

Mormon Mission Prep Webinar: Receiving the Call to Serve

One of a series of webinars on LDS Missionary Preparation by Jimmy Smith of MormonMissionPrep.com. Other Webinars:

- Gaining the Desire to Serve
- Preparing to Serve
- Gearing Up to Serve

View recordings at www.MormonMissionPrep.com/webinar

MORMON MISSION PREP

Before We Begin

- This webinar is being recorded
- Q&A Etiquette
 - Ask a question at any time during the presentation
 - Please mute your line if you aren't asking a question
- You can click on the links within the slide presentation
 - For example, click here to go to MormonMissionPrep.com
- What this webinar is not
 - It is not an official presentation of the LDS Church
 - It is not the Church Mission Prep class offered by wards, stakes, and LDS Institute programs

Introduction to Jimmy

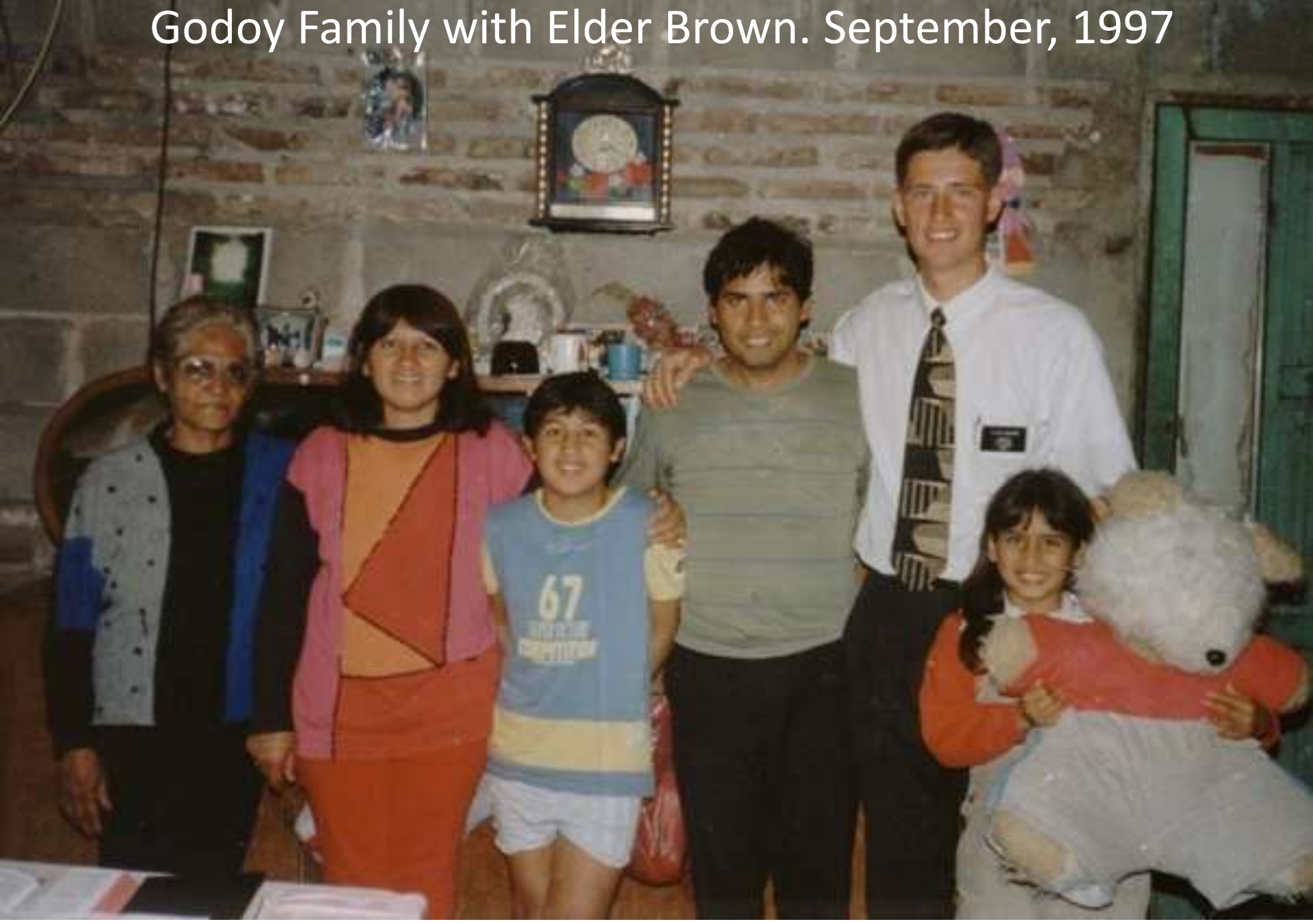
- Working for the LDS Church since 2008
 - Currently website product manager for [Seminary](#) and [Institute](#)
- In 2009 started [MormonMissionPrep.com](#)
- Graduate of BYU and ASU



