

BIO



CARRIE'S BIO

1. Traveling and writing have always been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. Traveling with my family and through gymnastics.
2. The travel and writing bug did not end in high school. I traveled all around the US and Canada with my family and Girl Scouts. This was the first time I actually wrote a book about one of my travel experiences. It was unpublished but shared with many who loved it – “And Yet We Walk...” about our tours and tours and tours through Washington DC with our Girl Scout troop before my senior year of high school. I also wrote poetry during this time.
3. After high school I went to UW-Whitewater, first majoring in elementary education but then later changing to psychology/criminal justice. However, after trying out employment in a psychologist office, I decided I liked my work better in the law offices where I had part-time jobs during college. Besides, I didn't want to pursue graduate level psychology degrees. Instead, I went to law school.

I traveled some with my kids, who were born during this time. I have been to about 35-40 of the 50 states at this point. Most of my writing revolved around school during this time.

4. I graduated from Marquette law school and practiced law for 7-8 years in the area of family law mostly and loved every minute of helping people rebuild their lives.

As a lawyer, you have to love to write. You write more than anything – letters, briefs, motions, arguments, and so much more.

As for traveling, I started expanding my reach outside of America. After almost not receiving our passports in time, I had my first experience with extreme poverty through a trip to Mexico with my husband, Chris, in 2007.

CARRIE'S BIO: CONTINUED



5. After many years in law, I knew I was losing my passion for it. When seeing the poverty in Mexico and then later that year seeing some videos of Kenyan kids singing "Do they Know It's Christmas Time At All?" a new passion began to surface. It was a song sung to address the problem of world hunger. The point of that song being that they don't even have enough to eat one meal per day, what does Christmas mean to them compared to what it means for us? It broke my heart.

In 2008 I went to Kenya and saw it first-hand and my heart broke even more. I knew I had to do something, but didn't know what.

At this point, my writing began to take a more Kenyan focus. I started a nonprofit that works in Kenya. I wrote letters and flyers and more to family, friends, and businesses for support of the schools, feeding and other works in Kenya. We created a profile for all the kids in Kenya so we could connect the kids with people here in the US for sponsorship.

I started speaking, writing, and fund-raising for and about Kenya .

6. Here in 2016, I have now traveled to Kenya 15+ times (about 2-3X per year) to develop relationships with students, teachers, and many others in Kenya. I bring those stories back to you here.

I have written a book *From Lawyer to Missionary: A Journey to Kenya and Back Again*, which brings those relationships alive to you here in the states. It shares the reality of what life is like in Kenya while at the same time as showing the hope. An audio recording of that book is in the works and a second book in that series is almost ready for publication.

Also, a children's book is in the works called *Do Leaves Change Color in Kenya too?*. This book teaches kids colors in Swahili, the language of a lot of East African countries. It also shares a lot of cultural items with kids about life in Kenya from ugali – favorite food dish to Maasai tribal wear.

At this point, I speak all the time to adults and children about life in Kenya and about fund-raising and so much more. Sharing life together and learning!