

Edited by

EMILY BENNETT



BEFORE YOU GO

Wisdom from
10 Women

WHO SERVED INTERNATIONALLY



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General Editor

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10 Women
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To: Anabelle

May these women and others like them be examples
you look to as you follow Jesus—whatever the cost.

Acknowledgments

MY GRATEFULNESS TO the nine women who have contributed to this book cannot be adequately expressed in words. Thank you for being willing to be a part of this project. Thank you for baring a bit of your soul in hopes that it can encourage women as they seek to follow the Lord. Many of you have been friends and mentors to me. I admire each of you.

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Introduction

Emily Bennett

I REMEMBER READING Elisabeth Elliot's *Through Gates of Splendor* while in grad school. She was my hero, a faithful woman to whom God had entrusted much. Elisabeth suffered and endured trial after trial. She had so much wisdom to give. I knew the story of Amy Carmichael and the incredible call God put on her life, and I had read of the Lord's faithfulness to her through more than fifty-five years of missionary work in India without a break. I had read of Lottie Moon, the firecracker of a saint who endured much in China, leading both women and men to come to know the Lord. Through their biographies and words, these women showed me the faithfulness of God, encouraged me to take risks for the gospel, and helped me understand that suffering is a normal part of the Christian journey. For that, I am forever grateful.

I, however, found myself at the beginning of my own missionary journey. I knew without a shadow of a doubt that God was calling my husband and me to overseas missions. Yet, when I read the wise words of these giants of the faith who had gone before me, I was intimidated. They had all my respect and admiration. I had learned so much from their lives.

But I was not them.

I loved God and I wanted to serve Him. All the paths our lives had taken had clearly led us to the point of packing our bags and leaving for worlds unknown. Still, I felt like there was no way I could live up to the women who had gone before me. Along with these great heroes of the faith, I wanted and needed the voices of those I considered “ordinary” to speak into my life, women like me who had heard the call to go and who simply went out of a love for God and a desire to be obedient. I wanted the wisdom of women who had gone before me, cherishing God’s kingdom more than their own comfort, to speak into my life. I wanted their victories and mistakes to guide me. I wanted them to mentor me, even if it was merely mediated through their ink spilled on a page.

This book is born out of that desire. I hope that through these pages you will hear the relatable voices of everyday saints cheering you on as you prepare for and encounter your first years on the mission field. I could not write it on my own. I needed the collective wisdom of other women whom I love and admire to pour into you *before you go*. I want these stories to be a companion to you when you are lonely and wisdom when you need guidance. I want these testimonies to solidify your obedience to follow the Lord wherever He would take you, whether bravely going alone as a single woman or bravely taking your kids someplace dangerous. Frankly, I want these words to speak courage into the fearful yes that you have offered the Lord in response to whatever assignment He would give you. This book is for you, ladies, *before you go*.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND

My husband and I landed in the Middle East in early 2011. We had been rerouted to a different country than we had planned because the Arab Spring had just erupted a month before we left. After being picked up and dropped off at our new home, we sat jet-lagged on our stained yellow couch with trunks all around us. We had made it. We sat in the middle of the Middle East in the dead of winter, alone. I remember thinking, *What now?* It took so much to get here; what happens once we arrive? We left with fanfare, a massive commissioning ceremony, and our church cheering us on. But when we landed, we found ourselves in a cold, dark, dirty house confronted with the overwhelming task of making disciples among people who really didn't care that we had arrived.

We had no idea how difficult and incredible the years to come would be, and how we would come to know the goodness of God when life fell apart. We had no idea how beautiful it would be to watch someone read Scripture and understand Jesus to be their Savior for the very first time. We had no idea how much endurance it would take to get up and do the same thing over and over again—only to be rejected over and over again. Though we had been told ahead of time that team was a big deal, we had no idea how key of a role team would play in our day-to-day lives. As a married woman, I had not foreseen what an integral role our single teammates would play within the life of our team and family. I had not anticipated the variety of views on how married women should function on the field, nor how those views affected ministry on the ground. I had no idea how living and working overseas would lay me flat on my face in utter dependence on the Lord. I

had no idea how incredibly sweet it would be to know our Savior more intimately as a result of living in a place that was difficult to consider “home.” I discovered so many things that I did not know.