Served mission in Rosario, Argentina
from 1995 to 1997



Godoy Family with Elder Brown. September, 1997



**Godoy Civil Wedding
Carlos Jr.
Angelica
Beatriz
Carlos**



Baptism of the Godoy Family, July 1997



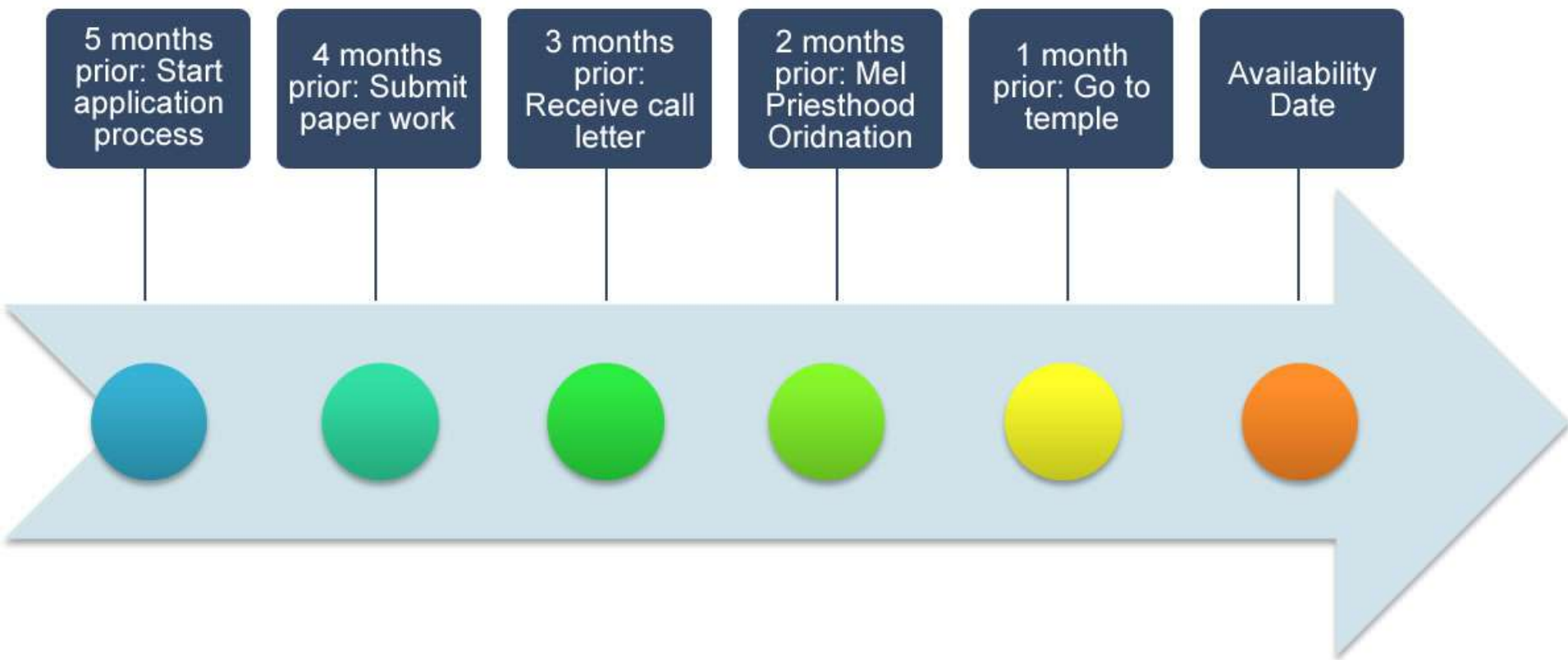
Agenda:

