



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

October 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)

None reported in October 2022

New Districts

None reported in October 2022

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

None reported in October 2022

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Spanish Fort, Alabama (68th, 10,049)
- Río Colorado, Argentina (N/A, 11,733)
- Gravette, Arkansas (95th, 3,547)
- Dassa-Zoumè, Benin (33rd, 29,461)
- Humjibre, Ghana (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

- Semmes, Alabama (119th, 4,941)
- Skive, Denmark (32nd, 20,633)

Eighteen New Temples Announced

The Church announced plans to construct 18 new temples during its October 2022 General Conference in the following locations:

- Busan, Korea
- Naga, Philippines
- Santiago, Philippines
- Eket, Nigeria
- Chiclayo, Peru
- Buenos Aires City Center, Argentina
- Londrina, Brazil
- Ribeirão Preto, Brazil
- Huehuetenango, Guatemala
- Jacksonville, Florida
- Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Prosper, Texas
- Lone Mountain, Nevada
- Tacoma, Washington
- Cuernavaca, Mexico
- Pachuca, Mexico
- Toluca, Mexico
- Tula, Mexico

The announcement of these temples brings the total of temples dedicated or planned to 300. The number of planned and dedicated temples reached 100 in 1999 and 200 in 2018. The rapid proliferation of temple announcements in recent years has appeared primarily due to efforts by the Church to make temples more accessible to Latter-day Saints around the world, as most new temples announced have not been due to recent rapid growth in membership or congregations.

2021 Canadian Census

As thoroughly analyzed and reported in [this blog post](#), the 2021 Canadian Census tallied 85,315 self-affiliated Latter-day Saints in Canada, or 0.23% of the total population and 42.8% of official Church-reported membership for year-end 2021. The percentage of self-affiliated Latter-day Saints compared to Church-reported membership was 56.9% in 2011. The 2021 census figure for Latter-day Saints nationwide is 20,050 less than the number of self-affiliated Latter-day Saints tallied in the 2011 census (105,365) - a 19.0% decline in one decade. This marks one of the most significant percentage declines in the self-affiliation of Latter-day Saints noted on a national census. The percentage decline in the number of self-affiliated Latter-day Saints between 2011 and 2021 is similar to the percentage decline of self-affiliated Christians in the Canadian population during this same time period. However, it is important to note that Latter-day Saint figures on the 2021 census were extrapolated from sample data—not the entire data set. Moreover, metrics reported by official Church statistics (i.e., the number of stakes and congregations) have not supported a significant decline in the number of active members in Canada. Thus, it is unclear whether the significant decline in self-affiliated members on the 2021 census may be due to higher rates of inactive members who no longer claim membership on the census or whether there has been a significant decline in active membership in the country.



Progress in Benin and Togo

Local members living in Benin and Togo have provided updates on recent efforts to expand outreach and increase church attendance in these two nations.



The Church in Togo recently organized a new branch in Tabligbo where a member group previously operated with approximately 70 attending meetings. Some congregations in the Benin Cotonou Mission have several hundred attending meetings. The Kpalime Branch, organized in 2018, now has more than 100 attending sacrament meeting, whereas the Tsévié Branch, also organized in 2018, now has 80 attending sacrament meeting. Local members report that individual wards and branches continue to have high numbers of convert baptisms numbering as many as 30 in one year despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In Togo, local members anticipate the creation of a third stake in Lomé in 2023 – the first two stakes in Togo were created in 2013 and 2017.

In Benin, local members report significant progress with the expansion of the Church into previously unreached areas in the country. For example, the Church recently organized its first member group in Dassa-Zoumè, Benin. Local members report there are now member groups in Allada, Bohicon, and Dassa-Zoumè. Organized in 2019, the Bohicon Branch has had nearly 200 attending sacrament meetings. There are now two stakes in Benin that were organized in 2016 and 2021.



Local members report that there are barriers to creating additional branches and groups due to administrative boundaries between the stake and mission and concerns with the quality and availability of local leadership. The growth of the Church in these two nations has been strongly influenced by the quality of local leaders in individual congregations, with some of the greatest support coming from returned missionaries. Togo appears highly likely to have its own mission organized in the immediate future to provide greater resources and mission leadership oversight in Togo and to permit mission leadership in Benin to focus their efforts on continued expansion and growth just in Benin.