



Esther Leininger

ID: 15668 Country: [USA: Texas/Mexico Border](#) Region: North America

Biography

When I was a child, I heard the stories of great missionaries who were called by God to go to dangerous, unknown places to share the gospel with the lost. Some received the call like Moses; maybe not with a burning bush but definitely with some great sign of God's power. Some received the call like Elijah, who heard a still, small voice calling him to follow where God led.

My call was nothing like that. I did not have a great sign from God or even a still, small voice that told me what to do. I've simply followed God one step at a time. My parents, Tom and Karen Leininger, were called to missions before I was born. I was raised in Bolivia for seven years and in Honduras for two years. Overseas ministry was my life, and I loved it. I was 12 when we returned to the United States and did not understand why we could not stay missionaries forever.

That was when I realized that if I wanted to be a missionary, I would have to work hard, and, of course, follow God's lead. At first, I wondered if being a missionary was just what I wanted and not of God. However, as God began opening doors for me to continue missions work, I began to realize that God's desires for my life and my personal desire to be a missionary were one and the same.

God first began opening doors when I went on a missions trip to Haiti in 2008. More than enough money was donated for my trip so I was able to give a generous donation for the continued WISH ministry in Haiti. During college, I went on two more missions trips—one to Russia for a week and one to Bolivia for almost four months. On both trips, I kept testing to see whether my call to missions was what God wanted. Both times, I felt a great deal of peace about the situation.

Every new step, every new opportunity has brought me closer to being a career missionary teacher at [Taylor Christian School](#) in [McAllen, Texas](#). This is the newest open door God has led me to. Sometimes I still wonder if I am just doing what I want to do, but I believe God often gives us the pure desires of our hearts that mirror His own. I have really enjoyed the many opportunities God has given me. Often He did not give me the answers I wanted when I wanted them, but He always gave me answers before I needed them. He has always been faithful to me, and I can be sure I am in the center of His will by simply following Him one step at a time.