This book exists as an attempt to share with you some of the things we have learned along the way to give you a head start on your own journey. I want you to hear about God’s faithfulness to women who said yes because they knew the Lord, not necessarily because they knew what they were doing. Though I would love to tell you how extraordinary these women are, honestly, they are pretty normal. Some of them spent careers on the field. Some of them spent a handful of years overseas before God called them back. We all come from different places, and we all ministered in different contexts. Some of us went overseas excited and eager to go. Others of us went internally kicking and screaming. Our stories are all different. But I want you, reader, to have a collection of our experiences in your hands as our encouragement and advice to you as you begin. I believe that these pages are littered with hard-earned wisdom that has been forged in the fire of adversity, mistakes, failure, and faith. I pray that it is a blessing to your soul as you see sisters who have walked this road ahead of you. And I pray more than anything that you see the faithfulness of our God who is willing to use us all—cracked vessels that we are—to display His glory among the nations.

So this book is for you, ordinary girl, taking the step of faith—maybe alone, maybe with your family—to pack up and move overseas to proclaim the goodness of God to women in desperate need of this good news. The following chapters are a collection of thoughts that we want you to have *before you go*.

CHAPTER 1

Discerning Our Calling

Cyndi Logsdon

From the General Editor

CYNDI LOGSDON WAS a name that I had heard for several years, always in the context of the most glowing enthusiasm. I was told by my friends who were on her team what a good leader she was. I was told by people who knew her how sharp of a mind she had, and anyone I met who talked about her always complimented her kind spirit and encouraging disposition.

It was no surprise, then, that when my husband and I got to spend time with Cyndi and her husband, Scott, we found ourselves admiring them and their ministry. We spent several days with them in a small group during a missions training event in Europe, and both Matt and I commented that we wished we could work on their team.

As with the other ladies in this book, I selfishly wish that we had more time to sit together, and I wish our paths crossed more often in life and ministry. However, I am grateful she has taken the time to lend her voice to an aspect of missions that desperately

needs to be central in our thinking. Cyndi and Scott have served throughout their ministry from a place of conviction that the church is central to missions. I hope that this chapter encourages you, dear sister, to treasure the Holy Spirit, the Word, and the church as you discern your call to missions. I pray that it will lead you to invest in your local church and to be invested in by it as you prepare to be sent and to go.

DISCERNING OUR CALLING

I'll never forget our stress and confusion as my husband, Scott, and I walked through the brightly colored booths that were scattered throughout the large room at a conference for missionary candidates. Tables were covered with scarves, miniature flags, and pictures of people from all around the world. Total information overload.

We attended this conference because we were trying to determine where we should serve overseas. A white-haired missionary from Africa played a video of his teammates traveling by canoe to the mud-floored hut where they lived, and we wondered: "Are we the right fit for ministry by canoe?" We prayerfully considered bustling cities in Europe where missionaries drank tea from porcelain cups with saucers. A team from the Middle East said that if we joined their work we'd live on a compound, and I imagined seeing the world through the veil of a burka.

We were willing to go anywhere, but we needed discernment and we longed to hear God tell us what He wanted us to do.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.
(Acts 13:1–3)

While the church in Antioch was worshiping and fasting, the Holy Spirit spoke. He told those gathered to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which He had called them. Can you imagine what that was like? I have heard sermons reminding us that we don’t know exactly what it means when God’s Word says that the Holy Spirit spoke. Did everyone in the church at Antioch hear an audible voice and understand the word of the Lord at the same time? Did the church even realize at the time that He had spoken? We don’t know the details, but we do know that Luke wrote the book of Acts under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Himself. Therefore, if the Scripture says that He spoke, then rest assured, He spoke.

Saul and Barnabas were set apart by the Holy Spirit for the work to which they were called. At least in this one instance, we see that God called Saul and Barnabas in a corporate setting to do a specific work. “Calling” is a biblical concept. At the same time, calling may be one of the most misused and misunderstood terms Christians use when we talk about mission. When we use the term

calling as God uses it, we are helped to learn more about God and about ourselves. However, when we use the term differently than authors of Scripture, we might be perpetuating misunderstanding and confusion.

