

Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire as you serve the Lord!

Romans 12:11 (CEB)

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING **31**

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As a teen, I loved mission trips. During these trips, my friends and I learned valuable lessons we would not have learned otherwise. We encountered God in amazing ways and discovered that serving others could transform their lives as well as ours. The problem was that when we came home, life gradually returned to normal. After every mission trip, retreat, or camp experience, I found myself asking God the same question: “How are we supposed to keep the fire burning?”

The answer, I've learned, is to keep doing what I was doing when the fire was hot. If serving others on the mission field helped me to see how selfish I was, then I need to keep serving. If God spoke to me during the quiet time before we began the day's work, then I need to make sure I don't neglect my quiet time with God at home. Mission trips shouldn't be a break from normal life, but a challenge to start a new normal at home. <

JOURNAL:

Write down what you have learned from a mission trip, retreat, or youth event. Use these insights to build into your daily routine the practices and actions that will create a new normal for your life—one that keeps your faith alive and growing.

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