

On 7/20/16, 2:01 PM, "[REDACTED]" [REDACTED]@ldschurch.org> wrote:

Kent,

We concluded the interview with [REDACTED] yesterday and I am on my way back today.

Just some background on a few salient issues that you may or may not have heard. After the initial interview by Elder [REDACTED] with both President and Sister [REDACTED] and afterwards just with President [REDACTED], Sister [REDACTED] made contact (via text messaging) with the mother of Sister [REDACTED] (the alleged victim). The mother lives in [REDACTED] but does not speak English very well so she asked one of her other daughters to contact President [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] mission to find out more.

Of course that contact was inappropriate but two things are particularly concerning. First, Sister [REDACTED] suggested that Sister [REDACTED] recant her story. I asked for and have now received the thread of the texts which clearly show that Sister [REDACTED] did suggest that Sister [REDACTED] recant her story. The texts also support that the [REDACTED] lived in the [REDACTED]' home for 11 months and not for six weeks as was initially stated by President [REDACTED] and the texts show that [REDACTED] was not always with her mother as President [REDACTED] had stated. The other concern relating to this contact is that this is no longer only a confidential matter between Sister [REDACTED] and her mission president, but now family members are aware. We made it very clear that neither President [REDACTED] nor Sister [REDACTED] should attempt to have any further contact with any member of the [REDACTED] family either directly or indirectly unless instructed to do so or until this matter is resolved.

As instructed Elder [REDACTED] and I interviewed only President [REDACTED]. The interview was conducted in my office at the area offices in [REDACTED] on Tuesday, July 19th. We began with a prayer. I then invited President [REDACTED] to share any thoughts he was feeling. He did not have too much to say but did continue with his denial of any inappropriate contact.

I asked what his understanding was of what was alleged. He is clear as to the allegations, that both he and [REDACTED] were completely undressed and in bed together on two occasions. He is also aware that [REDACTED] stated there was simulated sex on about 12 other occasions as well as numerous instances of inappropriate touching above the clothing. President [REDACTED] has no misunderstanding of what Sister [REDACTED] has stated. He denied that any of this happened including any inadvertent or innocent touching.

I asked President [REDACTED] if he knew the age of Sister [REDACTED] when she lived in his home. He said he did not know but thought she might have been around 14. She was in fact 13. I bring this up because in [REDACTED] sometimes we find that men believe that young women 14 and older are no longer considered children and can participate in sexual relations, though that certainly is not the law [REDACTED].

I asked President [REDACTED] if he were aware of any reason Sister [REDACTED] would have to invent this story. He suggested that the only reason he could think of was that she was not satisfied with the lineage in her Patriarchal blessing.

I asked President [REDACTED] to share his recollection of what Sister [REDACTED] was like back then. He said she was fairly reserved and not real outgoing. This, along with the text thread between

Sister [REDACTED] and the mother of Sister [REDACTED] show that she was a normal youth and not one who had a pattern of inventing such stories or even that she was flirtatious.

We then discussed what potential outcomes might result from these allegations and his denial. He said he had not thought about that but was willing to accept whatever the First Presidency asked of him. We explored this for some time. President [REDACTED] has a home in [REDACTED] and in [REDACTED]. He stated that whether he were released early or not that he would likely return to [REDACTED].

The interview continued and we gave President [REDACTED] many opportunities to open up and share any possible action that might have been inappropriate. We shared some teachings from the scriptures and our testimonies. It was clear that either President [REDACTED] did not do anything or that he had no interest in confessing any inappropriate action. I asked him if President Monson were here what he might say to him. He said he would tell him that he did not do anything wrong.

Aside from what is stated above I will share just a few impressions or observations. First, try as hard as we would, President [REDACTED] just would not open up and share the feelings of his heart. President [REDACTED] is a quiet and reserved individual and I realize that everyone is different and will react differently, but I was struck that his denials were simply one sentence denials. I did not hear very much emotion from him that he was devastated by these allegations or an emphatic insistence of innocence or a request to do something, anything to clear his name. Another observation—at one point toward the end of the interview he tensed up, folded his arms, sat back, and seemed defiant.

These impressions left in both Elder [REDACTED] and me a feeling of doubt that he was being completely honest. To restate, I cannot say whether he did or did not do what was alleged, but I can state that he seemed guarded, closed, and not completely forthcoming.

Kent, I wish I could provide you with more helpful information. If I can do anything else please let me know. We return back to [REDACTED] next Thursday, July 28 in case you need anything further. We are so grateful for all you and the TDEC do to bless the lives of the members in [REDACTED].

Warmest regards, [REDACTED]