I remember the day when a wonderful couple joined the work in Central Asia where we were serving. They were excited that God had “called” them to serve as church planters in this part of the world. Not long after they committed to join the team, we read their autobiographical sketch where they explained that they felt God had specifically called them to serve in a different region of the world—not Central Asia. When asked about what they had written, they said, yes, God had called them to serve in that other location, then a door was shut, and now God had called them to serve in Central Asia. Only a couple of months after they arrived, we heard that they had purchased tickets back to America and were returning home to their family. They told us that God had called them back home. They informed their direct supervisor of their decision and shared that they were called by God to return to the States. As you might expect, after some time in America, they contacted us and said God was now calling them back to Central Asia. We responded gently, but said, “We do not believe He is calling you back to our team at this time.”

How could we turn them down when they believed they were called by God to join our team? We had been praying for the Lord of the harvest to send urgently needed laborers into the field. Shouldn’t we warmly welcome this family to rejoin what God was doing among us?

As Christians, we take our calling seriously because God takes it seriously. The language of “calling” is used throughout

Scripture, so we need to understand how the Bible describes and defines this term. We take it seriously because we have been given a specific command to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19) and we need to understand the part we are to play in that command. There’s an urgency to take the gospel to those who have not yet heard. There are currently more than three billion people in the world today with little to no access to the gospel. That means that many people live their entire lives without ever even hearing the name of Jesus. So, how do we discern our specific role in this mission?

WHAT IS OUR CALLING?

To understand biblical calling, we must first agree that the Word of God is our ultimate authority and guide. If that is true, then we can have complete confidence when we read God’s Word that we have heard the voice of God. We have actually heard God speak! We must also agree that the Bible is our only sure guide. The Bible tells us to seek godly counsel (Ps. 1:1) and pray for guidance (James 1:5)—but we must do these things in accordance with God’s Word. We judge and discern the soundness of what we hear and believe by God’s authoritative Word.

Therefore, what does the Bible tell us about our calling? The New Testament often uses the word *calling* to describe God’s work of bringing us to salvation.¹ If we are in Christ, then we have been called to salvation (Matt. 9:13; Rom. 1:6; 8:30; Gal. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:15–16). We also see in Scripture that a call to salvation always includes a call to mission (Matt. 28:19–20; Acts 1:8).² The Bible

teaches that all who are in Christ are called, in some way, to make disciples of all nations.

After Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, He lived on earth for forty days and gave His disciples a mandate for how they were to spend the rest of their lives. This mandate is described in what we sometimes call the Great Commission passages of Scripture; the most familiar is Matthew 28:18–20. Jesus gave His final charge and commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations. David Platt reminds us, “The Great Commission is not just a general command to make disciples among as many people as possible. It is a specific command to make disciples among every people group in the world.”³ This is what the disciples were to spend their lives doing, and this is what we are to spend our lives doing as well. All followers of Jesus have been called to both salvation and to mission. These truths are clearly stated in God’s authoritative Word, and we can build our lives upon them.

Yet often the specific details of how we are to be individually involved in mission aren’t provided in Scripture. How do we know if God is calling us to be senders of missionaries like the church in Antioch? Or how do we know if God is calling us, like He called Saul and Barnabas, to be the ones who are sent by our local church? How do we choose a particular place of service when we are presented with so much need all around the world?

HOW DO WE DETERMINE GOD’S SPECIFIC WILL FOR OUR FUTURE?

This is the question we frequently ask when faced with important decisions; yet, this may be the wrong question. Christians sometimes think that to be obedient to God we need to first

determine God's plan for our future. Once that is determined, then we are to be obedient to that revealed future direction in our lives. We just don't see that modeled in the Bible.

It may be helpful to first acknowledge that God is limitless, but we are not. There are limits to our knowledge and limits to what He has revealed to us even about His will. Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us, "The hidden things belong to the LORD our God, but the revealed things belong to us and our children forever, so that we may follow all the words of this law." Some things are hidden; yet, the revealed things of God belong to us. So, let's first consider what has been revealed.

