

# My Journey

*Hope conquers all fears!*



*Tyrone Brown*

**Life takes us through battles we must win to survive. With having severe dyspraxia I am non-verbal and motor impaired which has made life a battle ground. My appearance is different as I struggle to communicate, but I am intelligent and have abilities most people are unaware of. Over the years I have faced countless foes belittling me and insulting my intelligence. These wars have caused hurt and pain which produced anxiety and depression.**


## Internal triggers

- The thought that gaining acceptance by those at school would never happen
- The fear of not being able to communicate without workers or my parents
- Fear that others think what I write is not my words but the person assisting me
- Thinking my behaviour would cause my parents to send me away
- Worry that my sore foot would mean more surgery
- Fear that if I failed provincial exams, all I had achieved in doing well in my schoolwork would be wiped out

## External triggers

- Assessments I physically could not provide correct answers to which then gave me the label “moderately mentally challenged”
- Doctors telling my parents I was mentally challenged, with me sitting, listening to the conversation
- School placement in a resource room
- Teachers not believing in my intelligence and abilities
- Teachers calling me “trouble”
- Hospital stay which made me fear never going home
- Medication trials sending my head into turmoil
- Living daily with others talking to me as a little child with no intelligent thought

# Internal conquering thoughts

- Greatest thought is God will hear my prayers and is with me every step I take
- The work I produce for school courses has proved my abilities and intelligence
- Thankful constantly for care,  school assistants and wholesome family atmosphere at home
- Going forward I have hope of a writing career and a meaningful life
- Replacing negative thoughts with positive
- Inward acceptance of other's ignorance of my abilities

## External encouragement

- The principal and staff of Abbotsford Virtual School believing in me
- Therapists who encouraged me and taught me to have positive thoughts
- Community recreation center where I exercise along with ordinary people, giving me the personal satisfaction of being “normal”
- Having one of my writings of my personal overcoming of struggle with acceptance at school being shared with teachers at a school, and their positive response.
- Advocating as I have wanted to do since I was young

Giving contemplation to how my life has been turned from despair to hope through others belief in me I am thankful my Lord sent these wonderful people into my life. Their efforts to balance my life of severe disability, with allowing my abilities to be considered in stark contrast, by displaying my writings and giving me opportunity to work at my education, have determined my future. With giving me their trust the migration from failure to success has happened and the flight to freedom from my silent suppression has come to pass.

Only could call by his crying and noise  
He could not even play with the other boys  
The hearing that he had no thought  
Constantly frustration brought  
He had no way to put them right  
Until age eight when he could write  
He typed his thoughts with someone's aid  
Then found that teachers thought he played  
They did not believe the work his own  
His intelligence was overthrown  
Having only pain he fought  
With fear and anxiety his mind was fraught  
But as he prayed his Lord could give  
The strength for him to hope and live  
These negative things that put him down  
With power his positive thoughts did drown  
Showing trust through their belief  
Through high school years he found relief  
These educators let him learn  
His grades they knew he worked to earn  
Though others would not hear his cries  
He through this poem to them replies  
The label you give has potential to harm  
It is more than a name that gives cause for alarm  
It defines a child for the person he is  
But sadly may not be who he really is