



THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

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

September 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)

11. Sheridan Wyoming - August 30th, 2020
12. Queen Creek Arizona Heritage - Sept 13th, 2020
13. Kumasi Ghana Suame - September 13th, 2020
14. San Antonio Texas Pecan Valley - Sept 13, 2020

- West Point, Mississippi (38th, 11,307)

First Stake Organized Outside the United States since COVID-19 Pandemic Began



The Church organized the Kumasi Ghana Suame Stake in September—the first new stake created outside of the United States since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new stake is the Church's fourth stake to be organized in Kumasi and was created from a maturation of the Agona Ghana District into a stake along with

the realignment of the three original Kumasi stakes. The Church also reassigned congregations in the Konongo area to the Nkawkaw Ghana District likely in preparation to organize another stake in this area. Rapid growth has occurred for the Church in Kumasi in the past decade as there was only one stake in Kumasi in 2010. There are now 26 stakes and 10 districts in Ghana.

New Districts

None reported in September 2020

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

3. Santarém Portugal
4. Katowice Poland

New Branches in the Botswana/Namibia Mission

The Church recently organized the Serowe Branch in Botswana and the Ongwediva Branch in Namibia. Both branches are the Church's first branches to ever be organized in either city. Moreover, the new branch in Ongwediva is one of the most remote branches of the Church in Africa as this is the first branch to be organized in northern Namibia. The Church in Namibia has experienced slow growth since its establishment three decades ago, whereas the Church in Botswana has experienced modest growth rates.

Member Groups Now Reported in Haiti

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

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

- Andorra La Vella, Andorra (1st, 20,526)
- Serowe, Botswana (6th, 50,820)
- Corvo, Cabo Verde (N/A, N/A)
- Chuluota, Florida (603rd, 2,483)
- Nocatee, Florida (474th, 4,524)
- Agona Nyakrom, Ghana (N/A, N/A)
- Gros-Morne, Haiti (25th, 30,511)
- Hinche, Haiti (24th, 30,595)
- Ongwediva, Namibia (11th, 19,300)

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

- Running Springs, California (653rd, 4,862)
- Fort Campbell, Kentucky (31st, 13,685)



The Church's meetinghouse locator website has recently published information on the addresses for member groups in two cities in Haiti: Gros-Morne and Hinche. These two cities numbered among the 10 most populous cities in Haiti where no ward or branch operated. The Church in Haiti

has generally experienced modest growth since its establishment in approximately 1980.

New Branch in Liberia

The Church organized the Ganta Branch in Liberia with 50 members during September. One year ago, the Church organized the Ganta Group with only seven members. Ganta is the 10th city in Liberia to have an official ward or branch organized, and the first city with a branch on the Guinean



border. Rapid national outreach expansion has occurred for the Church in Liberia as there were only three cities with an official ward or branch in 2017. Prospects appear favorable for potential missionary activity across the border in large cities in Guinea, such as Nzerekore. Currently, Guinea is not assigned to a mission with the exception of the city of Conakry, which is assigned to the Cote d'Ivoire Yamoussoukro Mission.

District Discontinued in Portugal

The Church recent discontinued two districts in Europe. The Santarém Portugal District was organized in 1991 and had six branches—most of which have for many years had very few active members. These branches were reassigned to either the Lisbon Portugal Stake or the Oeiras Portugal Stake. The decision to discontinue the district and reassign the branches to stakes was likely due to no realistic prospects for the district to become a stake within the foreseeable future, and better opportunities for limited local leadership to be utilized on a branch level and prepare for larger congregations to become wards. There are now six stakes and three districts in Portugal.



District Discontinued in Poland

The Katowice Poland District was recently discontinued and its five branches were reassigned to the Warsaw Poland District. The entire country of Poland is now within the boundaries of the Warsaw Poland District with a total of 13 branches (one of which is an administrative district-branch to service member groups or isolated members not nearby a branch or member group). The Church in Poland recently reached the minimum membership threshold to become a stake, and at year-end 2019 there were 2,058 members. However, the member activity rate suggests a stake is not likely within the foreseeable future given recent growth trends. In fact, none of the branches in Poland appears close to meeting the criteria to become a ward with perhaps only one or two exceptions. Poland is one of the European countries with the smallest Latter-day Saint presence as there is one nominal member per 18,700 people.



New Stake Created in Wyoming

The Church organized the Sheridan Wyoming Stake in August—the second new stake to be organized in Wyoming during the past 30 years (the other stake being the Cheyenne Wyoming East Stake in 2013). Although the rate of stake growth has been extremely slow in Wyoming for several decades, congregational growth rates have generally remained steady, and there are multiple stakes that are ready to divide, such as the Cody Wyoming Stake (13 wards), the Laramie Wyoming Stake (12 wards, 3 branches), and Casper Wyoming Stake (12 wards, 2 branches). There are now 18 stakes in Wyoming.