There are events and circumstances that, in His sovereignty, God decrees. What God decrees will come to pass and cannot be thwarted. Some call this God's "decretive will." God has decreed that Jesus will return someday. This cannot change; it must and will happen. Some of God's decrees have been revealed, and we should plan our lives accordingly.

There are behaviors and circumstances that, in His sovereignty, God desires. Some call this His "preceptive" will, referring to His precepts, commandments, and laws.⁴ God desires that His followers love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34). We may not always obey God's command, but Scripture is clear that He desires that we love one another.

Yet, there may be parts of God's will for us that have not been revealed. For example, we may need to choose a location on the mission field where we can serve. How do we choose between Africa and Asia when both are seemingly locations where God desires to send missionaries? We need to learn to make wise

decisions as we seek to live a life of obedience in accordance with what God's Word tells us that He desires.

So, what question should we be asking? Maybe a question we should be asking is: "What are the usual means through which God speaks to His people to help them make wise decisions without knowing the full picture of the future?" Whether you have a flight booked and a date circled on your calendar when you will launch into a new culture to share the gospel or you are struggling through if God is calling you to go, this question guides every decision we make as Christians.

God Speaks to Us by His Son

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. (Heb. 1:1–2a)

First, God speaks to us through the Spirit of Christ living in us, so we must make decisions based on our union with Christ. We can study Jesus's life and see that not only in word, but also in deed, His entire life was focused on carrying out His Father's mission for Him and for the world. We can see that "the Son of Man [had] no place to lay his head" (Luke 9:58). He lived a transient life, going from town to town, teaching, healing, and calling the most unlikely people to a new kingdom and commissioning them to ministry (Matt. 4:18–25).

As we learn more about Jesus Himself, the knowledge that we are in Christ informs our life and actions (Heb. 1). Have you really thought about that before? If we are in Christ, and Christ is in us,

we need to be about the work that He is currently completing in the world. Our Savior's last words on earth were a command to "go . . . and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19a). As we study various passages about Christ after His resurrection (Matt. 28:18–20; Luke 24:44–48; Acts 1:8; Matt. 16:18; Rev. 7:9), we see that Jesus is at work directing the proclamation and spread of the gospel and building His church. And He is doing all of that this very day through His people. Even after His ascension He didn't say to Saul, "Why are you persecuting my people?" Jesus said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting *me*?" (Acts 9:4, emphasis mine), and then He gave Saul clear marching orders, and Saul was used by Jesus to build His church. If we are in Christ, and no longer live apart from Christ (Gal. 2:20), then our lives must be in alignment with what Christ was sent to accomplish: the proclamation of His glory among all nations (Luke 24:44–48).

God Speaks to Us through His Word

Second, God speaks to us through His Word. We can learn what God desires when we meditate on His Word. Second Timothy 3:16–17 reminds we have all we need to be complete and equipped for every good work God has prepared for us because of the inspired Word of God. This means that we make our life decisions based on how we can best obey God's clear commands. When we don't know what to do next, we strive to align our lives with what God's Word tells us that He desires for our lives.

Truth be told, when I have faced life-changing decisions, I have often hoped that God would send some clear sign in the sky to ensure that I am taking the right path. However, even without such signs, I can take comfort in the fact that James 1:5 promises

wisdom for those who ask. As I meditate on Scripture and strive to align my life with God’s commands, I can trust that the same God who ordered the steps of every disciple in history is also ordering my steps as I seek out His will. To this point, John Piper notes:

[W]hen Paul told the Romans about his “ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named,” he never mentioned his dramatic experience. Instead, he quoted a verse of Scripture—Isaiah 52:15! “As it is written, ‘Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand’” (Rom. 15:20–22[ESV]).

Why? Evidently, Paul’s *personal* calling (not everyone is called to preach where Christ is not named) was confirmed and clarified by his meditation on Scripture.⁵

Remember that Paul did have a dramatic experience on the road to Damascus. Yet, it seems that his specific calling was clarified through meditation upon God’s Word. God’s Word may not specifically tell us whether we should serve in Africa or Asia, but it will guide and direct us (Ps. 119:105), and our job is to meditate on His Word, be obedient to His commands, and trust that He will care for us in the specific details of how our future unfolds—one step at a time.

