

Talking Points for interviewing Betty Williams

Give your readers a treat, and explore these interview ideas with Betty Williams!

The Triumph of Good Humor—How do you make the most out of living in abject poverty in a foreign jungle far from home? With a wry sense of humor, and a Mainer's gumption! But what exactly does that mean, and how does it show? How did humor diffuse a tense situation, when armed soldiers believed her camp stove was a secret radio used to spy on their country? When her husband ran off with a woman a fraction his age, leaving Betty to raise the woman's son? Betty has overcome a range of challenges with simple tools: strong faith and good humor.

Many Times a Mother—After raising her daughters, Betty took care of an elderly uncle. Soon she was faced with a tough decision: adopt three more children, or watch their futures wither within her sphere of influence. So as a grandmother, she became a mother of small children again, and opened her home to a rotating cast of additional foster children. Why? Her reasons are fascinating...and inspiring.

Living Off the Grid—Betty was born mostly "off the grid," in a rural Maine home that lacked even indoor plumbing. When she went to missionary training camp in California, where suburban teenagers were taught how to make do in primitive settings ahead of their service in developing countries, she took to it with ease and panache. In the jungles of Brazil, life wasn't too much different than in her childhood home...at least, so far as electricity, water, and wild animals were concerned. Ask her to compare these two homes--in Tocantinia and Auburn, and to compare them to life in our modern, digital age. After all, Betty has a cellphone and email now, her life spanning quite the technology curve!

A Life Spent Teaching—Betty counts among her most cherished blessings the guidance of several teachers. She says it isn't surprising that she grew up to be one herself, and counts herself lucky to have taught in many districts around Maine, Baltimore, and even in Alaska and Brazil. But what really drove this woman to, in her own word, "rescue" children through her work as a teacher? And how did she reach beyond the classroom to touch her students' lives?

Contact Betty: 207-754-9003
bettyelainewilliams@hotmail.com

www.MummaCanYouHearMe.com