

██████████  
Membership Record ██████████

Brief Facts:

Born ██████████

Elder, endowed, sealed to spouse

No current temple recommend, no current calling

Children at home, ██████████

Has other children who have served missions, daughter recently returned, another preparing

Wife and children very active

██████████ attends Sacrament meeting but of late doesn't attend others, sometimes talks in halls during classes. His Bishop has him go to the High Priests class as they can 'control' his comments better than the Elders.

Summary:

I am a new stake president and have only known ██████████ for a few months. According to his Bishop, ██████████ has been expressing his ideas to others for the last 10 years. ██████████ is well read and bright, loves to talk to others about the gospel and his beliefs. Recently he published a book, apparently the first in a series, which prompted the extra concern of his bishop.

In his book he details some of the thoughts below:

--██████████ claims to have seen and been ministered to by angels and seen Christ face to face. He says he has been taught that all these things he teaches are true and commanded to write these things in the book he published

--The Church is organized religion. God doesn't do that. Men do. Joseph Smith restored the gospel. He did not organize the Church. Man organized the Church.

--The LDS Church is following the false traditions of their fathers like the Nephites did in the Book of Mormon. They have created their own Nicene Creed like the Catholic Church in 1921 when they removed the Lectures on Faith from the Doctrine and Covenants. Joseph F. Smith secretly did this. Joseph Fielding Smith was on the committee to do this. He later said he regretted it.

--Sealing powers must be passed from God to man individually therefore temples don't have power to seal families. You must see the face of God first, then receive sealing power from him to seal your family and all things. Any man can have this power.

--We don't need a prophet. If man can see the face of God and be continually in his presence he can be his own prophet and receive revelation for himself, his family and others. He can prophesy. Anyone can be a prophet like this.



--All the keys of the priesthood, authority, sealing power, etc. that Joseph Smith restored were given to Hyrum, his successor, and taken from the earth when they both were killed. These were never passed on to the Twelve. They died with Joseph and Hyrum. Hence, the current brethren don't have those keys, only God does.

--All churches teach good and have power given them from God to conduct their church. They receive revelation and authority on some level from God. The LDS Church is the best, or better than of all the other churches, to bring us to Christ but they don't hold all the keys, capacities, authority etc. to bring us to salvation. Only 'knowing' Christ gives us salvation.

--One can't receive revelation unless he has seen the face of God. Otherwise, it is just inspiration or a good feeling.

--A person can receive revelation for anyone at any time, not limited to one's stewardship.

--Our current Prophet and Apostles are not real or true Prophets based on the definition that they do not walk and talk with God and have not seen Christ. Their journals record this. They must obtain this to be a special witness of Jesus Christ. Therefore we are being led by the best men possible but not living Prophets and Apostles. If they see God or Christ they must profess they have seen him and declare his name and authority when speaking to others. This is an eternal law and if they have seen his face they are not telling us.

--The only way to salvation is to see God's face, know him, be in his presence and receive the second comforter. There is no other way.

--The Holy Ghost is not what we teach or really understand. It is a personage or personages, a number of individuals who witness to us the truth.

--Priesthood is given from God to man individually. Not man to man. Hence, the priesthood power we have is not from God. All other churches have their own priesthood and revelation from God also.

--Testimony must be derived physically just like evidence in a court of law, not spiritually. We must see, hear, taste, smell and touch to receive testimony. Hence, we must be in God's presence to have a testimony. This is the only way.

--In his book he teaches that women can and should exercise the priesthood as outlined by Joseph Smith

██████ is eager to share his beliefs with others. Unfortunately there are some, even in his ward, who sympathize with him. His sister is divorced and has recently lived with him. She apparently believes what he says and teaches it to



her daughters. There are others whom he has approached privately to share his ideas and encourage them to read his book.