God Speaks to Us as We Pray and Fast

Third, we seek the leading of the Holy Spirit through prayer and fasting. We are told that if we seek wisdom, God will grant

it generously (James 1:5). We seek wisdom because we are not the ones who determine the future. Our responsibility is to pursue God's preceptive will and use wisdom to guide us and help us discern. We know that if we call upon the Lord, He will answer us (Ps. 17:6). If we trust in the Lord and acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will direct our paths (Prov. 3:5–6). In Acts 13, when the Holy Spirit spoke to the church in Antioch, He spoke to them *while they were worshiping and fasting*.

God Speaks to Us through His Church

Fourth, God speaks to us through His church. When we are reconciled to Christ upon salvation, we are reconciled to His people (Eph. 2). Because of our union with Christ, we have supernatural communion with God's people. He has given us His church! Church leaders and church members are a gift to equip us for life and ministry (Eph. 4:11). The church helps us discern and make wise decisions. Through counsel from our church, we can see more clearly what our next steps should be as we follow Christ by obeying His precepts.

In Scripture, when we see specific instances of God calling people to a specific work, it's often in the context of God revealing His will *corporately* to the church. Look back at Acts 13. God told the church to set apart Saul and Barnabas (v. 2). He could have spoken to Saul as He had previously spoken to him on the road to Damascus when Saul was given a more general call. But even on the road to Damascus, when God spoke to Saul, others were involved. Saul was traveling with a group when he had this experience and God involved Ananias and others in the story. Likewise,

when God called Saul to begin his missionary journeys, He spoke to him and others through the local church.

In addition to God speaking through the church in Antioch, it was the church in Antioch who sent Saul and Barnabas. The Holy Spirit called them, but the local church sent them. The example we see throughout the New Testament is that God's people, in the power of the Holy Spirit, join in the work of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 13 we see the local church sending those whom the Holy Spirit has called. Today, though we have mission organizations that can be incredibly helpful, we must remember that they can never and should never replace the centrality of God's design for the local church in mission.

OUR CHURCH CAN HELP ASSESS OUR QUALIFICATIONS, CIRCUMSTANCES, GIFTINGS, AND DESIRES

Our local church should help assess whether we are biblically qualified for ministry. Some churches wisely require that all missionaries meet at least the biblical qualifications for deacons as set forth in 1 Timothy 3. A person sent out by the local church needs to be a maturing disciple who is ready to serve in and through the local church in the new context. Experience shows that the ranks of good church planters are going to be filled from the ranks of good church members. The Bible lays out a pattern of activity that shows how the disciples responded to the Great Commission. The missionary activity of the first disciples always included evangelism (sharing the gospel with nonbelievers), discipleship (teaching new disciples how to follow Jesus), and starting or strengthening churches. Their work centered around the church from start to

finish. Therefore, if we are to follow their example, we must be biblically qualified to serve in the church.

Our church family can also help us assess our life circumstances and whether these circumstances should influence where, how, and even when we can serve. If you are married, you need to consider the needs and desires of your spouse. If you are a parent, you need to consider your responsibility to your children. If you have aging parents, you need to consider how you can honor your parents during this season of life. If you have financial debt, you need to consider how to manage that wisely. There is a possibility that due to previous choices and decisions, you may not be able to serve in certain roles quite yet or without careful consideration of your circumstances. For example, your preparation for missionary service may need to include considering education options for your children. Whatever your circumstance may be, the church can help you prayerfully consider how to steward the different aspects of your life well.

The local church also affirms the way God has uniquely equipped us to serve and strengthen the body of Christ. Each one of us has received a spiritual gift (or gifts) that we should use to serve one another (1 Pet. 4:10). We have been equipped to serve and should seek to use our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and for the equipping of His church. Our local church can observe our lives and help us discern how we are individually gifted. Some Christians take online spiritual gifts assessments as they seek to learn how God has gifted them. In my experience, the most effective assessments are often the observations and affirmations of those in our local church who see us using our gifts. If multiple people around us affirm a specific area of gifting, we should

probably take note. Instead of determining your calling on your own, the first questions to ask are: “Does my church—the leadership and membership—see the same marks of the Lord’s calling on my life? Does the church know me and affirm my qualification and giftedness enough to send me to proclaim the gospel and make disciples in places lacking access?”

