# Contents FEBRUARY 2008 VOLUME 38 • NUMBER 2





ON THE COVER
Photographs by Robert Casey



### **MESSAGES**

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We covenant to nourish each other spiritually. Are we working now to help those who are tender in the gospel?

### VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

69 The Family Is Central to the Creator's Plan



### **FEATURE ARTICLES**

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A poem showing the words of Abraham twice fulfilled.

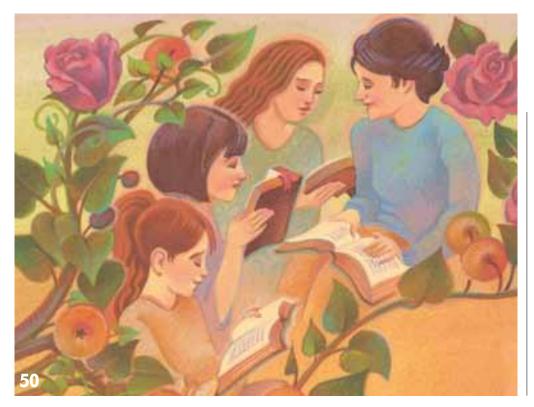
11 Our Son's Choices NAME WITHHELD

We never gave up on our son. Neither did the Lord.

1 9 Spiders and Spiritual Help DON L. SEARLE

What my grandson's cry for help taught me about faith and Heavenly Father's kindness.

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## 50 Changing Behavior—One Verse at a Time DEBRA L. ADAMS

Before my husband died, our family had tried studying the scriptures. Now we needed them more than ever.

## 53 Beetle Traps and Scripture Study JANA TROSETH

I didn't neglect my garden. Why was I neglecting my testimony?

## 54 Tempering Our Tempers DOUGLAS E. BRINLEY

Mastering our tempers can bring peace and love to our homes.

## 58 A Battle of Pride DALE SMITH

Although I knew the Book of Mormon contained little on the kinds of problems I was facing, I decided to see if there might be a message for me.

## **60** Dating and the Eternal Perspective KIMBERLY REID

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## 64 Living a Balanced Life ELDER ROBERT F. ORTON

Lessons I learned as a young adult about balance.

### DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Parents, teachers, and leaders: How have the Church magazines helped you in your responsibilities? Do you use articles and other resources in the magazines as you carry out your duties? How have they affected you or those with whom you work? Tell us about your experiences—the more specific, the better. Please label your submission "Using Church Magazines" and send it by March 31.

We also welcome other submissions that show the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in your life. *Ensign Magazine Writers' Guidelines* are posted at http://ensign.lds.org under "Resources."

Send submissions to ensign@ldschurch.org or *Ensign* Editorial, 50 E. North Temple Street, Room 2420, Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3220, USA. Include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, ward (or branch), and stake (or district). Because of the volume of submissions, we cannot acknowledge receipt. Authors whose work is selected for publication will be notified. If you would like your manuscript, photos, art, or other material returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Ensign can be found on the Internet at http://ensign.lds.org

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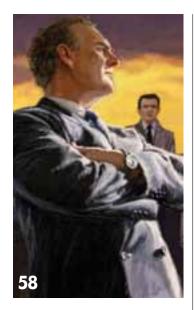
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### **USING THIS ISSUE**

Effectively leading. Do you remember an influential leader in your life? After reading "Life-Changing Leadership" (p. 23) and "Band of Brothers" (p. 28), think about what made the leader you remember an effective one. For tips on leadership in your own responsibilities, visit the "Serving in the Church" link on LDS.org.

**Choosing happiness.** Both Elder John B. Dickson and Elder Craig A. Cardon of the Seventy testify of the happiness that comes from obeying the commandments (see pp. 14 and 20). As you study the Book of Mormon in Sunday School, look for patterns that reflect this. Consider discussing in your next family home evening the correlation between obedience and happiness, citing examples from the Book of Mormon.

Finding answers. Several articles in this issue focus on the answers members found when they turned to the scriptures (see pp. 50, 53, and 58). How do you feel when you find specific answers to your challenges in the scriptures?



### **DEPARTMENTS**

### **LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF MORMON**

**After the Manner** of Happiness ELDER JOHN B. DICKSON

The closer we come to living in accordance with the patterns and principles Heavenly Father has set, the bappier and more complete we will be.

### **Choosing Liberty** and Eternal Life **ELDER CRAIG A. CARDON**

Choosing liberty and eternal life brings the greatest bappiness we can know.

## LATTER-DAY SAINT VOICES

Blessings of the priesthood, the Holy Ghost, the Book of Mormon, and missionary work.

## 4 RANDOM SAMPLER

Writing to missionaries, teaching music, helping children to be reverent, and drawing closer as families.

**NEWS OF THE** CHURCH

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### **COMING IN MARCH**

An issue exclusively about the Savior Jesus Christ: apostolic and scriptural witnesses, personal testimony, artwork, and more.