





*The dedication of the Philadelphia Pennsylvania Temple in 2016 has given Josephine the opportunity to attend weekly. In the temple she finds strength and healing for dealing with the trials of life.*

LESLIE NILSSON, PHOTOGRAPHER

## Josephine Scere

Pennsylvania, USA

I was born into hardship. My mother was an immigrant from Liberia, we were poor, and I was abused as a child while left in the care of people my mother thought she could trust. That has made certain things really hard in my life.

What has kept me so determined to live the gospel is my trials.

Life is hard whether you're a Latter-day Saint or not. My strength comes from my relationship with my Savior and with my son, Enoch. Keeping the covenants I made in the temple also gives me strength.

Truth is truth, regardless. You don't have to argue it. You don't have to prove it. It just is. It's real, and it's real for everyone. It's real for people who live in Salt Lake City, Utah, and it's real for people who live in the slums of Philadelphia. I think that's what should carry us.

See more about Josephine's story at [lds.org/go/portraitsE1217](https://lds.org/go/portraitsE1217).

Learn more about temples at [temples.lds.org](https://temples.lds.org).