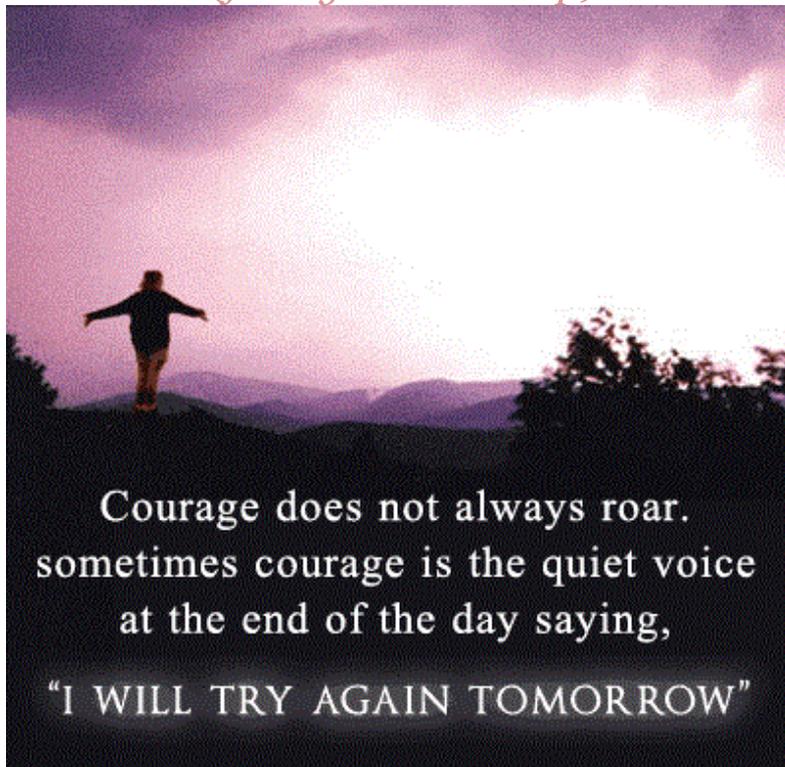


Citizenship

Inspirational

(for ages 10 and up)



Courage does not always roar.
sometimes courage is the quiet voice
at the end of the day saying,
"I WILL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW"

An Australian to Inspire Us

Nicholas James Vujicic, (born on 4 December 1982) is an Australian preacher and motivational speaker born with Tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of all four limbs. As a child, he struggled mentally and emotionally, as well as physically, but eventually came to terms with his disability and, at the age of seventeen, started his own non-profit organisation, *Life Without Limbs*. Nicholas presents motivational speeches worldwide, on life with a disability, hope, and finding meaning in life.

The eldest child of a Serbian family, Nicholas was born in Brisbane, Australia. He was limbless, missing both arms at shoulder level, as well as legless. His feet were toeless except for two toes on one foot. Initially, his parents were devastated, though Nicholas was otherwise healthy.

Originally prohibited by Victoria state law from attending a mainstream school because of his physical disability, even though he was not mentally impaired, Nicholas became one of the first disabled students integrated into a mainstream school, once the laws changed.

Young Nicholas was bullied at school and became depressed. After praying to grow arms and legs, Nicholas eventually realized that his accomplishments could inspire others – and became grateful for his life. A key turning point came when his mother showed him a newspaper article about a man dealing with a severe disability. Nicholas realized he wasn't unique in his struggles and began to embrace his disability.

He began to master the daily tasks of life. He learned to write using the two toes on his left foot with a special grip that slid onto his big toe. He learned to use a computer and type using the "heel and toe" method. He learned to throw tennis balls, play drum pedals, get himself a glass of water, comb his hair, brush his teeth, answer the phone and shave.

In year seven he was elected captain of his school and worked with the student council on fund-raising events for local charities and disability campaigns. When he was seventeen, he started to give talks at his prayer group, and eventually started his non-profit organisation, *Life Without Limbs*.

In 2005 Nicholas was nominated for the "Young Australian of the Year" Award. He currently lives in California, USA.

Career

Nicholas graduated from Griffith University, New South Wales at the age of 21. Subsequently he became a motivational speaker, travelling internationally and focusing on teen issues. Having addressed over three million people in over 24 countries on five continents, he speaks to corporate audiences, congregations and schools.

Nicholas promotes his work through television shows and through his writing. His first book, *Life Without Limits: Inspiration for a Ridiculously Good Life* (Random House, 2010) was published in 2010. He markets a motivational DVD, *Life's Greater Purpose*, a short documentary filmed in 2005 highlighting his home life and regular activities. The second part of the DVD was filmed at his local church in Brisbane – one of his first professional motivational speeches. He markets a DVD for young people titled: *No Arms, No Legs, No Worries: Youth Version*.

He starred in the short film "The Butterfly Circus" which won the Best Short Film award at the Method Fest Film Festival, where Nicholas was also awarded Best Actor in a short film. *Butterfly Circus* also won the Best Short Film at The Feel Good Film Festival in Hollywood in 2010.

Meet Nicholas here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gc4HGQHgeFE>

