

4



## MESSAGES

### FIRST PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

- 4 Living the Abundant Life**  
President Thomas S. Monson

### VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

- 7 Watchcare and Ministering through Visiting Teaching**

#### ON THE COVER

Painting by Jeff Ward.



## FEATURES

- 10 Helping Children Love the Book of Mormon**  
Clyde J. Williams  
*Suggestions for engaging children in this inspired book.*
- 12 What Happily Married Couples Do**  
Douglas Brinley  
*Ten ideas for enriching your marriage.*
- 15 My Father Rescued Me**  
Greg W. Haws  
*When my father opened the back of the truck, his worst fears were realized.*
- 16 Recognizing God's Hand in Our Daily Blessings**  
Elder D. Todd Christofferson  
*Asking for "our daily bread" at God's hand plays a vital part in learning to trust Him.*
- 24 More Than Just a Sunday Church**  
Don L. Searle  
*She was looking for a church that met certain biblical tests. But where could she find it?*
- 26 Look Up**  
Elder Carl B. Cook  
*What happens when we look up to see how Heavenly Father sees us rather than looking sideways to see how others view us?*
- 30 Worship the Lord by Singing Hymns**  
W. Herbert Klopfer  
*Discover the power of singing hymns.*
- 32 The Book of Mormon and God's Plan for Us**  
Elder Stanley G. Ellis  
*Finding Heavenly Father's plan for our lives in the Book of Mormon.*





48

**38 Children Delight in the Book of Mormon**  
*Through January 6, 2013, an exhibit at the Church History Museum celebrates the Book of Mormon as well as the rich Latin heritage within the Church.*

**44 Finding Answers in the Book of Mormon**  
Sara D. Smith  
*Six members share what a difference the Book of Mormon has made in their lives.*

**48 Rediscovering a Wonder of the World . . . and Avoiding the Dangers of Spiritual Apathy**  
Adam C. Olson  
*Like researchers who learn more and more about Machu Picchu, we can learn more about the gospel each time we study it.*

**52 George Albert Smith: He Lived as He Taught**  
Ted Barnes  
*An introduction to this year's Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study.*



**58 Letting Go of My Fear**  
Gilda Hughes Christensen  
*When I finally had the courage to bear my testimony, I realized it had the power to help others.*

**61 My Journey from Alcoholism to Sobriety**  
Gary LeRoy Evans  
*How the Church's Addiction Recovery Program helped me turn my life around.*

**72 Piano Playing and Prayer**  
Heidi Owen  
*On my first Sunday as pianist, I made so many mistakes that I could barely see through my tears.*

52



70



## DEPARTMENTS

### WE TALK OF CHRIST

**8 Visiting Teachers Led Me to Jesus Christ**  
Jayne P. Bowers  
*I loved associating with so many who exemplified virtuous womanhood.*

### SERVING IN THE CHURCH

**36 Leadership the Lord's Way**  
Craig Merrill  
*Every calling brings blessings when we apply correct principles of leadership.*

**66 LATTER-DAY SAINT VOICES**

**70 OCTOBER CONFERENCE NOTEBOOK**

**73 FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS**

**74 NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

**79 IN OTHER CHURCH MAGAZINES**

### UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

**80 Learning from the Expert**  
George C. Robinson  
*As a student surgeon, I always had someone more skilled at my side. As a child of God, I have the same opportunity.*

### COMING IN FEBRUARY

- Doctrine of the Father
- Technology and the family
- Latter-day Saints in Ecuador

**A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
January 2012 Volume 42 • Number 1

**The First Presidency:**

Thomas S. Monson, Henry B. Eyring, Dieter F. Uchtdorf

**The Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:**

Boyd K. Packer, L. Tom Perry, Russell M. Nelson, Dallin H. Oaks, M. Russell Ballard, Richard G. Scott, Robert D. Hales, Jeffrey R. Holland, David A. Bednar, Quentin L. Cook, D. Todd Christofferson, Neil L. Andersen

