Some people choose to live in the same place their entire life, but one man and his family, it just wasn't in the cards.

Matthew Whoolery, father of four and a member of the Psychology Department at BYU-Idaho, is more than just the numbers or classes he teaches.

He's lived in five different countries in 20 years, not only that, but has also traveled to more than 25 countries.

Whoolery said he understands the draw of staying in one place, but he said it's not who he is.

"Imagining that makes me feel nervous, I feel restless," Whoolery said.

As a new college graduate, he participated in anthropological research with a tribe in Namibia. He said living in Namibia was the first time he was out in the world and on his own completely.

From there he moved to England for a few years, and then Egypt, India and China.

While living in India and Egypt, Whoolery was a professor at two universities.

He taught psychology at the University of Delhi, in New Delhi, India, where he lived for six months.

Then, after finishing his doctorate in theoretical and philosophical psychology, he applied for many jobs, and received an interview at the American University of Cairo.

At the American University of Cairo in Cairo, Egypt, he taught psychology and refugee studies for three years.

Although he has traveled all over the world, he said the countries he liked the most were Egypt and India because of the personal connections he formed with the people.

"That's when you really get a feel for (a country), when your friends are wherever you're living."

Whoolery said teaching in both India and Egypt was great because he got to know the students he taught.

"Teaching in both of those places was a really remarkable experience," Whoolery said. "I taught at the University of Delhi for only one semester. I had about 40 students, and I could tell you all of their names and something about who all of them are, as people."

Whoolery compared teaching abroad to his students in the United States. He said he sees and talks with students in the United States more than he did with his students abroad.

However he and his students in the United States don't know each other on a personal level.

He said just like in India, when he taught in Egypt, he also knew his students as individuals.

Whoolery said he would attend his students' weddings and knew their families. Likewise, they also knew his family and would come to his home.

"You were part of each other's personal lives, and that was really amazing," he said.

Whoolery said he had great friends while living in Egypt.

"I remember when I left Egypt; I felt like all the people I knew and loved were being left behind," he said.

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He also said his kids have missed living in India and were all sad to leave.

“It was a real loss,” he said. “And my kids, when we were leaving India this last year, they were weeping.”

Whooley said his kids still talk and ask about India now.

He said they’ve asked, “When are we moving back?” and “Can we move back permanently this time?”

Whooley said he not only gained many friends in India and Egypt, but both places affected his life.

“It had such a profound impact on my life,” Whooley said. “The cultures there in both places, the people are so friendly and so loving and so open.”

But he said he has also found the same trend in other countries he’s visited.

“The sad thing is in the American media, I think, we only report when something really bad happens,” Whooley said. “So we imagine the world as a really terrible place, and it’s just not true. There’s so much good.”

Whooley and his wife, Rachel, visited Vietnam and had a positive experience with the people despite their expectation.

Whooley and his wife predicted that the Vietnamese people would resent Americans for killing many of their people, however the Vietnamese people were still hospitable.

“We were just amazed,” Whooley said. “All the way through, from top to bottom, people were kind and thoughtful and generous to us. … It was a good lesson.”

He said no matter where he’s traveled, it’s been the same.

“There’s so much generosity and kindness and hospitality that I’ve found everywhere I’ve been in the world,” he said.

Although Whooley said he enjoys traveling, moving to a new country is still difficult and does not come without challenges.

He said it is definitely a
challenge, but it's fun and he enjoys the unsurety of it.

"You have to adjust to a lot of things, to food, to place, to where do we buy sheets, where do we buy food?" said Whoolery.

Whoolery also said language barriers can be a problem when moving to new places.

In India, English is one of thirteen official languages, but in Egypt, Egyptian Arabic is spoken.

While in Egypt, Whoolery learned to speak Arabic, and one of his daughters also learned to speak some of the language.

He said the differences between Rexburg and countries like India are dramatic and when moving to different countries, it's necessary to adjust.

Although despite the challenges and differences of moving to new places, Whoolery said he liked living in both New Delhi and Cairo.

"Both of them have that (busyness), there's so much going on all the time," Whoolery said. "Big cities like that, Cairo and New Delhi, are both 20 million or so people, so it's this constant noise and people and
chaos, and (it's) wonderful."

Whooolery also said some people want to travel, but they might be unsure or nervous, or worry about whether traveling is safe.

"Very rarely in all of my travels have I ever felt in danger, at all," he said. "It's scarier to be in a large city in America than anywhere else I've been."

Moving to Egypt might make most people nervous, and Whooolery said before he and his family packed up and moved to Egypt, he called people and asked how it was to raise small children in Egypt.

His three oldest children were all under four years of age at the time.

However, the people he talked to said what most would not expect.

"Everyone (I asked) was like, 'It's amazing,'" Whooolery said. "Arabs are so loving and so friendly, they love children, it's a great place to have kids."

So Whooolery and his wife, moved their three kids to Egypt and even had one of their children in Egypt.

"They were right," Whooolery said. I couldn't think of any better place to have little kids than living in the Middle East. (They are) such kind such loving people, and are friendly to children."

Now, about a year after returning from India in 2013, and almost 10 years after coming back from Egypt in 2007, Whooolery and his family are planning their next adventures.

"I think I must have always had (the travel bug)," Whooolery said. "But my family has it, my siblings do. ... All of us just jump in and go."

For example, one of Whooolery's brothers works for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, and has lived in China and now lives in Botswana.

He said the next trip with his family will most likely be to Botswana to visit his brother.

The Whooolery children are also adventurous and eager to move to different places.

"My kids would like to have us all move to Japan for a year or two, which would be really cool," Whooolery said. "We'd really enjoy that, Japan is an amazing place."

Whooolery said he likes to travel because he wants learn more about the world.

"We miss so much (by not exploring the world). The world's so much richer, so much more interesting," he said. "The food, the color, the people, the languages, it's fun."