

My name is Elizabeth Fresse. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Andrews University with my B.S. in Elementary Education, emphasis in Language Arts.

I grew up a mid-west girl, but as I have let God lead, He has expanded my horizons! In high school I was able to travel to Africa with a friend whose family was AFM missionaries; the two months I spent in Burkina Faso with her family changed my life. During my senior year our class trip was a mission trip to the Marshall Islands. Again, it was life-changing. I fell in love with travel, mission work and following God. He opened the door for me to be a student missionary that very next year on the island of Yap in Micronesia. It was there I met my husband, Juan Fresse. We then served a year together on Palau and it was there I fell head-over-heals-in-love with teaching. We went to Andrews University where I confidently pursued my degree in education while Juan received his Masters and soon began working as a pastor. I absolutely love being a pastor's wife as well as mom to our five children. Our family loves to take road trips, explore the great outdoors and do ministry together.

My Classroom Philosophy:

I believe that students are most fulfilled when they understand how much Jesus loves them—a child who feels fulfilled has a greater capacity for learning and improving in every other academic area. I believe strongly that the child is a whole being, not a bunch of pieces. I seek to meet the needs and inspire growth in every area, not just academics. Part of this growth should be in family relationships and so I encourage evenings at home connecting rather than traditional homework. I believe that by fifth grade, students need to have someone who will talk about real issues and let them ask the hard questions. This won't happen, though, unless the classroom and relationships are safe and healthy. This is the environment I strive to create each year, and it starts with me making sure my relationship with Christ is strong and healthy. I expect that each child can improve and succeed in my classroom.



Why I choose to work in Christian Education:

I choose to serve God—wherever He calls me. For a time that was as a substitute in public schools, and I learned so much during those years. After my children were older, God opened doors that surprised me and I was chosen as the principal/upper grades teacher at Bentonville Seventh-day Adventists School in Arkansas. I enjoyed three fantastic years there of both school and personal growth. If there is one thing I've learned, it is that when God opens the door He also empowers us to do whatever He is asking of us! When my husband accepted the call to Sunnyside SDA Church here in Portland, there were no openings in the area for teachers, but I wasn't worried—God had a plan. Three days before school started PAES enrollment grew to need a new teacher; with some last minute changes it ended up being for 5th grade. I applied and was chosen. I couldn't be happier—following God is never a boring journey!

