



March 2019

### Could God be leading me to Europe?

*Last month we began addressing practical ways to prepare for missions. This month, BMM's Midwest Director of Enlistment, Dr. Charles Ellis, writes about preparing for missions in Europe.*

So, you are asking God if He wants you in career missions in Europe. An awesome opportunity awaits you in a place duped by Satan's humanistic worldview. Europe boasts of its culture and history, but it remains a stronghold of Satan that will challenge the young missionary's resolve in advancing the gospel. Looking back at our arrival in Germany we were excited and ready to move forward. However, God quickly taught me that the way up was down, meaning that I had to reevaluate my priorities and start from square one. I could not speak German; therefore, my duty was to learn the language, PERIOD! So, I jammed my ministry excitement and ideas into a bottle and torqued down the lid. Those things would have to wait, for now. After language study we moved to Ingolstadt to start our ministry assignment, and a new battery of questions came up. We asked, "What should we do first?" Next, we wondered, "How do we do it?" I must have used a "skip" the day that was taught in Bible college. Again, God used each stage of our growth to encourage us with the answers. Here are a few ideas for you.

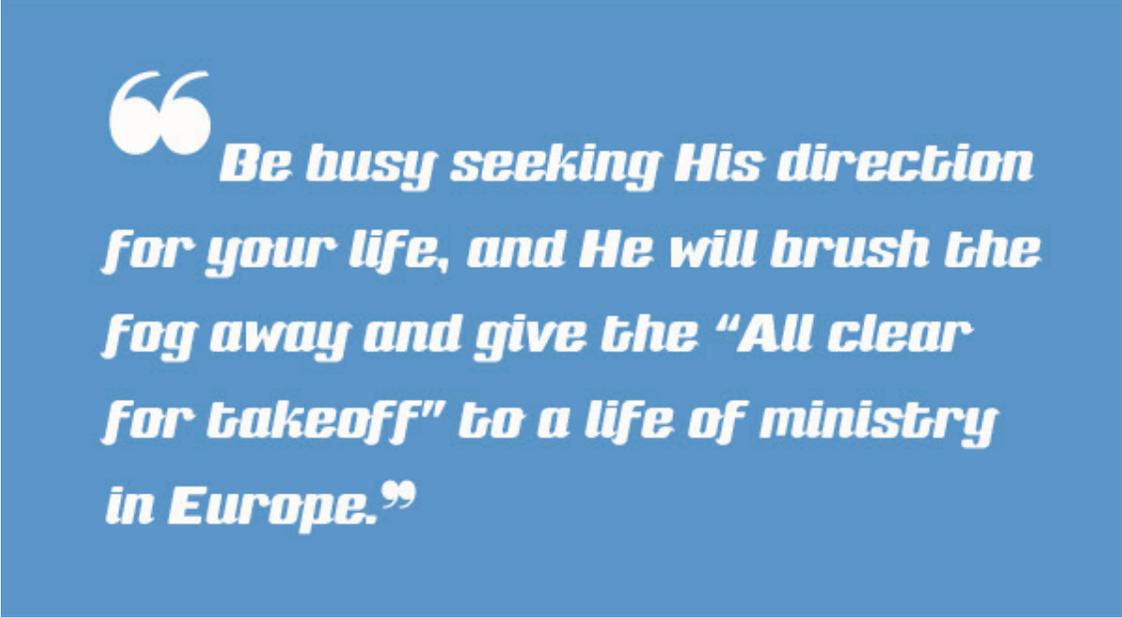
#### Prepare now

If you go to a Christian college, Christian service requirements will help you to gain a better understanding of God's Word and point out areas needing growth. Most importantly, get involved in outreach. As we share God's Word with people, we often hear something and begin a rebuttal without really hearing what people are saying.

Therefore, culture plays a role in understanding, so study it now.

Also, you need to understand Catholicism. Europeans truly believe that the “Church” will get them to heaven. Those embracing atheism will debate with you. Pay close attention in all of your apologetic classes and relish opportunities to field questions about the perceived "follies" of Christianity.

