although new temples have been traditionally announced in cities with sizable numbers of stakes located far from the nearest temple, recent temple announcements have typically favored remote locations with few stakes and

members or cities that are significant Church centers of strength where temples already operate.

### New Branch in Malawi



The Church recently organized the Kasungu Branch in Malawi. The creation of the new branch is a major milestone for the Church in the country as there were only two other cities in the entire country with an official branch prior to the creation of the new branch (Blantyre and Lilongwe). The last time the Church had organized a branch in a city without a branch was in 2007 in Lilongwe. The Church also operates a member group in Liwonde. Malawi pertains to the Zambia Lusaka Mission. There were over 3,100 members and eight branches in Malawi as of year-end 2019.

### New Stake in the Republic of the Congo

The Church organized its third stake in the Republic of the Congo during October. The Pointe-Noire Republic of the Congo District was organized into a stake. Significant growth has occurred for the Church in the Republic of the Congo in recent years as membership has increased by 8-10%



annually since the beginning of 2018. Much of this growth has occurred in Pointe-Noire. Returned missionaries report that the creation of the Church's fourth stake in the country will occur in November with a third stake to be established in Brazzaville. The Republic of the Congo has one of the highest percentages of Latter-day Saints in the population (0.16%) in Central Africa. Historical Church growth data for the Republic of the Congo can be found [here](#).

### Young Single Adult Ward Organized in Mexico City

The Church organized a young single adult (YSA) ward in Mexico City for what appears the first time in Church history. The new ward is the Politécnico YSA Ward in the México City Arbolillo Stake. Although the Church previously has operated student wards and one student stake (Mexico City Zarahemla Stake) in Mexico City when it operated its Church school before it closed and became repurposed as a new missionary training center, these congregations were for students in secondary school and not young adults. There is tremendous potential for the Church to organize YSA units in major cities in Latin America to encourage Latter-day Saints to marry within the Church and to attract young single adult converts. The new YSA Ward appears to be the first YSA congregation in Latin America.



### Māori-Speaking Branch Organized in New Zealand

The Church organized a Māori-speaking branch in the northern portion of the North Island of New Zealand. This is the first time in 70 years that the Church has operated a Māori-speaking branch in New Zealand. The Church's article on the new branch organization can be found [here](#).