

## Hello, new friends

I'd like to introduce myself so you know a little about me and I look forward to meeting you in the future! I grew up in southern New Jersey and believed in Jesus when I was five years old. I was very involved in my church and Christian school and was interested in missions from a young age. In high school I taught Bible clubs with Child Evangelism Fellowship and decided to become teacher to share God's love and to make learning enjoyable for children. I earned my elementary education degree at Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania in 2000 and taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade at a Christian school in Lafayette, Indiana, for four years. During that time I prayed about teaching overseas and spent a month in Kosovo with a friend's sister who was a missionary there. My church in Indiana was involved with Bethesda Outreach Ministries in South Africa, a new orphan ministry caring for AIDS

affected orphans through foster care and a Christian school on site. I followed God's leading to spend a year there, which turned into three years. It was a wonderful and challenging experience which stretched my faith and thinking. I returned home to the U.S. in 2007 and spent six months of the next year caring for my grandmother. In 2009 I started an administrative assistant position at Baptist Bible College in the Teacher Education department and enjoyed working for my alma mater and coordinating student missions trips. In 2012 I accepted an administrative assistant position at Fortis Institute in Scranton, PA, a



career institute helping adults receive training in order to improve their lives and better support their families. I worked there for five years and was promoted to registrar, working with scheduling and compliance. In the spring of 2017 my sister's family invited me to join them in Akron, Ohio, and I enjoyed time with my niece and nephews for several months. Soon afterwards I was introduced to Eric and we knew quickly that God had brought us together. Having a family has always been a desire of mine and I am very blessed to now have a wonderful husband and four children. We were married in December and appreciate your prayers as we blend together as a family and serve in our local church.