Our church can help us consider our desires and affections. Paul tells us that it is not just permissible to aspire to minister to God’s people, it’s noble (1 Tim. 3:1). We are also encouraged to desire spiritual gifts that are given to equip and build up the body (1 Cor. 14:1–4). Yet not all of our desires are noble, and our deceitful hearts need the church to help us discern our motives and hearts. The church can help us train our hearts to delight in Jesus so that we desire what He does. The world tells us to “follow our hearts,” but Scripture tells us that we can “lead our hearts” by prayerfully asking God to help us delight in Him and desire good things (Ps. 37:4). When we do this, we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, and we will be able to discern God’s will (Rom. 12:2).

CONCLUSION

Remember the husband and wife who wanted to rejoin our work in Central Asia? They believed they were called to return to our team. Yet, after careful prayer, meditation on God’s Word, and seeking counsel, the team on the ground decided they could not affirm the couple’s decision to return. The local church that the couple would have joined on the field also did not affirm their decision to return. Therefore, we agreed that it would not be wise

for them to rejoin that particular local ministry at that time. Since their external circumstances (you might say their external “call”) didn’t match their internal desires and sense of calling, we recommended they wait.

As for our family, we didn’t find things lining up when we learned more about that work in Africa. If I’m being honest, we didn’t desire to serve in Africa and the work didn’t seem to fit with our training or our giftings. For that matter, we didn’t end up in Europe or the Middle East either. God guided us through His Word and drew our hearts to a small city tucked away in a remote part of Central Asia. Our local church affirmed and confirmed this direction as well. After praying and fasting, we found a location and ministry that aligned with our circumstances and gifts where we knew we’d be able to proclaim the gospel and join in Christ’s work of building His church where His name was not known.

The Holy Spirit does not speak audibly to most people. Yet God is still speaking and calling people to take the gospel to the nations. When the Bible, our internal desires, our external circumstances, and the church’s affirmation all align, then it’s a great indication to take the next step of faith and obedience. We prepare, we make ourselves ready, and we trust our great God to do the work. And we can trust Him completely because, as the apostle Paul told the church in Thessalonica, we know that “he who calls you is faithful; he will do it” (1 Thess. 5:24).

DISCUSS AND REFLECT

1. As you consider your role in missions, where do the Bible, your internal desires, your external circumstances, and the church's affirmation all align? Where might they not align?
2. What counsel does your local church give you as you prayerfully consider where and how to serve?
3. What character traits should you seek to develop as you prepare to serve as a missionary?

ARE YOU PREPARING TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE NATIONS?

You've said "yes" to God's call to go, and now you will pack up your things and step into the unknown of a new location, people, and culture. The following years will likely include great joy, frustration, homesickness, difficulty, and excitement. In this book, **ten women who have served on the mission field share what they wish they had known before they began.**

THIS HANDBOOK FOR ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD INCLUDES ESSAYS ON:

- Discerning your calling
- Leaving what you love
- Serving well on a team
- Engaging in prayer and evangelism
- Taking kids overseas
- Fellowshiping through suffering
- Going as a married or single woman
- Dealing with fear and anxiety
- Spiritual habits of a missionary

These essays are from Emily Bennett (general editor), Ruth Ripken, Cyndi Logsdon, Hilary Alan, C. J. Olivia, Lydia Pettus, Emily Watkins, Sydney Dixon, Amy Bowman, and Nina Buser.



EMILY BENNETT grew up in Clinton, Wisconsin. She attended Winona State University and completed her bachelor's in education. She met her husband Matt in college, and they worked on staff together with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for two years. It was through the ministry of InterVarsity and the Urbana Missions Conference that both Emily and Matt felt a growing desire to both be trained and sent as missionaries. Before moving overseas, Emily completed a masters of divinity and a masters in arts in intercultural studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Emily and Matt served in North Africa for seven years with their children, Anabelle, Elliot, and Oliver. She is currently living in Ohio, working with an organization that helps internationals learn English and transition to life in the United States. Matt is a professor at Cedarville University. Emily and Matt love encouraging future missionaries from Cedarville as well as in their local church.

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