Contents December 2010

Volume 40 • Number 12



MESSAGES

FIRST PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

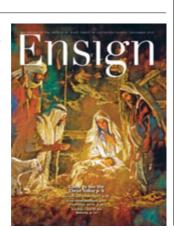
4 Can We See the Christ? President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

7 Our Responsibility to Participate in Temple and Family History Work

ON THE COVER

Front: Birth of the King, by Michael Dudash. Back: Good News of Great Joy—Shepherds by Night, by Michael Dudash. Limitededition canvas and prints available at somersetfineart.com.



FEATURES

11 Modern-day Fiery Serpents David R. Smith

I was sure I would have looked at the brazen serpent. Then I thought again.

16 Three Stars

John B. Rowe How the testimony of the three witnesses led a naval officer to the gospel.

18 Commandments, Calamities, and the Second Coming

Elder James J. Hamula Heeding the call to repent and be sanctified.

22 Handel and the Gift of *Messiah* Elder Spencer J. Condie

Seven lessons from Handel's composition.

28 Lullaby for Timothy Katherine Clement Poulsen How Christ helped me trade my

30 A Gift Worthy of Added Care

Elder Neil L. Andersen Seeking and seeing the Holy Ghost in our lives.

41 Gospel in My Life: Not Enough Time? Hong Ook Son I didn't think I had time for institute. The Spirit prompted me to make time.

42 They Spoke to Us: Fear Not Elder Tad R. Callister

Because of the Savior, we need not fear. For every problem, there is a solution.

45 Joining Voices, Uniting Hearts Melanie Massey Hoggan How the gift of music brought greater

harmony to our small town.

48 Three Generations of Christmas Leslie Thomas Foy, Leslie Tuttle Foy, and Jeffrey W. Foy

and Jettrey W. Foy The men of one family share a tradition of yuletide giving. 28



58 Christmas Traditions of the Seventy

Members of the Seventy share how they celebrate the season and remember the Savior's birth.

OUR HOMES, OUR FAMILIES

12 Helping Children Exercise Their Agency Marcos Fernando dos Santos A father shares thoughts about the importance of allowing children to exercise their agency.

LIVING AS LATTER-DAY SAINTS

 $14\,$ Find a Church

Kirsten Bradford The students were outlining their most important life goals. How is it I'd never had to think about that one?

BY STUDY AND BY FAITH

$52\,$ Glad Tidings of Great Joy

Eric D. Huntsman Another look at the most familiar story in Christendom.

GOSPEL SOLUTIONS

36 One Heart and One Mind

Four members affected by disabilities share their experiences with giving and receiving service.

PROVIDENT LIVING

63 Free to Smile

Allie Schulte *After a life of repression, Edit Kiss Kerbs learned from the missionaries to have faith in God.*





10

DEPARTMENTS

WHAT WE BELIEVE

8 Jesus Christ Is the Only Begotten Son of God As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we can also remember His divine Sonship.

WE TALK OF CHRIST

10 The Gift

Joan M. Olenycz May we remember the greatest gift ever given.

SERVING IN THE CHURCH

17 Unto the Least of These Dianne W. Stoddard

Six suggestions for balancing callings with family responsibilities.



- 70 small and simple things
- 73 family home evening ideas
- $74\,$ News of the church
- 79 in other church magazines

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

80 Christmas in the Vineyard

Larry Hiller What better way to show gratitude for the Savior's birth than by serving others?

COMING IN JANUARY

- 40 years of the *Ensign*: Which articles have meant the most to you
- An introduction to the New Testament, the 2011 Sunday School course of study
- Successful family home evenings with teens

Ensign

AN OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS DECEMBER 2010 VOLUME 40 • NUMBER 12

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: Stanley G. Ellis, Christoffel Golden Jr., Yoshihiko Kikuchi

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: Matthew D. Flitton,

Larry Hiller, Michael R. Morris, Joshua J. Perkey

Assistant Editor: Melissa Merrill Editorial Staff: Susan Barrett, Ryan Carr, Jenifer L. Greenwood, Adam C. Olson, Laurel Teuscher Editorial Intern: Janice LeFevre

Senior Secretary: Faith S. Watson Managing Art Director: J. Scott Knudsen

Art Director: Scott Van Kampen Senior Designers: C. Kimball Bott, Thomas S. Child, Colleen Hinckley, Eric P. Johnsen, Scott M. Mooy Production Staff: Cali R. Arroyo Collette Nebeker Aune, Howard G. Brown, Julie Burdett, Reginald J. Christensen, Kathleen Howard, Denise Kirby, Ginny J. Nilson, Jane Ann Peters Prepress: Byron Warner

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

© 2010 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.

To change address: Send both old and new address information to Distribution Services at the above address. Please allow 60 days for changes to take effect.

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, USA; 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.

SHARE THE GOSPEL ONLINE

Mormon.org has been revised in exciting new ways that allow you to share the gospel with people all over the world. Your online missionary profile lets you share your testimony of and feelings about Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and Joseph Smith. Explain how you live your faith, link to your blogs or social networks, answer others' questions, or share personal stories about how the Church has made your life better. Ready to get started? Create your missionary profile today at new.mormon.org.

FINDING THE CHURCH **THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

Do you travel regularly? Do you have a friend living in another place who is interested in attending an LDS worship service? Are you moving to a new home and unsure where your new ward will meet? Maps.lds.org can help you find the nearest meetinghouse, your assigned congregation, and local schedules.





DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

n 2011, we'll begin studying the New Testament. How has this book of scripture strengthened your testimony of Jesus Christ and His life, ministry, and mission? How has it helped you invite the Savior into your life and become a more devoted follower of Him? Please label your submission "Following the Savior" and submit it by December 31. We welcome submissions on this and other topics showing the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in your life. On each submission,

SUBSCRIBE TO OR RENEW THE ENSIGN MAGAZINE

Online: Go to Idscatalog.com. By phone: Call 1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express. By mail: Send \$10 U.S. check or money order to Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

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, or send them to Ensign Editorial, 50 E. North Temple St., Rm. 2420, Salt Lake City, UT, 84150-0024, USA. We regret that we cannot acknowledge receipt or return manuscripts. Authors whose work is selected for publication will be notified.