Receiving the Call to Serve



- Mission Call Process
 - Timeline
 - Application Form (i.e. the “Papers”)
 - Call is received through revelation to our prophet
 - Call Letter
- Faith to go where the Lord wants you to go
- Advice for young women considering serving a mission
- Three things to do before your mission
 - Priesthood (for YM), Temple, Patriarchal Blessing

MISSION APPLICATION TIMELINE

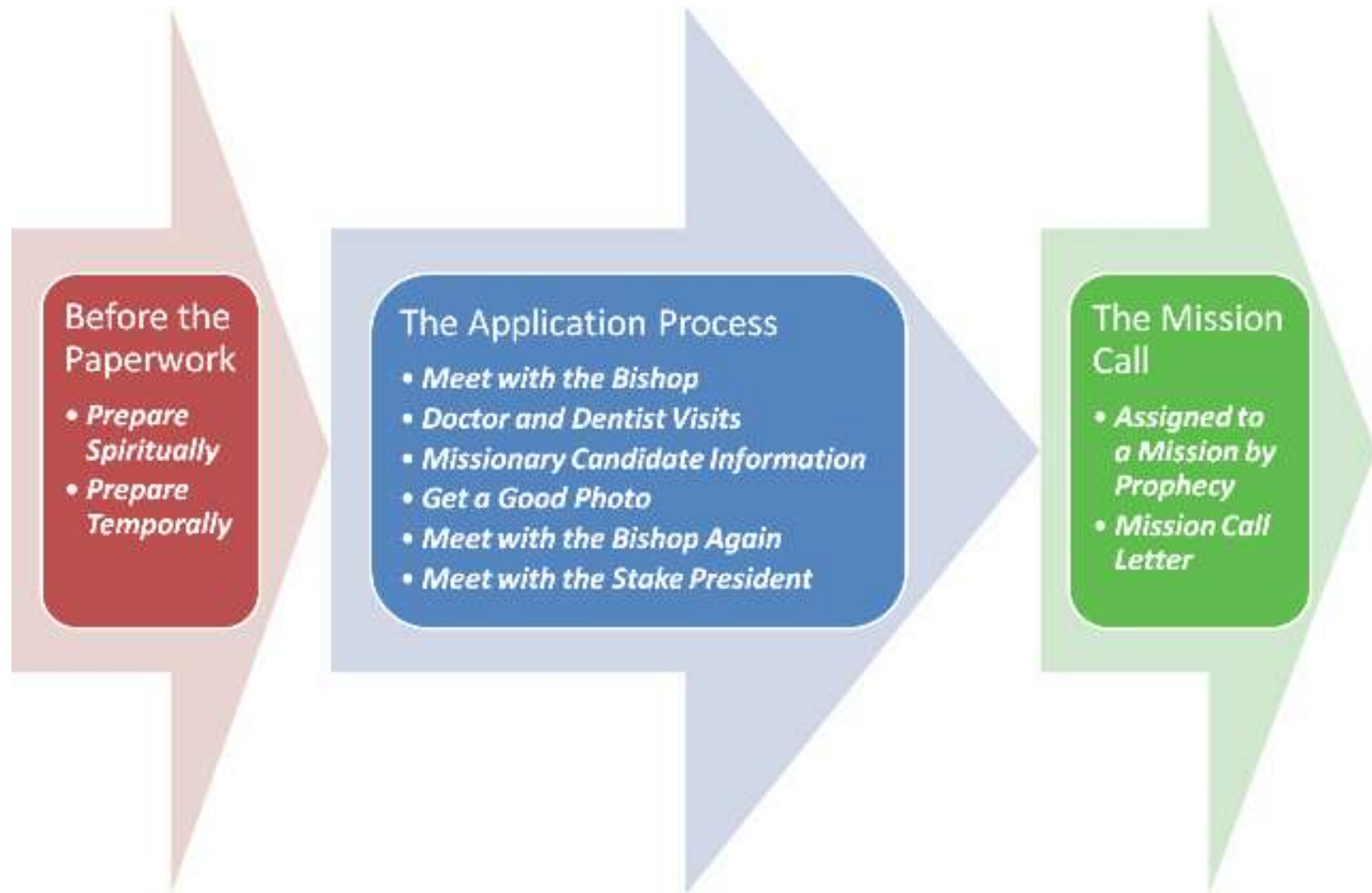


Read full article on my site: [Mission Application Timeline](#)

Mission Application Steps and Timeline

- First, determine your availability date.
 - Generally the day your turn 18 (YM) or 19 (YW)
- 5 months prior: Start the process
 - Meet with your bishop. Get the paper work or log in for website
- 4 months prior: Submit the paper work
 - The stake will send it to Church HQ
- 3 months prior: Receive your call letter
 - It will have further preparation instructions specific to your mission
- 2 months prior: Melchizedek Priesthood
 - Young men should be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood and office of an Elder
- 1 month prior: Go to the temple to receive your endowment
- Please Note: Timing shown here is approximate as, in reality, all times vary

After you complete your paperwork, your stake president submits it to the Church



Missionaries Are Called by God

- Elder Ronald A. Rasband explains how missionaries are called by God through our prophets
 - "First, we knelt together in prayer."
 - Next "a picture of the missionary to be assigned would come up on one of the computer screens. "