██████ has met with his bishop and expressed some of the above ideas. The Bishop would not give him a temple recommend and sought counsel from me. I have visited ██████ in his home when releasing his daughter from her mission. He expressed some of these ideas, particularly those of his experiences seeing the Savior. I felt to share my testimony of living prophets which I could tell was not received well by his sister. Elder ██████ and I also recently visited with him. He is gracious and kind, loves and cares for his family but also holds to these beliefs and the 'special' experiences he has had in his life. ██████ wife loves him but is obviously concerned that his actions will lead to his losing his membership. His children also love their father but his ideas are a source of confusion for them.

As far as I can determine [REDACTED] has not as yet been given the 'voice of warning' by his priesthood leaders. As his stake president I feel that the next step is for his Bishop and I to meet with him to do just that.

We will proceed as you direct.

**[REDACTED]**

President, **[REDACTED]** Stake

Other notes:

*From [REDACTED] a member of [REDACTED] ward and also a member of the Correlation Department of the Church. I asked if he would review [REDACTED] book and this was his comment:*

Thank you for your confidence and trust. I would be happy to review this book. I'm not unfamiliar with the problem in our ward, but not being in an ecclesiastical position have felt somewhat limited in what I can do. I don't want to overstep my bounds. From time to time, I have visited with Bishop [REDACTED] (both at his request and mine) about [REDACTED] and some others in the ward with concerns. I'm so sorry to see these kinds of things creep into the minds of our members. [REDACTED] for years has had beliefs that are off base. That in and of itself is very concerning, however he hasn't stopped there. He has been recruiting people to his beliefs for nearly as long. He even tried to recruit me, he gave me a book in the fall of 2011 that he wanted me to read called, "Passing the Heavenly Gift" by Denver Snuffer, you are probably familiar with it. Because we get calls from the members about his books, we had to make a file here at work on Snuffer because of how doctrinally off base his books have been (Snuffer has been excommunicated since then). So I was aware of the book when [REDACTED] gave it to me and told him that the book was apostate. He hasn't approached me since. I'm afraid that his book is another effort to broaden his recruiting efforts. He is very good at arguing



his point of view, he will use scriptures and statements of the brethren out of context to prove his point. For many whose understanding is limited he sounds very persuasive.

The Correlation Department of the Church, of which I am a part, had a major role in working with the Twelve to re-write the current Handbooks. As a result we receive calls from the field for questions that come in about the Handbooks. A standard quote we use to help stake presidents and bishops with personal apostasy issues they deal with is this one by George Q. Cannon:

"A friend . . . wished to know whether we . . . considered an honest difference of opinion between a member of the Church and the authorities of the Church was apostasy . . . We replied that we had not stated that an honest difference of opinion between a member of the Church and authorities constituted apostasy; . . . but we could not conceive of a man publishing those differences of opinion, and seeking by arguments, sophistry and special pleading to enforce upon the people to produce division and strife, and place the acts and counsels of the authorities of the Church, if possible, in a wrong light, and not be an apostate." (Deseret News, 3 Nov. 1869, p. 457).

The fact that [REDACTED] is recruiting people to his views is of great concern.

I'm so sorry this is so long, but I felt it would help to know that I have been involved with [REDACTED] personally and know a little of what is happening. I'm happy to review the book and do anything else I can to help.

*Brother [REDACTED] reviewed [REDACTED] book and marked it up extensively with comments and concerns. I would be happy to supply that information, if desired.*

## Handbook 1 (6.6.3) When a Disciplinary Council is Mandatory

### Apostasy

As used here, **apostasy** refers to members who:

1. Repeatedly act in clear, open, and deliberate public opposition to the Church or its leaders.
2. Persist in teaching as Church doctrine information that is not Church doctrine after they have been corrected by their bishop or a higher authority.
3. Continue to follow the teachings of apostate sects (such as those that advocate plural marriage) after being corrected by their bishop or a higher authority.
4. Formally join another church and advocate its teachings.



Priesthood leaders must take disciplinary action against apostates to protect Church members. The Savior taught the Nephites that they should continue to minister to a transgressor, “but if he repent not he shall not be numbered among my people, that he may not destroy my people” ([3 Nephi 18:31](#); see also [Mosiah 26:36](#)).