

ANN BOWMAN

Author of
**"I Never Signed
Up For This"**

Overview

A heartfelt, candid account of the emotional, spiritual, and physical challenges faced by families of missionaries—especially parents and grandparents—who often feel unprepared and unseen in the journey of sending loved ones into cross-cultural service.

Key Themes

• Unanticipated Grief & Emotional Strain:

Bowman describes the profound sorrow she felt as her daughters and grandchildren departed, grappling with cultural expectations and spiritual shame for her grief.

• Real Dangers on the Field:

The book reveals the constant threats her grandchildren faced—bombings, disappearances, and human trafficking—experiences that disrupted innocent lives and daily routines.

• Community Support & Spiritual Growth:

Featuring the role of church-based advocacy groups, Bowman highlights coping mechanisms, prayer support, and an evolving spiritual maturity that brought resilience and divine comfort.



Author Bio

Ann Bowman is a seasoned writer with contributions to Focus on the Family, Birds and Blooms, and Chicken Soup for the Soul Devotional Stories for Mothers. She has served as a MOPS speaker, blog host, and spiritual educator for decades. Holding a B.S. in Education from Texas A&M, she is also certified in TCK (Third Culture Kid) debriefing and has supported human trafficking survivors through therapeutic art and ESL teaching. She has been married for 44 years and has four children and five grandchildren.

Reviews

"I cried reading this—it put into words the emotions I couldn't name."

"She captured the airport departure scene exactly as I remembered it."

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