## Living Inspiration

## "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, wherever you face trials of many kinds." (James 1:2)

My name is Nick Vujicic and I give God the glory for how He has used my testimony to touch thousands of hearts around the world! I was born without limbs and doctors have no medical explanation for this birth defect.

My parents were Christians, and my Dad was even the Pastor of our church, they knew that verse very well: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, wherever you face trials of many kinds." (James 1:2) However, on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1982 in Melbourne (Australia), the last two words on the minds of my parents were "Praise God!" Their first son had been born without limbs! There were no warnings or time to prepare themselves for it. The doctors were shocked and had no answers at all! There is still no medical reason why this had happened. (And Nick now has a brother and sister who were born just like any other baby.)

The whole church mourned over my birth and my parents were absolutely devastated. Everyone asked, "If God is a God of Love, then why God let something this had happen not just to anyone, but to dedicated Christians?" My dad thought I wouldn't survive very long, but tests proved that I was a healthy baby boy just with a few limbs missing

Understandably, my parents had strong concern and evident fears of what kind of life I'd be able to lead. But God provided them strength, wisdom and courage through those early years and soon after that I was old enough to go to school.

The Law in Australia didn't allow me to be integrated into a main-stream school because of my physical disability. But God did miracles and gave my Mom the strength to fight for the law to be changed. I was one of the first disabled student to be integrated into a main-stream school. I liked going to school, and just try to live life like everyone else, but it was in my early years of school where I encountered uncomfortable times of feeling because of my physical difference. It was very hard for me to get used to, but with the support of my parents, I started to develop attitudes and values, which helped me to overcome that time difficulties. I knew I was different but on the inside I was just like everyone else. There were many times when I felt so low that I wouldn't go to school just because I didn't want to face all the negative attention. I was encouraged by my parents to ignore them and to try start making new friends by just talking with some kids. Soon the students realized that I was just like them, and God started to bless me with new friends.

There were times when I felt depressed and angry because I couldn't change the way I was, or blame anyone for that matter. I went to Sunday school and learnt that God loves us all and that He cares for us. I understood that love to a point as a child, but I didn't understand that if God loved me why did He make me like this? Is it because I did something wrong? I was a burden to those around me and the sooner I go, the better it'd be for everyone. I wanted to end my pain and end my life at a young age, but I was thankful once again, for my parents and family who are always there to comfort me and give me strength.

Due to my emotional struggles I had experienced loneliness, but God has implanted in my heart a passion of sharing my story and my experience to help others to cope with whatever

challenged they have in their lie and let God turn it into a blessing. To encourage and inspire others to live to their fullest potential and not let anything get in the way of accomplishing their hopes and dreams.

One of the first lessons that I have learnt was not to take things for granted! "And we know that in all things God works or the good to those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) That verse spoke to my heart and convicted me to the point where I know that there is no such thing as luck, chance or coincidence that "bad" things happen in our lives.

I had a complete peace knowing that God won't let anything happen to us in our lives unless He has a good purpose for it. I completely gave my life to Christ at the age of fifteen after reading John 9. Jesus said that the reason the man was born blind was "*so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.*" (*John 9:4*) I truly believed that I would be a great testimony of God's Awesome Power. Later on I was given the wisdom to understand that if we pray for something if it is God's will, it'll happen in His time. If it's not God's will for it to happen, then I know that He has something better.

I now see that God revealed that He is using me just the way I am and in ways other can't be used. I am now twenty- one years old and have completed a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Financial and Accounting. I am also a motivational speaker and love to go out and share my story and testimony wherever opportunities become available. I have developed talks to encourage students through topic that challenge today's teenagers.

I have a passion to reach out the youth and keep myself available for whatever God wants me to do, and wherever He leads I follow. I have many dreams and goals that I have set to achieve in my life. I want to become the best witness I can be of God's Love and Hope to become an international inspirational speaker and be used as a vessel in both Christian and non-Christian venues. I want to become financially independent by the age of 25 through real estate investments, to modify a car for me to drive, and to be interviewed and share my story on the "Oprah Winfrey Show"! Writing several best-selling books has been one of my dreams and I hope to finish writing my first book by the end of the year. It will be called, "No arms, No Legs, No Worries!"

*My dear and beloved*: Stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead, tell your storm how big God is! I believe that if you have the desire and passion to do something, and if it's God's will, you will achieve it in good time. As human, we continually out limits on ourselves for no reason at all! What is worse is putting limits on God who can do all things; we put God in a "box". The awesome thing about the power of God is that if we want to do something for God, instead of focusing on our capability, let us concentrate on our availability for we know that it is God through us and we can't do anything without Him. Once we make ourselves available for God's work, guess whose capabilities we rely on? God's! *My Prayer*: "Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. O Lord, increase my faith and trust in You, I pray. Truly, Lord, You are good and your goodness endures forever. I believe that You can do everything, and what is impossible for me it is possible for You. And whatever my circumstance is, I believe that, "In all things, You, Oh God, work for my good because I love You, and I have been called according to Your purpose. Thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen."