

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
 OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

██████████ STAKE

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Dear Brethren,

The following information first came to my attention on ██████████. Since that time, I have been working with the bishops of the members of the ██████████ Stake who have come forward. I submit this outline in an attempt to inform you of this serious situation and to receive counsel on how we should proceed.

Involved members:

Name	Address	Ward	Stake
██████████	██████████ ██████████	██████████ ??	██████████ ??
██████████	██████████ ██████████	██████████ ??	██████████ ??
██████████	██████████ ██████████	██████████	██████████
██████████ (confessed to Bishop)	██████████ ██████████	██████████	██████████
██████████ (confessed to Bishop)	██████████ ██████████	██████████	██████████

I based the Ward and Stake information for the ██████████ and ██████████ families on their street addresses. This should be confirmed with membership record information (which I do not have access to).

For clarification, the ██████████, ██████████ and ██████████ families are all involved in this (including their children). ██████████ is a widow and is involved alone (as far as I know). ██████████ was involved alone, without the knowledge of her husband or children. The group is actively recruiting other followers . . . for example; ██████████' mother is reported to be moving toward active involvement.

Early in September, ██████████ and ██████████ came to the conclusion that the path that they were on was incorrect and that they had been led astray by others involved in these activities. Subsequently, ██████████ and ██████████ met with Bishop ██████████ (██████████ Ward) and ██████████ met with Bishop ██████████ (██████████ Ward) to confess their actions and provide testimony related to this group of members and their actions leading to apostasy.

The following information is based on testimony received from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Each of these members were interviewed by their bishops and then by me. Each of them has given their permission for us to share this information as needed.

All of these people are involved, to some extent, in holistic healing, energy treatments, foot zoning, etc. This interest is one of the tools that [REDACTED] used to recruit these followers. [REDACTED] served as a Bishop in the [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] area. The [REDACTED] family and [REDACTED] were members of his ward during his tenure as bishop. The [REDACTED] family moved to the [REDACTED] Stake in September 2004. They became friends with the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families. Their common interest in the holistic areas described above provided a level of trust and friendship that opened the door for these members to be recruited. Holistic healing and energy treatments seem to be the “gateway drug” used to find recruits.

The [REDACTED] family was struggling with a son who had emotional issues and wasn't sleeping at night. The [REDACTED] family introduced them to energy treatments and showed them how to use prayer to “shield” their son from the influence of the adversary. The treatments worked and lead the [REDACTED] to trust this group even more. [REDACTED] led the group in scripture study and directed them to read “The Second Comforter” by Denver Snuffer and to study Denver's blog. Other books were suggested and the group began to meet together more often. Evil spirits were cast out, sometimes by the male priesthood holders and sometimes by the women in the group. [REDACTED] taught them that the LDS Church is a preparatory organization that prepares some members to accept a higher calling. [REDACTED] believed, as does his friend Denver Snuffer, that a person has the ability to receive the second comforter and can communicate face to face with the Savior. All members of the group were encouraged to work towards receiving their second comforter. Over a period of about a year the [REDACTED] family was led from energy treatments to a point where they were participating with the group as they took the sacrament and then in August they baptized each other into a second (higher) order that was intended to allow them to be prepared for and enter into Zion. Blessings were performed by women as were other ordinances. The sacrament was administered with full loaves of bread and wine. They were to eat and drink until they were filled. This resulted in the members of the group becoming inebriated and more open to these new ideas and beliefs. The sacramental prayers were the same prayers we use in the LDS Church. The baptismal prayer was written by [REDACTED] who received it by revelation. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also received revelations (hearing voices). [REDACTED] also felt that she was being led to seer stones. Some of these stones helped with moods, some spirituality, others helped with revelation. Occasionally she would give a seer stones to someone as she felt inspired to do. Some of the members of the group were given these stones and some were not. Revelation was not received through the stones . . . they were intended to make the holder feel better. In addition to the sacrament and the baptisms, the members of the group covenanted to do things to prepare for the coming of the Lord and the creation of Zion. The blessings and ordinances that were performed by women were done in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost . . . they were performed by the authority of the patriarchal priesthood. Everything was built on the beliefs of the LDS Church. All of the children in the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families were included when the sacrament was being administered (the children only drank grape juice) and the older children were also baptized. At first the [REDACTED] felt that they had experienced an increase in spirit and light but this quickly turned dark.