Develop the things that you do best! A quicker way to push through the outer fences of people you meet in Europe is to join a club. Whatever you really like to do, there is a club full of people that like the same things.



**“Be busy seeking His direction for your life, and He will brush the fog away and give the “All clear for takeoff” to a life of ministry in Europe.”**

### Learn Discipline

It will continually keep you focused. You will face situations where you must be self-motivated without anyone looking over your shoulder. Whether you lead a team or are under a team leader, be a team person. Learn to cooperate. Both leaders and followers are vital in ministry. Most likely you will have situations where you will need to wear both hats. Learn now to lead and to follow. In the meantime, take a FirstLook trip to Europe. God will open your eyes and also open doors.

### Trust God

Familiar verses tell us to, “...lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Prov 3:5-6). Those verses start with, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...” Be busy seeking His

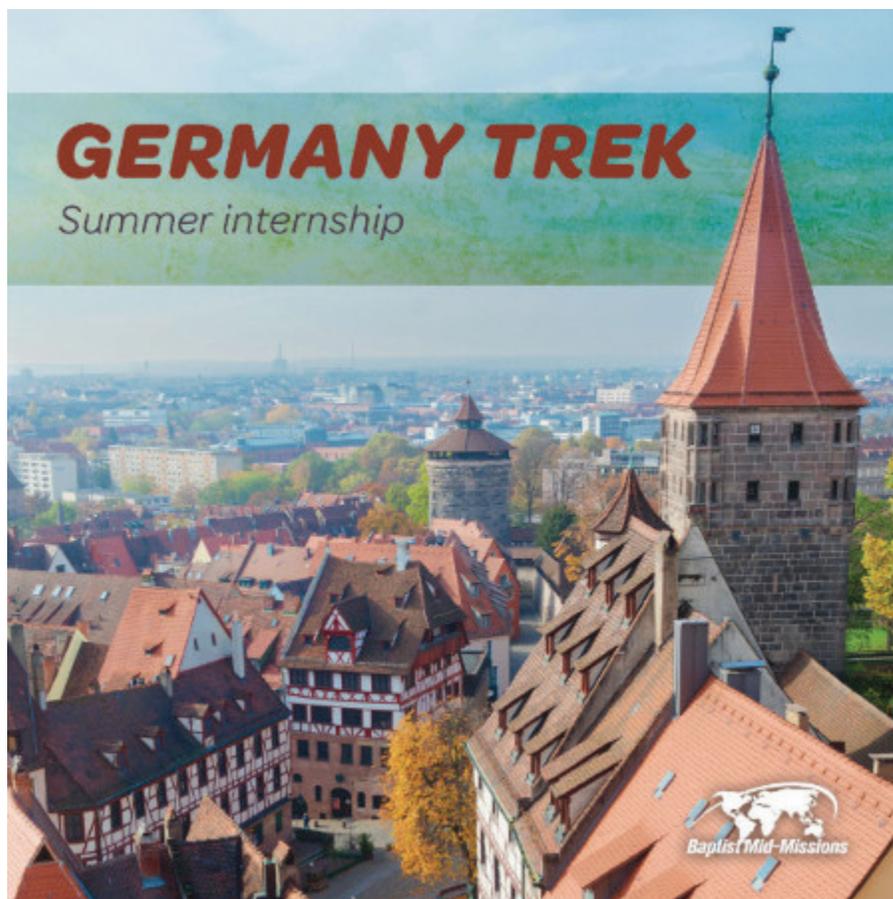
direction for your life, and He will brush the fog away and give the “All clear for takeoff” to a life of ministry in Europe.

Dr. Charles E. Ellis

Baptist Mid-Missions Midwest Director of Enlistment

*Charles and Nancy Ellis and their family served with BMM for 23 years in Germany before serving in their current ministry of enlistment.*

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Do you need help making plans to visit Europe? BMM offers several group trips in Europe. Germany Trek offers the chance to work alongside BMM missionaries for six weeks. See what God is doing in a new church plant. Contact Travis Gravley ([tgravley@bmm.org](mailto:tgravley@bmm.org)) for more information.

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