

NICHOLAS JAMES VUJICIC

Nicholas James Vujicic was born Dec. 4, 1982 in Melbourne, Australia. He is the firstborn son of Serbian immigrants. His father was a pastor, and his mother a nurse. Though his parents were Christians, they were devastated when they first saw him as he was born without arms or legs. In fact, his father was so shocked he left the hospital room to vomit and his distraught mother couldn't bring herself to hold him until he was four months old. Even the church felt that the Vujicic family had been abandoned by God. Nick has a rare medical condition called the Tetra-amelia disorder. His life, as you can imagine, has been filled with hardships. He is, however, an over comer, a dynamic Christian, and a preacher of the Gospel. His courage has been an inspiration to millions.

Because of his handicaps, Nick was initially denied the privilege of attending a mainstream Australian school. Fortunately, however, the laws were changed. School, however, exposed Nick to the insensitive taunts and bullying so often evident in those who are immature. At the age of 8 he became so depressed that he contemplated suicide. He had begged God to enable him to grow arms and legs and when that did not happen he felt abandoned. He turned face down in the bath tub and determined to end it all. His love for his parents, however, prevented him from doing so. Then his mother showed him a newspaper article about a severely disabled man who overcame his obstacles and limitations. This was a turning point in Nick's life. It enabled him for the first time to begin to think more positively about God. At the age of 15 he gave his heart to Jesus after reading the story of the blind man in John 9. That man was not born blind because of anyone's sin, but rather that the work of God might be displayed in his life (John 9:3). Nick now believes that this is precisely the reason he was born without arms or legs. God wanted to display His might through Nicholas Vujicic. It is comforting for all of us to realize that God knew us before we were born and designed our bodies with an

eternal purpose in mind.

Nick not only attended a regular school but also graduated from college with a double major at the age of 21. Today, as a preacher of the Gospel he has led multiplied thousands of people to Christ.. He has traveled in over 24 countries and spoken in live audiences to over 3 million people. He says: “My greatest joy in this life is to introduce Jesus to those I meet and tell them of His great desire to get to know them personally by allowing Him to become their Lord and Savior!”.

One of Nick’s favorite Scriptures is Psalm 139:17 - 18 : **“How precious to me are you thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand”**. Another is Jeremiah 29:11: **“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”**.

In spite of his handicaps Nick has learned to write with a pen, use a computer, throw tennis balls, play drum pedals, comb his hair, cook breakfast, brush his teeth, shave, and even get himself a glass of water. He has two toes on his left foot and can type 43 words per minute. In addition to the millions he has spoken to in live performances, he has also reached millions more via television and motion pictures. His first worldwide television interview was on ABC’s 20/20 program with Bob Cummings. This program aired on March 28, 2008. He also appeared in the short film “The Butterfly Circus” which won the top prize in the Doorpost Film Project in 2009. He was also honored as the best actor at the Method Fest Film Festival.

Nick says: *“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 humans, we continually put limits on ourselves for no reason at all! What's 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, 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!"