 - Then they "study the comments from the bishops and stake presidents, medical notes, and other issues relating to each missionary."
 - Next, they view "another screen which displayed areas and missions across the world."
 - "Finally, as he was prompted by the Spirit, he would assign the missionary to his or her field of labor."
- "It is by the great love of the Savior that His servants know where these wonderful ... missionaries are to serve. I had a further witness that morning that every missionary called in this Church, and assigned or reassigned to a particular mission, is called by revelation from the Lord God Almighty."
 - From Elder Ronald A. Rasband, April 2010 General Conference called [The Divine Call of a Missionary](#)
- Watch the video on my site: [Missionaries Are Called by God](#)



Day of the Week Mission Calls are Issued and Mailed Out

- Many missionaries want to know the exact day they will receive their call in the mail
 - Sorry, but exactly predicting this is not possible
- What day of the week do the apostles meet?
 - In most weeks, it is on **Friday**, but it can vary
 - Thursdays are the second most common day
 - But some times it is Tuesday or Wednesday
- What day does the mission call letter get mailed?
 - Usually the call packets leave the Church mail room on **Tuesday**
 - Variation due to individual missionary or mission circumstances, holiday schedules, etc.
- Those living in or near Utah usually receive the call packet on **Wednesday**



What's in the Mission Call Packet?

