



# "WILD RIDE"

## 15 Outrageous Experiences Before I Hit the BIG 40

1. **OUCH – YOU WERE YOUNG.** Married at 16 and moved from Colorado to Canada where people lived in Igloos and said a lot of "EH?"

*Learned they didn't live in Igloos but built a lot of them out of the snow in the backyard*

2. **TRASH TALK** Visited the trashy neighborhoods in Manila Philippines (literally trash heaps) where children scoured the contents for food and items for shelter.

*Witnessed the REAL MEANING of "SURVIVOR"*

3. **PASSPORT DISASTER** Lost my passport in Kaduna Nigeria - where I was very disliked by radical religious groups who thought I could not address men publically and certainly not without headgear.

*Learned that there are honest people everywhere - including Nigeria.*

4. **TRAVELED BROKE with BABES** Travelled from Florida to California with my husband and two babies who were both the age of 1 with literally **no money** in our pockets beyond gas.

*Discovered just how good cream of wheat with water can taste!*

5. **NO BOMBS PLEASE** Ate dinner in the most bombed hotel in the United Kingdom located in Belfast Ireland while it was the most bombed hotel!

*Learned to eat fast and run!*

6. **NO TO GUNS** - Had to navigate travels in Guatemala during guerilla warfare days of the 80's when I didn't know a word of Spanish and was only 22.

*Learned that traveling with my own jar of peanut butter could get me in prison!*

7. **WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE NOTHING!** Interviewed a Romanian Orphanage Matron at an orphanage where no child was allowed a toy, sock, or photo to call their own.

*Learned how to hold my burning opinion in an effort to build the bigger picture*



I understand the problem of **NEEDING** to change and having **NO TIME** to **CHANGE!** We can **CHANGE THAT!**

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8. **A TRUE BROKEN HEART** I Was invited to speak to 500 orphanage children ranging from ages 5-16 and have never forgotten

Discovered my world had never been broken – but my heart truly broke that day

8. **DYING BABIES WITH NO FOOD TO EAT** Carried dying babies in starved African countries because their moms were so weak

Learned why I want to be strong for others.

9. **ESCORT TO DEATH** Spent months going to the hospital to be with a young man dying of brain cancer. I met him while speaking to an audience about vision.

Learned what we can see determines our vision

10. **GRACE PERSONIFIED** Experienced the graciousness of Japanese hospitality while I led a retreat in Japan. For 10 days I didn't understand a word they said to each other or me.

Learned to listen with my gut and hear the real message

11. **DEATH THREAT** Had a "hit" placed on my life while working in Muslim dominated Kaduna. Nigeria. The car bomb took the life of 2 drivers.

Learned "stunned, speechless gratitude."

12. **ME AND THE KGB** Didn't like being watched in my hotel room in Moscow by the KJB who bugged my room. No, I am not paranoid. You won't believe the story behind that one!

Attributed new meaning to popular tune, "I'll be watching you...."

13. **AMBASSADOR FOR EDUCATION** Met with the Minister of Education in the Soviet Union, Georgiy Veselov. in his office to discuss the need for individual learning and accelerated education for those children in orphanages.

CAN SOMEONE SAY OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE???

14. **JUNGLE LEADERSHIP RETREATS** Worked in the jungle in Zambia and Botswana to establish Leadership Institutes to help train local leaders in community building.

*Watched iguanas cross the road and learned what indecision looks like*

15. **AIRPLANE EXPLOSION** Re-routed by airlines from a flight I was booked on where every human on the flight lost their life.

POWERLESSNESS - There is a bigger plan than me.