

# Contents February 2011

Volume 41 • Number 2



## MESSAGES

### FIRST PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

- 4** **How Great Shall Be Your Joy**  
President Henry B. Eyring

### VISITING TEACHING MESSAGE

- 7** **A Restoration of All Things**

#### ON THE COVER

Front: *Prodigal Son*, by Liz Lemon Swindle, Foundation Arts, may not be copied. Back: *Lost Coin*, by J. Kirk Richards.



## FEATURES

- 8** **Latter-day Prophets Speak:  
A Call for Missionaries**  
*President Thomas S. Monson adds his voice to those of previous prophets.*

- 12** **The Atonement**  
Lisa Jan South  
*New life as a symbol for the Atonement.*

- 28** **Finding Answers**  
Joseph Fielding McConkie  
*The fact that every Church member is given the gift of the Holy Ghost is evidence that the Lord wants to reveal things to you.*

- 44** **Revelation: Pouring Down from Heaven**  
Adam Olson  
*Knowledge pours down quickly when we're ready.*

- 46** **Parables of the Lost and Found**  
*Forgiving, reaching out, and welcoming back.*

- 52** **Lost and Found: Me**  
Matthew Allen Bland  
*How a family's example changed my life.*

### OUR HOMES, OUR FAMILIES

- 14** **Helping Children Feel Safe**  
Shawn Evans  
*Tips parents can use to help children through difficult times.*

- 18** **The Power of Early Preparation**  
Ronald Errol Bartholomew  
*As the world waxes more wicked, our spiritual survival will depend on our preparation.*

- 22** **Young Adults and Family Home Evening**  
*These young adults know that family home evening isn't something they left at home.*

### LIVING AS LATTER-DAY SAINTS

- 26** **Similarities and Differences**  
Heather McOmber  
*A Relief Society lesson I'll never forget.*





36

### 33 Did I Still Love Him?

Name withheld

*Feelings of romance had turned to those of a cordial friendship. What was I supposed to do?*

### 36 Questions & Answers

*Learning to rejoice in—and not be overwhelmed by—living the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

#### TEACHING, LEARNING, SERVING

### 40 Learning to Hear and Understand the Spirit

David M. McConkie

*How to listen when the Spirit speaks.*

#### BY STUDY AND BY FAITH

### 56 Strengthening the Less Active

President Boyd K. Packer

*How opportunities to serve and participate can strengthen the less active.*

#### GOSPEL SOLUTIONS

### 60 From Rescued to Rescuer

Betsy Doane

*Pain and addiction ruled my life until that day at the airport.*

#### PROVIDENT LIVING

### 62 Learning to Be Content

Breanna Sampson

*The problem was not with our house—it was with me.*

### 63 How We Broke the Chains of Debt

Kate Strongin

*We found ourselves in debt. Here's what we did about it.*



40

10



## DEPARTMENTS

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

### 10 The Atonement Makes Repentance Possible

*Christ atoned for our sins and made it possible for us to repent and become clean again.*

### WE TALK OF CHRIST

### 13 His Grace Is Sufficient

Kimberlee B. Garrett

*Iniquity seemed such a harsh word. Could it really be the cause of my despair?*

### 66 LATTER-DAY SAINT VOICES

*When the Spirit speaks, do we listen and obey?*

### 70 SMALL AND SIMPLE THINGS

### 73 FAMILY HOME EVENING IDEAS

### 74 NEWS OF THE CHURCH

### 79 IN OTHER CHURCH MAGAZINES

### 80 UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

#### A Seat at the Bridegroom's Feast

Melissa Merrill

*Obedience is the only requirement for a place at the Savior's feast.*

## COMING IN MARCH

- Teaching the doctrine of the family
- A worldwide community of Saints
- Elder and Sister Holland on Relief Society

**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

**Editorial Intern:** Janice LeFevre

**Administrative Assistant:** 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

© 2011 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.

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

**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).

**PERSONAL PROGRESS**

Young women can now do their Personal Progress online—link to scriptures, track progress, submit plans and report completion, and keep their journal securely online. When finished, they can print the entire book, including their journal. Their parents and leaders can approve and track their work. Start now at [personalprogress.lds.org](http://personalprogress.lds.org).

**GENERAL AUTHORITY BIOGRAPHIES**

The Church's new website includes biographical information about the general authorities. The chart contains links to biographies about each leader.

Visitors can learn about the careers, missions, families, and accomplishments of the members of the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Quorums of the Seventy, and the Presiding Bishopric. Visit [lds.org/church/leaders](http://lds.org/church/leaders).

**MY STUDY NOTEBOOK**

The previous version of LDS.org provided access to the scriptures and other Church materials, but the new site provides additional tools for online study.

By signing into the site using an LDS account, users can highlight and underline passages, take notes, keep a study journal, and organize materials into files for later use. These features are available for all content in the study area of the site, which includes the scriptures, general conference, lesson manuals, Church magazines, and more.



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

Effective missionaries need to be prepared mentally, physically, and spiritually, but they also need to learn to be effective teachers. The *Ensign* invites you to share how you learned to be an effective teacher on your mission. What can ward leaders and families do to help young men and young women learn how to be effective communicators and teachers as they share the gospel? Please label your submission "Effective Teachers as Missionaries" and submit by March 22.

We also welcome other submissions on topics 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 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.

**SUBSCRIBE TO OR RENEW THE ENSIGN MAGAZINE**

**Online:** Visit [store.lds.org](http://store.lds.org). **By phone** (in the United States or Canada): 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.