



## I NEED TO SERVE MY MISSION NOW

I've loved baseball my entire life. Toward the end of high school, I was recruited to play for a college in Texas, USA. I wanted to serve a mission but felt that this opportunity was too good to pass up and that a mission would need to wait a year.

On a weekend visit to the college, I woke up early Sunday morning with a strong prompting that I needed to attend my home ward three hours away. I did so, and one of the sacrament meeting speakers that afternoon talked about personal revelation. I felt these words were meant for me. Then in Sunday School we discussed the importance of serving a mission, and the Spirit testified to me that I should defer my scholarship because

if I went to college now, I'd never serve a mission. I went directly to tell my bishop, "I need to serve a mission, and I need to go *now*."

At home I emailed the baseball coach, sharing my testimony and my desire to be a missionary. Minutes later, he called me and said, "I've never seen a young man put God first like this. You have earned my respect today. You go serve. I'll have a spot for you on the team when you return."

Peace filled me, and I knew that Heavenly Father was helping me. I have a testimony of the blessings that come when we put the Lord first and choose Him over the world—and baseball.

**Devin T., Texas, USA**

## FRIENDS AT MY SIDE

**W**hen I was in seventh grade I decided to participate in a running competition against the other middle schools. What I didn't know was that the area we were running in was hilly, and so running would be a lot harder than I was used to.

When I was a little over halfway through the race, I slowed to a walk and just decided that I couldn't do it. Tears came, and I felt weak and embarrassed.

As I was about to stop and sit down, two eighth-grade girls from my school caught up to me and started encouraging me to keep going. I reluctantly started to slowly jog with them, with one on each side of me. My whole body was aching, but I kept on going. When we were finally in sight of the finish line, my youngest sister came to run with me too.

When we crossed the finish line, I was relieved. I received a ribbon for seventh place, and I felt embarrassed since there were only seven girls who ran. But now it reminds me of how I completed something that seemed so impossible.

Life is hard, but when we feel like stopping, we need to remember that our friends, family, Heavenly Father, and Savior will always be there to help us through it.

**Katie G., Utah, USA**

## ACCEPTING THE #TEMPLECHALLENGE

**I** was baptized in 2012 and attended a branch in the Ipoméia Brazil District. Since 2014, I have been really engaged in family history. It started with the invitation from Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles at RootsTech to do baptisms for my own family names. I felt really committed to do family history, knowing that if I “knocked,” it would be “opened” (see Matthew 7:7).

Now I have many more generations, pictures, documents, and, most important, more family stories, which is awesome. Having this information, I wrote a book with pictures and dates from my family history. This project helped me contact my nonmember family members and gave me the opportunity to share my testimony that families can be eternal.

This work has helped me stand in holy places, stay active in the Church, and accept the calling to serve the Lord on a mission.

I have a testimony that the work of salvation done by this Church on both sides of the veil is true and inspired by our Heavenly Father. Before my mission, I had the opportunity to do baptisms for my ancestors, and now as a missionary I have the opportunity to baptize people who are alive and want to change their lives forever.

**Elder Claudio Klaus Jr., Arizona Mesa Mission**