**Editor:** Paul B. Pieper

**Advisers:** Keith R. Edwards, Christoffel Golden Jr., Per G. Malm

**Managing Director:**

David L. Frischknecht

**Editorial Director:** Vincent A. Vaughn

**Graphics Director:** Allan R. Loyborg

**Managing Editor:** R. Val Johnson

**Assistant Managing Editor:**

LaRene Porter Gaunt

**Senior Editors:** Melissa Merrill,

Michael R. Morris, Joshua J. Perkey

**Associate Editor:** Lia McClanahan

**Assistant Editor:** Heather F. Christensen

**Editorial Staff:** Susan Barrett, Ryan Carr,

Jenifer L. Greenwood, Adam C. Olson,

Faith S. Watson, Melissa Zenteno

**Editorial Intern:** Lynnae Jackson

**Managing Art Director:** J. Scott Knudsen

**Art Director:** Scott Van Kampen

**Senior Designers:** C. Kimball Bott,

Colleen Hinckley, Eric Johnsen, Scott M. Moyo

**Production Staff:** Collette Nebeker Aune,

Howard G. Brown, Julie Burdett,

Reginald J. Christensen, Kathleen Howard,

Denise Kirby, Ginny J. Nilson, Jane Ann Peters

**Prepress:** Joshua Dennis

**Printing Director:** Craig K. Sedgwick

**Distribution Director:** Evan Larsen

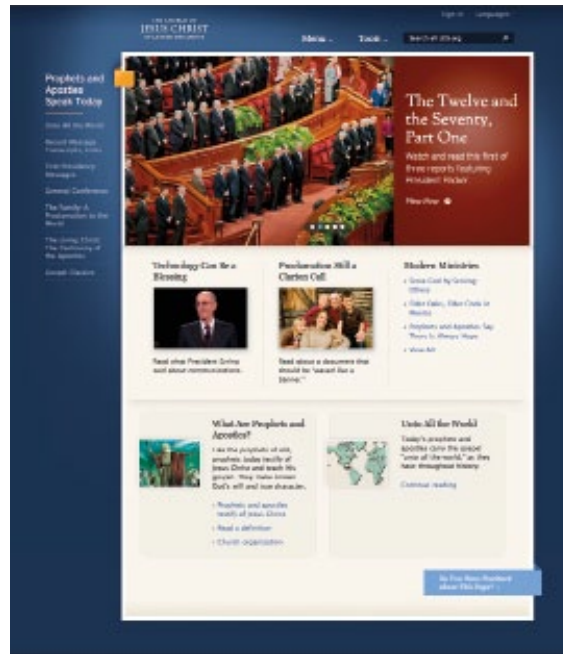
© 2012 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

All rights reserved. The *Ensign* (ISSN 0884-1136) is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E. North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Copyright information:** Text and visual material in the *Ensign* may be copied for incidental, noncommercial church or home use. Visual material may not be copied if restrictions are indicated in the credit line with the artwork. Copyright questions should be addressed to Intellectual Property Office, 50 E. North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0018; e-mail: cor-intellectualproperty@ldschurch.org.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

**Canada Post Information:** Publication Agreement #40017431.



**ENSIGN ONLINE**

If you're looking to get more from your Church magazine experience, check out additional features at [ensign.lds.org](http://ensign.lds.org).

**HOW CAN STUDY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON STRENGTHEN FAMILIES?**

Several articles in this issue talk about the scriptures, particularly the Book of Mormon (see pages 10, 32, 38, 44, and 48). In April 2010, Elder David A. Bednar spoke about how studying the Book of Mormon can strengthen families. To read or listen to his talk, visit [lds.org/general-conference/2010/04/watching-with-all-perseverance](http://lds.org/general-conference/2010/04/watching-with-all-perseverance).

**HAVE YOU DISCOVERED "PROPHETS AND APOSTLES SPEAK TODAY"?**

Located on the home page of [LDS.org](http://lds.org), "Prophets and Apostles Speak Today" features the words of the living prophets as well as classic talks from past prophets. Visit [lds.org/study/prophets-speak-today](http://lds.org/study/prophets-speak-today).

**BOOK OF MORMON VIDEOS AND TESTIMONIES**

Visit [mormon.org/book-of-mormon](http://mormon.org/book-of-mormon) to find out more about the Book of Mormon and to enjoy videos and testimonies.

**DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?**

We welcome donated submissions showing the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in your life. On each submission, please include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the name of your ward and stake (or branch and district).

**Please submit articles through [ensign.lds.org](http://ensign.lds.org)**, or if you do not have internet access, send them to Ensign Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA. Authors whose work is selected for publication will be notified.

**SUBSCRIBE TO OR RENEW THE ENSIGN**

**Online:** Visit [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org).

**By phone:** In the United States and Canada call 1-800-537-5971.

**By mail:** Send U.S. \$10 check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

**TO CHANGE ADDRESS**

Send both old and new address information to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA. Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.