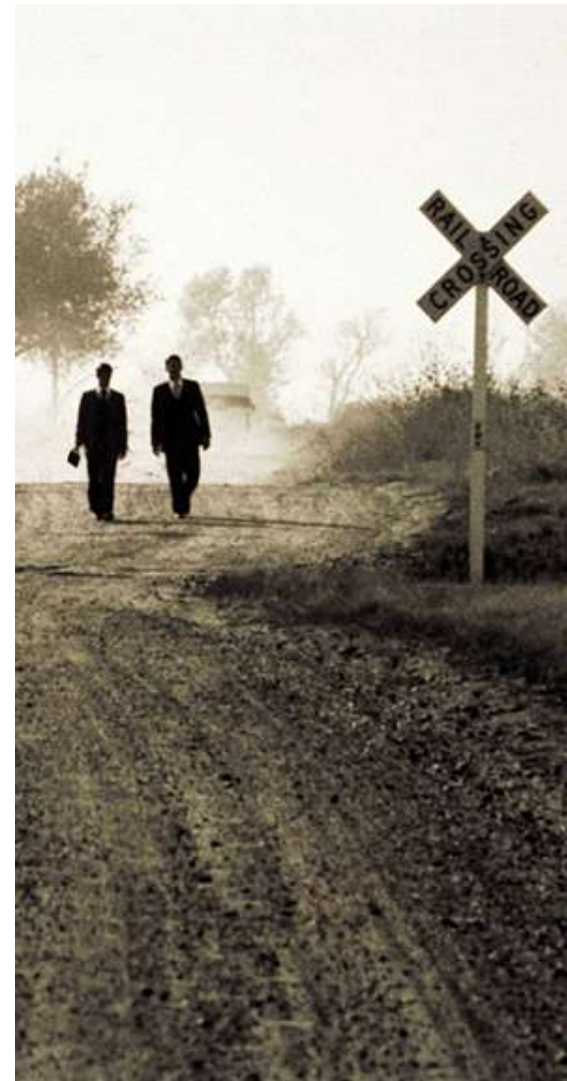
- The Call Letter from the Prophet
- A Letter from your Mission President
- A Letter from the MTC President
- General Instructions Checklist, including a list of clothing and other items to bring



I Will Go Where You Want Me to Go

When you submit mission papers, you commit to going wherever the Lord chooses to send us

- It may not be on the mountain height
- Or over the stormy sea,
- It may not be at the battle's front
- My Lord will have need of me.
- But if, by a still, small voice he calls
- To paths that I do not know,
- I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in thine:
- I'll go where you want me to go.
- I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
- Over mountain or plain or sea;
- I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord;
- I'll be what you want me to be.
 - Hymns, no. 270



“The Lord knows where He wants each missionary to serve.”

- Story of Elder Misiego, from Madrid, Spain
- “We have a Father in Heaven, who knows us—our strengths and weaknesses, our abilities and potential. He knows which mission president and companions and which members and investigators we need in order to become the missionary, the husband and father, and the priesthood holder we are capable of becoming. Prophets, seers, and revelators assign missionaries under the direction and influence of the Holy Ghost. Inspired mission presidents direct transfers every six weeks and quickly learn that the Lord knows exactly where He wants each missionary to serve.”
- [The Opportunity of a Lifetime](#), W. Christopher Waddell

Agenda:

Receiving the Call to Serve



- Mission Call Process
 - Timeline
 - Application Form (i.e. the “Papers”)
 - Call is received through revelation to our prophet
 - Call Letter
- Faith to go where the Lord wants you to go
- Advice for young women considering serving a mission
- Three things to do before your mission
 - Priesthood (for YM), Temple, Patriarchal Blessing

Advice for Young Women Considering Serving a Mission

- “I would say to really ponder and pray about it; if it’s something that crosses your mind often, then I think that it’s something worth considering seriously. Make up your mind, one way or the other, and ask the Lord if that’s what He wants for you, and He’ll let you know.”
 - Jessica Rex, Arizona Tucson Mission
 - For more thoughts on the subject, read my post [Advice for Young Women Considering Serving a Mission](#) and the comments on the page

How would you counsel a young woman who is not sure if she should go on a mission?

