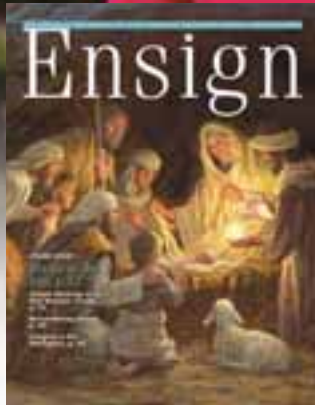




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DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Do you—or does someone you love—serve in the military? Share how the gospel has helped you with the challenges unique to military life—the more specific, the better. Topics might include dealing with separation, protection from harm, spiritual promptings, conversion to the gospel, returning to Church activity, using the priesthood, or dealing with temptation. Please label your submission “Military” and send it by January 20, 2009.

We also welcome other submissions that show the gospel of Jesus Christ at work in your life. You can find this and other calls for articles online at <http://ensign.lds.org>. *Ensign* Magazine Writers’ Guidelines are posted on the same page 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 receive, 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.

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Ensign

AN OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH
OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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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 84150-3220, USA. Periodicals Postage

Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah.

To subscribe: By phone, call

1-800-537-5971 to order using Visa,

MasterCard, Discover Card, or American

Express. Online, go to ldscatalog.com.

By mail, send \$10 U.S. check or money order to

Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt

Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Distribution Services, P.O. Box 26368, Salt

Lake City, UT 84126-0368, USA.

Canada Post Information: Publication

Agreement #40017431



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USING THIS ISSUE

Enjoy the blessings of the temple. On pages 20 and 23 are stories of members who commit to attend the temple in spite of difficult family or financial circumstances. Consider what you can do to increase your temple attendance or become worthy to hold a temple recommend.

Share the Christmas spirit. Several articles in this issue focus on the blessings we receive when we give to others, even under difficult or uncomfortable circumstances (see pages 4, 9, 12, 16, and 60). Consider ways you can help your children experience the spirit of giving during the Christmas season.

Celebrate the season. To find out what Christmas events are taking place in your area or are available via satellite broadcast, go to the “News and Events” link on LDS.org. Select “Calendar” and then click on the individual event for further information. Remember to check your individual stake and ward Web site calendar for local events.



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- *Studying the Doctrine and Covenants.*
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- *The Prophet Joseph Smith.*