

MORMON-JEWISH CONTROVERSY BULLETS

by Helen Radkey

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- The directive issued by the LDS Church to its officials and members to cease the improper posthumous baptisms of Jews has not been effective. Since May 1995, the names of many well-known Jews, and thousands of Jewish Holocaust victims, have appeared in the International Genealogical Index (IGI), the database of posthumous ordinances of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). The LDS Church rebaptizes Dutch Holocaust victims, whose previously baptized names were once removed from the IGI as a condition of the 1995 agreement.
- The 1995 agreement specifies that the LDS Church would remove from the IGI the names of Jewish Holocaust victims from four major Holocaust lists. LDS sources indicate the names of **nearly 400,000** Jewish Holocaust victims were taken out of the IGI, as a result. The Church did present Jewish organizations with a compact disc documenting the names that were removed from the IGI. However, the number of individual names on that compact disc is only **215,791**.
- Since May 1999, online temple ordinance details have been concealed to prevent non-LDS researchers from obtaining evidence of ongoing posthumous ordinances for deceased Jews. The Church made an agreement with Jews and then attempted to eliminate all non-LDS monitoring of ongoing ordinance activity. Only an accredited Mormon with a special user log-in can access ordinance data in the online IGI to determine which LDS rituals have been done for a dead person.
- Removal of names from the IGI by the LDS Church is haphazard. Some entries vanish. Similar entries remain. Listings for Jewish Holocaust victims continue to appear in the IGI. The names removal procedure has enabled the LDS Church to remove a substantial amount of evidence that exposes wrongful baptisms of Jews.
- When it was discovered that individual Mormons continued to posthumously baptize Jews, against the direct ancestor provision of the agreement, the LDS Church reneged on the agreement in 2005 by declaring to Jewish representatives that it is the Church's policy to allow members of their faith to baptize any relative, no matter how distantly related.
- If a person was born within the last 95 years, LDS Church members are supposed to obtain permission from the person's closest living relative before performing posthumous ordinances for that deceased. Based on my analysis of LDS temple ordinances for Jewish Holocaust victims, the 95-year rule is usually never upheld. There is no evidence that the LDS Church ever obtains written permission from living members of the deceased's immediate family (as the 1995 agreement specifies must be done) in cases where the deceased are identified or known as Jews who are not the direct ancestors of living Mormons.