[REDACTED]'s experiences were very similar to what the [REDACTED] described but she went deeper into the sect and became a leader. Her friendship began with the same holistic involvement and then, about 12 to 18 months ago, [REDACTED] and her husband, [REDACTED] were invited to dinner with the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families. At the end of dinner, [REDACTED] brought out the scriptures and they began a study group. [REDACTED] saw through [REDACTED] very early and told [REDACTED] that he didn't want to be involved with them anymore. [REDACTED] continued her involvement behind [REDACTED]'s back. The process was the same . . . holistic involvement led to studying together . . . the teachings of Denver Snuffer were introduced as were the teachings of others like Denise Mendenhall (who had a near death experience and believes she came back without a veil shielding her view and communication with those in the Spirit World). Eventually the ordinances

were introduced. ██████ told ██████ that Denver Snuffer was like John the Baptist and that ██████ was going to be one of the leaders in Zion after the destruction associated with Christ's return. The group believed that they would eventually move to Grand Mesa, CO . . . after the coming of Christ . . . this is where Zion would be organized. ██████ set ██████ apart as one of his counselors; she was assigned to receive revelation for the group. ██████ received revelation and ██████ would interpret it for the group. ██████ was also set apart as a counselor to ██████. ██████ was also sealed to ██████ as his spiritual wife (the marriage was not consummated). ██████ performed this sealing by the authority of the patriarchal priesthood. ██████ taught that both he and Denver Snuffer were receiving revelation directly from the Savior and that they were speaking with Him daily. ██████ also testified that she had received her second comforter. ██████ said that she had a vision but it was an experience of darkness, not one of light. She believes that she saw the adversary instead of the Savior.

██████ and ██████ also taught reincarnation. They believed in a book called Eternal Lives and taught that some people have plural lives. For example, they taught that Christ was reincarnated many times and, in separate lives, was Adam, Joseph Smith, Moses, etc. ██████ and ██████ felt, and were told by ██████, that they had been set apart in the pre-existence to identify people who have lived these previous lives. They believed that after the destruction the elite will come to ██████ to find out who they really are. ██████ has been identified as Melchizedek, who has left the city of Enoch to come down and create Zion again. The ██████ children have all been told who they were in prior lives.

These people believe that there will only be a few elite families and individuals who will be saved from the destruction. I asked ██████ what that meant for her husband and how she felt about that. She said that ██████ had told her that ██████ was to be her Abrahamic sacrifice. I told ██████ that Abraham was not required to actually sacrifice Isaac. She said that ██████ taught that Isaac was sacrificed and that he was then resurrected so that he could fulfill his role in history.

There are first level, second level and third level ordinances that are performed. First level ordinances are the things we do in the mainstream church, 2nd level is the things that ██████ and the ██████ did, and third level ordinances are reserved for the elite. Some of the other ordinances are a second endowment in which tokens and signs are given and received and there is the execution of penalties. The ordinance of washing of feet was also performed. Before these ordinances there was always the sacrament in which enough wine was consumed to become inebriated, and chase the Spirit away. They refer to themselves as the Church of the First Born, and they believe that the Millennium has already started for some people.

██████████ told the other members of the group that she has a list of people she is trying to convert. ██████'s mother is just starting to get on board. ██████ believes that ██████ is becoming a religious zealot and that this is all about position with her.

Some of the other sources of information that this group relies on are . . .

- Visions of Glory . . . being sold in Seagull Book
- A book written by Denise Mendenhall (she explained in a meeting that ██████ attended that she had an affair with a man, she said she was commanded to do it and it was done in the name of the Lord. ██████ said looking into her eyes was like looking into the eyes of Satan.)
- Ryan Higby is another source . . . he is a foot zoner . . . he does CDs and firesides
- Denver Snuffer's books, "The Second Comforter" and "Passing the Heavenly Gift"
- Once a year there is a group that gets together called the LDS Holistic Conference, there are thousands involved in this (according to ██████). This is not sanctioned by the Church and it draws many fringe and anti-Mormon groups who use this forum to recruit followers.

At this point, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been placed on informal probation. The temple recommends of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been cancelled. [REDACTED] told me that [REDACTED] is telling people that she is schizophrenic. Brother and Sister [REDACTED] did not go to Bishop [REDACTED] on their own so he contacted them and they have agreed to meet with him this Sunday.

It is my recommendation that the priesthood leaders who preside over [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] be contacted and provided with this information. We have the testimony of three witnesses and need to try to reclaim these dear members. With regard to the repentance process of all of these individuals, if they respond positively and forsake their promotion of these false teachings then we can probably help them through the repentance process using informal discipline. If they do not respond to the counsel of their leaders, we have little choice but to convene formal disciplinary counsels in order to protect the innocent and safeguard the integrity of the Church.

I apologize for the volume of this information, but I felt a complete account was necessary at this point.

Sincerely your brother in the gospel,

[REDACTED]

President [REDACTED]