

# Carla Varnell Burton- Philippines

1. I was born in Tupelo, Mississippi - me and Elvis!

2. I was born on a Sunday - when my mother gave birth to my brother she was in labor for 22 hours and didn't get anything to eat during that time. So she told my Dad that she was going to eat this time. Her contractions started during service - WHILE MY DAD WAS PREACHING! She motioned to him at the end of the service and he got the car. She made him stop by the barbeque place and she ate a sandwich before going to the hospital. It also didn't take me 22 hours - just 3 1/2!

3. I have been to over 8 different schools in my 12 years of high school. I have also done every kind of school there is - public, private, Christian, ACE, Abekka!

4. When I was growing up in the Philippines - BEFORE VCR'S, CELL PHONES, ETC - we only had books to read and I read the Encyclopedia when I was in middle school. A TO Z folks! My husband says that I am a well of USELESS information some times!!

5. I love to read mysteries. I read all the Agatha Christies growing up and Nancy Drew. I love authors who make an interesting story with interesting characters. Kathy Reichs, Iris Johanson, Catherine Coulter, Nora Roberts!



6. One of the greatest influences in my life was Mr. Hyde, my high school music teacher. He taught me many things and I performed in 3 high school musicals including, Fiddler on the Roof (youngest daughter), Music Man (Zaneeta Shin) and the starring role in Brigadoon - Fiona! I actually have a video of me playing Fiona in Brigadoon my senior year in high school! Mr. Hyde was killed several years ago in a bombing in Davao City, Philippines by a terrorist organization. His picture was shown on all the major news outlets.



7. I worked as a secretary for JCM my senior year. When I got to school the registrar told me that she had "found my husband". I laughed but she handed me a file. I read it and told her - you're crazy! Two months later he asked me out. We wound up getting married a year and 1/2 later! So I guess you could say - I had a matchmaker!

8. I was born tongue-tied. My Mom and Dad took me home and I was supposed to go back to the doctor a few weeks later and have my tongue cut. My Mom heard me crying one day - came in and about had a heart attack because I was slinging blood everyone while I cried. She rushed me to the hospital where they said my tongue had broken loose on it's on. That is why I speak today with a lisp - especially when I say anything with a "s". I had to take 2 years of speech therapy.

9. I love Jane Austen movies! Anything the BBC does is wonderful! All the new PBS - Masterpiece Theater stuff is great to me!

10. When my husband and I got married - August 5, 1989 - there was prophecy that came forth from a wonderful lady, Betty Frazier in Jackson, MS. She said that my husband was like David - a man after God's own heart. She told me that I was like his mother, Mary. She also prophesied that under our ministry "many souls would be saved and many souls would be baptized." I still have that on video and watch it sometimes! It was the only wedding I've ever been to that I heard a prophecy go forth!

11. I love technology. I am really good at learning new programs, networking and other "techie" issues. I am the "tech geek" for our church!

12. I had a baby girl that was born on November 19, 2001 but only lived for 9 days. She died on November 28, 2001. She never came home from the hospital and I held her in my arms for 22 hours before she passed away. She was



born with an under-developed cerebral cortex and couldn't sustain her own life. it was a tough time but I think I am a better Christian and Pastor's wife because of it!

13. I love MK's and MK Ministry. I wish I had more time to devote to it and right now I just try to help out in any way that I can! I think MK's are the most amazing people in the world. So resilient, so talented, so gifted and so special! I love seeing them become amazing contributors to the world and ministry!

14. I have 3 gifts/talents that I excel at. (1) Teaching - I am gifted in this area and know that it is one of my strengths. I love sharing the Word of God and seeing the "light" go on in someone's face. (2) Organization/ Administration - I am good at taking ideas/thoughts and laying them out in an orderly fashion. I love to make order out of chaos! (3) Worship Music - not choir music but worship music in a service. I love a song that can lead you right into the presence of God!

15. I have several weaknesses also! (1) I hate talking on the telephone unless I absolutely have to! I am not good at staying in contact with people via phone! (2) I am not very good at counseling. I am too OCD/Administrative for that. I just want to hear them whine/gripe for about 10 minutes and I already have a 10 talk about "what their problem is" and a 3 step program for them to go and do. Most people in counseling just want to talk! (3) I don't like repetitive things - I would never have been able to work on an assembly line. I like to learn new things and be challenged. I really don't like to do the same things over and over again!

16. When my family was on deputation - as a missionary - my Dad would give my brother and I a tithe of the offering that we received in the church. Of course we had job's and responsibilities that we had to perform to "earn" our money but that was our commission for a job well done. We were at Bro. Crabtree's church in Florida and we heard my Dad tell Bro. Crabtree goodbye. My brother and I came running around the back of the trailer hollering at my Dad, "How much did we get? How much did we get?". We skidded to a stop when we realized that Bro. Crabtree WAS STILL THERE!! Luckily he had a great sense of humor and laughed it off! But my Dad - let's just say. . .if's looks could kill!!!

17. I sucked my thumb until I was 12 years old. My Dad did everything he could think of to get me to stop. He safety pinned my hand to my pajamas - I got it loose. He put Tabasco on my thumb - I licked it off! I remember one day when I was 12 I came in and told my parents - "I'm not going to suck my thumb anymore." Of course they were very skeptical - but I never did again! However I have one thumb that is smaller than the other one.

18. One year at Jackson 88 - which was the first "Because of the Times" I was in the front of the choir. There were over 1,500 people gathered in the church that night. Bro. Tom Johnson from Colorado Springs, Colorado preached. The power of God fell and I was praying. He came up and started praying for me - then he pulled me out of the choir loft onto the platform. I thought that was where he was going to stop and pray for me so I kept my eyes closed. However, he tried to lead me down the front steps of the church. I lost my balance and did the "rock star slide" down the front steps. Thankfully my skirt floated down and gracefully sank around my legs. I was so embarrassed I just laid there - not in the spirit mind you! After service Bro. Johnson said - sorry about that - I was embarrassed that I threw you down the steps and I just left you there! We have often laughed about that - I did have carpet burns on the front of my legs!

19. My mother died of cancer on my 30th birthday - 10/15/1997. We compared my birth certificate to my mother's death certificate. I was born at 3:20 and she died at 3:22. Two minutes to the hour after I turned 30 - she died. She was a wonderful lady and I miss her still today!

20. I love word games. On my IPHONE I have Wurdle and Word Warp. I love Trivial Pursuit and Scrabble. Anything that challenges my mind to work!

21. I drink about 5 cups of hot Earl Grey tea every day. I love it and drink it with skim milk and 1 splenda. I love Starbucks Tea Misto!

22. I can't pray to music with words! I have to have simply music - piano music is my favorite. I love Anthony Burger's CD's with old hymns. If there are words I will find myself hearing the parts, analyzing where this one would go - and I realize that I have not been praying! Just piano music is the best for me - NO DISTRACTIONS!

23. A few of my favorite things are: Rainy days, fire's in fireplaces, anything with blackberries in it, just about any color of green or brown, reading while my husband drives, finding something new in the Word of God that really transforms my life, laughing and having a good time with friends and a great worship service!

24. I have some great friends who I know that I can get sound advice from. They are the people that I call to help me pray when I face a big decision. They are awesome and each bring a different quality into my life!

25. I don't have any cartilage in my nose. You can almost twist my nose all the way around and you can push it down flat to my face. I can flare my nostrils really big! Next time you see me ask to touch it and you will see. . . .

