

Carol Fike
Autobiography
January 4, 2007

The Bird like Life of Carol Fike

Have you ever looked up at a bird, seeing how it leaves one nest and goes to somewhere completely different? This resembles my life, going to a new place, just as soon as I get comfortable in the old nest. All of my life, I have spent moving from one house to another. Let me just say that the past nineteen years have been eventful.

On April 6, 1988 the life of the Fike family was changed forever. This is the day that I came into the world, starting off in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. I was the first child to Reverend James Melvin Fike (“Mel”) and Reverend Lisa Fike. As you can tell they are both pastors, so church was a major influence in my life. As you might know, a lot of a pastor’s life is spent going from one church to the next, this caused me to move a lot as a young child. Through all of these moves my family became really close; this has since become very important to me.

On April 29, 1994 my life changed again for the better. This was the day that I became a big sister. My mom gave birth to my sister, Bethany Joy Fike; I was just as proud of her as my parents were. I can remember from the beginning wanting to help her do everything, and wanting to teach her everything that I know.

Ever since I was a small child I have always been hungry for knowledge. Hey, when I was in second grade I decided that I was going to be a teacher and that I was going to college. I was also the child that did not want the snow days, and asked for homework when none was given. I always wanted a challenge, to work for everything that I got. Then my parents noticed that my grades started slipping and could not figure out why. It turns out that most of my life I had had a hearing problem, constantly getting

ear infections. So this drastically affected almost everything that I did. I started to have problems speaking and hearing what others were saying, but this was quickly fixed by placing tubes in my ears. I still have some problems with my ears, but I have become used to it and now know what to expect.

Following several more moves I finally ended up in Polo, Illinois: Which is where I actually lived for five years, which seemed like a dream come true to me. This is where I ended up being promoted to the high school, and then attended all four years of my high school career. I quickly joined Drama Club, 4-H (which I had already been in for several years prior), and some other organizations. Soon after joining 4-H in Ogle County I became an Ambassador, I went around advertising 4-H, it was a great honor, representing Ogle County at so many 4-H events. Also within 4-H I had the joy of showing at the Illinois State Fair five times. The Drama Club encouraged me to audition for the High School play and well after that came eight more shows on the Polo Community High School Stage. This included everything from being “The Queen of Hearts” (Alice in Wonderland) to “Ethel Tofflemeier” (Music Man). Everything that I did in high school was another way to discover what I enjoyed, and what I wanted in life: but more importantly everything that I did I wanted to live up to my greatest potential.

However my high school days weren't all peaches in cream however. Within my freshman year I found out that my dad had cancerous tumors on his liver, I saw him gradually getting worst. He held on for two years. One of these years my family to a trip of a lifetime out west and saw just about everything between Illinois and Oregon. This was the last trip however that we took as a family. Then in May of 2004 my dad passed away. In that very instance I knew that I had to help my mom to raise my little sister: and

more importantly I knew that my life would never be the same. It is also very hard to see a parent suffer and know that there is nothing that you can do for them, but I always knew that he was my biggest fan at everything that I ever did, and know he knows that I am carrying out my dream of being a teacher

As the line says life goes on and yes it did, I got to enjoy my last two years of high school, went to the prom, and everything else that you look forward to doing in high school. Then at the end of those two years I walked across my stage to get my diploma, I had done it. Then I was off to Manchester College. I had chose Manchester because it was a Church of the Brethren school and also I really liked the Education Department: I had already decided that I wanted to become a teacher since childhood.

I feel now as though my wings are clipped and I am no longer soaring. I have come down and am ready to begin the next chapter of my life story, and I am not going anywhere until the new nest is found.