#### 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 Evaluation, Planning, and Editorial Director: Vincent A. Vaughn Graphics Director: Allan R. Loyborg

Managing Editor:
Brittany Beattie
Associate Editors:
David A. Edwards,
Paul VanDenBerghe
Publications Assistant:
Sally Johnson Odekirk
Editorial Intern:
Kimberly Richter
Editorial Staff: Mindy Raye
Friedman, Susan Barrett, Ryan
Carr, Jenifer L. Greenwood,
R. Val Johnson, Adam C. Olson

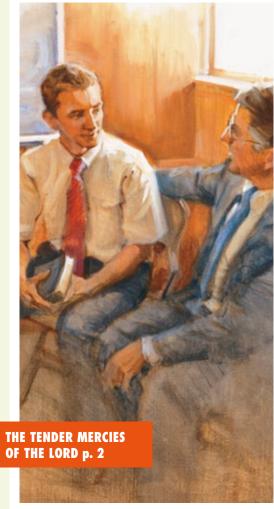
Art Director: Brent Christison Senior Designer: Fay P. Andrus Design and Production Staff: Nicole Erickson, Collette Nebeker Aune, Eric P. Johnsen, Scott M. Mooy, Jane Ann Peters, Scott Van Kampen Prepress: Joshua Dennis

Printing Director: Craig K. Sedgwick Distribution Director: Evan Larsen

© 2012 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. The *New Era* (ISSN 0164-5285) is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 50 E. North Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024, USA.

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

Canada Post Information: Publication Agreement #40017431.



# The Message: The Tender Mercies of the Lord 2

Elder David A. Bednar

Tender mercies are the very personal and individualized blessings, strength, protection, assurances, guidance, support, and spiritual gifts we receive from Jesus Christ.

# Recognizing Tender Mercies 6

Try this fun way to jot down the blessings the Lord gives you.

# 100 Dollars, 100 Acts of Service

Whitney Hinckley

What would you do if someone gave you \$100?

# Standing Up, Standing Out 10

Catherine Hall

When inappropriate content came up in the classroom, this young woman chose to take a stand.

#### **Don't Be Swept Away**

Adam C. Olson

The Mapu'a Vaea blowholes in Tonga can teach a lot about temptation and sexual purity.

#### **Questions & Answers**

14

12

"My parents are divorced. Sometimes I get advice from one of them that contradicts advice from the other. What do I do?"

## Gaining and Keeping a Testimony 16

Mindy Raye Friedman

Not sure if your testimony is strong enough? Consider this.

#### It Started with Standards

Danielle Stockton

Even before joining the Church, this young woman knew she needed to make good choices—and her commitment to those choices in dating made a big difference.

#### **Mormonad:**

**Double Date, Double Fun** 

23

20

#### Blind Curve

24

32

36

Ray Goldrup

What could go wrong on two brothers' first road trip from home?

# Learning, Teaching, and Preaching the Gospel 26

Elyse Alexandria Holmes

You have a great resource that makes it easier to share the gospel today.

#### Our Father in Heaven 30

What we know about Heavenly Father makes all the difference.

## From the Mission Field: An Empty Font

Siosaia Naeata Jr.

7

How could missionaries in West Africa hold a baptism with no water for the font?

# **Screening Your Screen Time** 34

Stay connected in a positive way.

# A Bright Future

Even if the world sometimes seems gloomy, you have much to look forward to.

## What's Up?

A Texas jubilee; new videos for 2012; sharing the Book of Mormon; a walk to Zion in South Africa; letters from youth.

#### The Extra Smile 41

# **Setting an Example at Shakespeare's School**

42

Larry Hiller

This head boy learned more than literature at the school Shakespeare attended.

## **Instant Messages**

44

True beauty in a pageant; answers through prayer; messages on the track; strength through a patriarchal blessing.

#### A Voice for High Standards 47

Hilary Watkins Lemon

Even while competing on a national television show in Portugal, Gerson Santos made time for the most important things.



OF SERVICE p. 7

## From Church Leaders: How to Seek and Know the Father and the Son

Elder Robert D. Hales Cultivate a diligent desire to know that God lives.

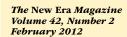
#### Poem: Charcoal

Rachel Morrow

# Photo

Shanley Truman

Text and visual material in the New Era 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 St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150,



The monthly publication for youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

#### **Editorial Offices:**

New Era 50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2420 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-0024,

E-mail Address:

newera@ldschurch.org

#### To Change Address:

Send 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.

Cover: See "Screening Your Screen Time," p. 34.

Cover photography: Robert Casey

49

49

#### TO SUBMIT MATERIAL:

Send stories, articles, photos, poems, and ideas online at newera.lds.org. Click "Submit Material," and fill in the form. Or e-mail or mail them to the Editorial Offices address above. For return, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

#### TO SUBSCRIBE:

By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express Online: Go to store.lds.org. By mail: Send \$8 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

Visit us online at NewEra.lds.org.