- “Prayer and searching the scriptures for direction. I always knew I wanted to go, but I really tried to find the confirmation about whether it was right or not. I kept a scripture journal and looked back on it when I was getting ready to put in my papers. Everything in my scripture reading pointed to me going on a mission. I knew that the Lord was leading me in the right direction through the answers I got from the scriptures.”
 - Laura Daniels, Argentina Neuquen Mission
 - For more thoughts on the subject, read my post [Advice for Young Women Considering Serving a Mission](#) and the comments on the page

Melchizedek Priesthood Advancement

- Before young men go on their missions, they must be ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood
- In the old days (prior to Oct 2012), we usually waited until young men were 18
- Now 17 year olds who have their mission call can be ordained an Elder
- Young men should be given the Melchizedek Priesthood before going to the temple
 - Both of which (temple and priesthood) should happen before arriving at the MTC



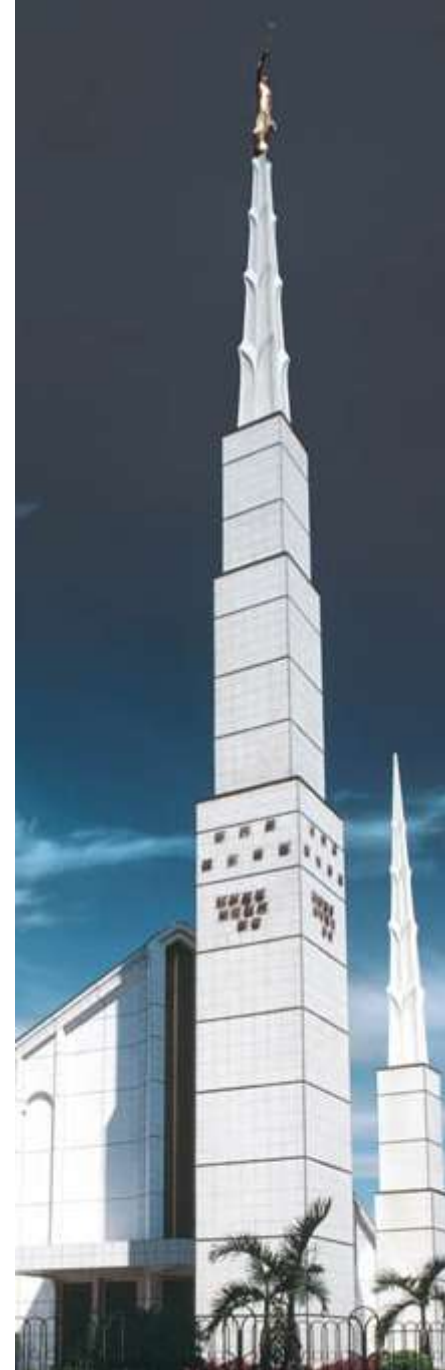
What to do to Prepare to Receive the Melchizedek Priesthood

- Gain a testimony of the restoration of the priesthood
- Study section 84 of the D&C, “a revelation on priesthood”
 - Particularly the oath and covenant (v33–44)
 - “For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies... And this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood.”
- Learn the duties of an elder
 - D&C 20:38–45, D&C 42:44, D&C 46:2, D&C 107:11–12
- Learn how to perform priesthood ordinances and blessings
 - See [Church Handbook 2](#) or the [Family Guidebook](#)



Preparing to Go to the Temple

- Before young men and women go on a mission, they should receive their temple endowment
- Usually, this happens after your call is received
- President Howard W. Hunter taught, “Let us prepare every missionary to go to the temple worthily and to make that experience an even greater highlight than receiving the mission call” (Ensign, Nov. 1994, 88).
- How can you prepare?
 - Live worthily
 - Take the Church Temple Preparation class from your ward or stake called [Endowed from on High](#)
 - Read the [Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple](#) Church manual



Missionaries go to the Temple to be Endowed with Power from on High

- “Going to the temple for your own endowment... [is] an integral part of your mission preparation ...You cannot do this work alone. We have to have heaven’s help, we have to have the ‘gifts’ of God... This work is so serious and the adversary’s opposition to it so great that we need every divine power to enhance our effort and move the Church steadily forward” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Apr. 25, 1997).
- “Missionaries ...are not fully qualified to go forth, preach the gospel, and build up the kingdom, unless they have the gift of the Holy Ghost and also are endowed with power from on high...[that is] given only in the Lord’s Temple... [The Lord] said this was so that they could go out with greater power from on high and with greater protection” (Elder Bruce R. McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary)



