
Two Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary

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Preface

A friend once asked me what made my mission experience unique enough that someone would want to read about it. *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary* I thought about the question for some time and came to the conclusion that although I had some very unique experiences while serving a mission, other missionaries I knew had experienced even greater and more unique ones. However, I didn't write this book with the intention of boasting about my experiences. I wrote this book *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary* with the intention of showing others what an L.D.S. mission is really like. I wanted people to know that despite the miracles and joy a missionary may experience, the mission is downright hard and very demanding. There is often the misconception that a missionary is withheld from the world. In all honesty, nothing could be farther from the truth. I was exposed to the world every day that I stepped out my front door. I saw very ugly things happen, things that I've chosen to forget, and things I chose not to write about. I also saw the most beautiful things that life has to offer. I saw love and kindness at it's fullest. I was always amazed at how an ounce of spiritual joy could outweigh a ton of grief.

Any missionary who has served an honorable mission will openly admit that it was the hardest thing they've ever done. They'll also admit that it was the greatest thing they have ever done. An experience with such great extremes is not only worth writing about but also worth

reading. Names have been changed in this *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary* book.

Thank you, Micaela Limburg Hess and Amanda Nelson Cox for being great editors and even better friends. I owe you one.

Why did I Serve a Mission?

Chapter 1

Life is like a book and each part of life is *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary* a chapter. There are funny chapters, sad chapters, interesting, and even confusing chapters; however, in the end each chapter is joined together in telling a complete story. Throughout my mission, I realized that the two years I had dedicated to the Lord *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary* was a chapter of my life and, at times, almost felt as though it was a separate life or book. With that said this small chapter (the two years on my mission) did indeed change the rest of my life and the rest of my story. As *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary* is typically the case, this chapter in life was not the easiest nor the most fun and at many times was downright hard! Nonetheless, it was also one of the most incredible and rewarding adventures that I, or anyone else, might ever experience.

I once had a co-worker who was debating as to *Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story*

of a Mormon Missionary whether she should serve a mission or join the Peace Corps. I told her that if she wanted to help people she should join the Peace Corps, but if she wanted to eternally change a person's life then she needed to serve a mission.

The Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary mission field is hard, but preparing for it will help buoy one up during those trials. Have you ever seen someone win something whether it was a race, a competition, or even a job where you know they didn't earn it? Maybe you know someone that's had everything given to them throughout their Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary life. No effort or work was put in to what they received. I'm not saying that the individual didn't appreciate what they received, but most people would agree that something is appreciated more when sacrifice, endurance, and effort have been added to the equation. Taking the time to find your testimony and spiritually prepare for a mission will increase one's experience a hundred fold. Serving a two year mission would not have meant nearly as much to me had I not worked to prepare myself and through that work gained a desire to spread the gospel. Before I jump into the mission experience, I need to explain the work and effort I put in to gaining a testimony and preparing myself for a mission.

I've always been the independent kind, (which has its pros and cons), and when it comes to the gospel, I've never been one to live off someone else's testimony. I will listen to what others have to say, but if a doubt or question arises I prefer to seek out my own answer from our Heavenly Father. Such was the case when I first received a testimony of the Book of Mormon and the truthfulness of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I was raised with great parents who did their best in Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary teaching me the gospel; we had family scripture study, family home evening, and family prayer on Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary a consistent basis. My parents provided me with a perfect introduction into finding my own testimony; however, when I was fourteen, I found myself starting to question whether Joseph Smith really saw Jesus Christ and God the Father and whether or not the Book of Mormon was true. I had been taught my entire Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary life that these things Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary were true, but I hadn't learned it for myself.

Thankfully, I had a seminary teacher by the name of Brother Brooks. Brother Brooks challenged the class to gain a testimony Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary of the Book of Mormon. I specifically remember the day when he held up a board in class and on the board was carved "The Book of Mormon will change your life". Brother Brooks told us that just as the board Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary had once been a tree, its life had been forever changed. He explained that by reading and praying about the Book of Mormon, our lives would change. He promised us that if we read the

Book of Mormon and prayed about its truthfulness for thirty days straight, we would gain a Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary testimony that it was true. I've always liked a challenge and I knew I would be able to find out for myself about the truthfulness Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary of The Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith.

Despite the fact that I could read quite well, I never really liked to! Reading bored me, and I preferred doing other things. However, this was a challenge and one I was willing to try. So I started reading the Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary Book of Mormon for ten minutes every night and praying each time before I read. The Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary desire to know for myself was the motivation in gaining a testimony. After a couple of weeks (but what seemed to be much longer), I still hadn't found what I was looking for. Then one night as I was sitting on my bed reading the Book of Mormon I really started to immerse myself into the content. My mind was clean and clear of any distractions. The next thing I knew, my body was filled with a warmth and comfort that I had never felt before. Along with this indescribable feeling was an unwavering doubt that the Book of Mormon was true. My prayers had Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary been answered!

Throughout the rest of the year my testimony grew Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary and I read the entire Book of Mormon. My next year in high school I continued reading the Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary scriptures, but not quite as consistent as before. Unbeknown to me, my somewhat new testimony was slowly starting to fade and continued to do so into my junior year of high Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary school. Half way through my junior year I had lost my testimony and started to slightly doubt all that I had experienced. I still prayed but only read the scriptures once in a while. I felt horrible and confused for doubting but I didn't feel the same as I had the first time I read the Book of Mormon. I finally came to the conclusion that I had to start reading the scriptures again and ask Heavenly Father once more if the Church was true for a second time.

It took a lot more work this time. Instead of weeks it took months. I remember one night: I wanted to know the answer to the great question, "Why are we here?" I read the scriptures Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary for four hours that night and didn't feel like I received an answer. Although in retrospect, I did. So much more effort and diligence was required of me this time around. I wondered if Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary the Lord would let me regain that which I had neglected. Nonetheless, the Lord does hold true to what He promises and in the end I regained my testimony. This time my knowledge and understanding was much deeper than before: I just didn't have a testimony about the Book of Mormon, but about the principles of the gospel, as

well. I also had a testimony about the love that our Savior has for us and the happiness the gospel Two Years in Uruguay: The Real Story of a Mormon Missionary brings. This time I had a desire to share what I knew with anyone who would listen. I was only sixteen but my desire to serve a mission was there.

Two Years In Uruguay The Real Story Of A Mormon Missionary

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