

Engage Your Church in Outreach



Author Carrie Wagner shares her story of challenge, faith and following God's call. Of the 11 years that she and her husband served Habitat for Humanity International, Carrie's three years in a rural Ugandan village were the real catalyst for the transformation she describes in her book, *Village Wisdom; Immersed in Uganda, Inspired by Job, Changed for Life*. She speaks from the heart with the intent to encourage and inspire others to step out of comfort zone in order to experience life tenfold.

"We are all called to serve; sometimes our mission fields are within our own home and sometimes they are as far away as another continent. Regardless of the assignment, as Christ followers, we are empowered to serve through God's love and grace. I am now following God's call to share my story."

"Carrie Wagner is a great speaker. She not only engages the audience to think about what has transformed or shaped their own lives, but inspires us to consider leaving our comfort zone to participate in actions of good citizenship - whether locally or globally. Her photographs from Uganda give a glimpse at village poverty, but more importantly, Wagner shows us through her photos the joy, friendship, and hospitality that sustain the lives in impoverished communities. Carrie challenges us to take a family faith adventure!"

Laura Branan, Youth Coordinator, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Hillsborough, NC

Presentations and Workshops for Churches

Guest Speaker

30 minutes – 1 hour

Topics: Family Faith Adventures, Faith Journeys, Epiphanies, Judgment, Immersion, Transformation, Seasons, A Man Named Job

Presentation:**Village Wisdom: Lessons from Uganda****1 hour**

In this visual and interactive presentation, author Carrie Wagner takes her audience into the heart of rural Africa with a video of her family's month-long stay in western Uganda. She challenges her audience to gain a better understanding of Africa through insights of her experiences living in the village for 3 years. Carrie's thought provoking photographs, video and artifacts serve as prompts for her stories. The presentation can easily stand alone, but also works great as a foundation for the session: **Youth on Fire: Responding to a World in Need**

Youth on Fire: Responding to a World in Need**2 hour workshop for youth groups**

This workshop gets young minds and hearts excited about mission trips. By sharing her extensive international experiences and a family mission trip to Uganda, Carrie presents the life changing lessons that accompany mission travel. Carrie's presentations include visuals (slides and video) which are narrated by her 10 and 12 year old boys who tell the mission adventure from their perspective. The workshop includes time for discussion, giving everyone a chance to share personal experiences, hopes and concerns. It is encouraged to include parents in this workshop as listeners and observers. Ideally, parents and their youth would go on a mission trip together.

Drawing Hearts and Minds into Missions through Global Partnerships**2 hour workshop for Christian Educators**

Carrie presents a hands-on service learning project that connects Sunday school classes to churches in other countries. She shares the model created with a partnership church in Uganda, and offers connections to other churches in Uganda. This project can easily be adapted to support existing church relationships.

Mission Travel; Using God as your GPS**Weekend Retreat for Mission Groups**

This retreat is designed to help mission teams prepare for their faith adventure. Mission teams from several churches can participate in this workshop together.

When a mission traveler boards the plane, he/she is already deep into the journey. Carrie's weekend retreat includes four 2.5 hour sessions aimed at preparing hearts, minds, bodies and pockets to maximize the transformational experiences they will encounter on any mission trip. Session topics include:

- Called to Missions – why go?
- Meaningful Fundraising
- Your Mission Field at Home
- Experiential Learning
- Relationships with Host Country Nationals
- Culture Shock and Re-entry

It is recommended that this workshop be administered 4-6 months pre-departure.