Patriarchal Blessings

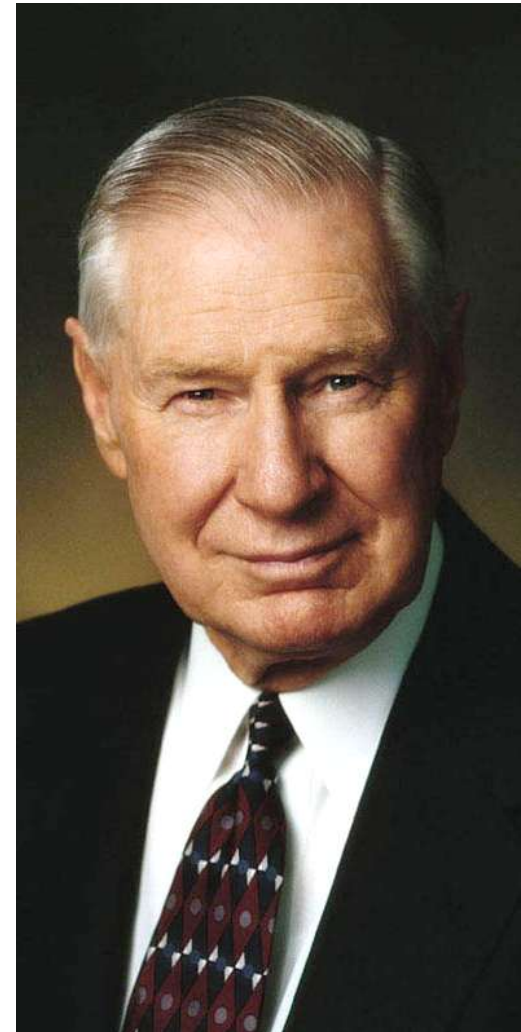
- Many will receive a patriarchal blessing long before your mission
- If not, make arrangements to get it when you begin your paperwork
- Missionaries are required to receive a patriarchal blessing before they serve
- Patriarchal Blessings
 - Will help motivate many young men to serve
 - Will help many young women decide whether or not to serve
 - See my MormonMissionPrep article on [Patriarchal Blessings](#)



Patriarchal Blessings: “A Star to Follow”

“Patriarchal blessings should be read humbly, prayerfully, and frequently. ...It is a sacred guideline of counsel, promises, and information from the Lord; however, a person should not expect the blessing to detail all that will happen to him or her or to answer all questions. The fact that one’s patriarchal blessing may not mention an important event in life, such as a mission or marriage, does not mean that it will not happen. In order to receive the fulfillment of our patriarchal blessings, we should treasure in our hearts the precious words they contain, ponder them, and so live that we will obtain the blessings.”

– From [Priesthood Blessings](#) by James E. Faust





Arrieta Family. Rosario, Argentina. May 1997



Baptism of German Arrieta. May 1997



My going away party at the Arrieta home. August 1997

Homework

- Study and pray about the words of the living prophets
 - You will gain a testimony that your call from God
- Pray and study the scriptures to develop your relationship with God
 - This will build your faith to go where the Lord wants you to go
- Prepare thoroughly for
 - The Melchizedek Priesthood (for YM)
 - The Temple
 - Your Patriarchal Blessing

Any Questions?

- Next Mission Prep Webinar
 - Gearing Up to Serve, Sunday February 10th at 6pm MST
 - Preparing for Mission Life
 - Missionary Clothing List
 - Recommended Reading
 - The MTC
 - Your purpose as a missionary
 - Teaching by the Spirit
- Register or view past webinars at MormonMissionPrep.com/Webinar