

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1200

December 14, 2010

Elder William R. Walker
Executive Director
Temple Department

Dear Elder Walker:

Currently, interior photographs of temples are made available to the media and on the *Newsroom* web site during the open house period of a new temple. Our practice has been to remove them about two weeks after the dedication.

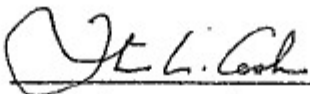
However, a search of images on Google and other search engines reveals hundreds of unauthorized temple interior and exterior photos on dozens of sites, along with short videos that attempt to discuss the temple. There is no way to prevent these photographs from appearing, given the ease of use of picture-taking cell phones and public open houses. Some of these web sites are obviously created by members of the Church and are well intentioned. Many are created by others and are anything but helpful in understanding the purpose of temples.

The recent publication of the special edition of the *Ensign* entitled "Temples," contained dozens of beautiful pictures of the exteriors and interiors of temples throughout the world. This publication is in stark contrast to most of the materials currently found on the Internet concerning these sacred buildings.

We recommend that we a) no longer remove pictures of temple interiors from our websites, and b) increase the number of authorized pictures in appropriate ways on our sites to offset what is already on the Internet. Images on our own sites will always show copyright notices.

Sincerely,


M. Russell Ballard


Quentin L. Cook