

Life without Limbs

The Astonishing Story of the Man Born Without Arms or Legs... Who Plays Golf, Surfs, and Swims

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Nick plunges in for a swim.

Nick has a small foot on his left hip which helps him balance and enables him to kick. He uses his one foot to type, write with a pen and pick things up between his toes. "I call it my chicken drumstick," joked Nick, who was born in Melbourne, Australia, but now lives in Los Angeles. "I'd be lost without it."

"When I get in the water I float because 80 per cent of my body is lungs and my drumstick acts as a propeller."



Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: In the ancient Book of Job, God shows us that He is always working behind the scenes to bring about His perfect and greater purposes. (Listen to Job studies [here](#).) Nick Vujicic is a 21st century example of how God will use our suffering for our own good, cause us to be a blessing to others, and reveal His glory to the world in ways that would not otherwise be possible. He will do all this if we let Him, accepting by faith that He loves us and desires to use us, even when we do not understand.

Nick Vujicic was born with no arms or legs - but he doesn't let the details stop him. The brave 26-year-old - who is mainly torso - plays football and golf, swims, and surfs, despite having no limbs.

"My name is Nick Vujicic and I'm 26 years old. I was born without arms or legs and given no medical reason for this condition. Faced with countless challenges and obstacles, God has given me the strength to surmount what others might call impossible. Along with that, the Lord has placed within me an unquenchable passion to share this same hope and genuine love that I've personally experienced with more than two million people all over the globe.

Traveling extensively to over 19 nations, I've been extremely humbled by the continuous opportunities that the Lord has given me to share my testimony along with the hope that I have in Jesus with people in so many nations and situations. 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 my favorite scriptures from the Bible is Psalm 139:17-18 that says, 'How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.'

God has used me to let people know in countless schools, churches, prisons, orphanages, hospitals, stadiums and in face-to-face encounters with individuals how very precious they are to God. Secondly, it's my pleasure to assure them that God does have a plan for their lives that is purposeful. For God took my life, one that others might disregard as having any significance and filled me with His purpose and showed me His plans to move hearts and lives toward Him. Understanding this, though faced with struggles, you can overcome too.

Be encouraged today as you read this promise from the Lord found in Jeremiah 29:11 of the Bible, '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.'

-Excerpted from Nick Vujicic's web site, [Life Without Limbs](#)

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Due to his faith as an Evangelical Christian, Nick has chosen to remain a virgin until marriage although he has had long-term girlfriends in the past.

“He’s very modest but he gets marriage proposals from women all the time,” said Nick’s friend and publicist Steve Appel, from Los Angeles. “He would love to get married and start a family but he’s waiting for the right girl to come along.”

Below: Water sports aren’t Nick’s only thing - he also plays golf with a club tucked under his chin.



Bethany Hamilton teaches Nick how to surf in Hawaii in 2008. Bethany got her arm bitten off by a shark when she was a teenager - and was back on a surfboard within three weeks.



Nick at six months.

When Nick was born his father was so shocked he left the hospital room to vomit. His distraught mother couldn’t bring herself to hold him until he was four months old.

His disability came without any medical explanation - a rare occurrence called

Phocomelia - and Nick and his parents spent many years asking why this cruel trick would happen to them.

“My mother was a nurse and she did everything right during pregnancy but she still blamed herself,” he said. “It was so hard for them but right from the start they did their best to make me independent. My dad put me in the water at 18 months and gave the courage to learn how to swim. I also got really into football and skateboarding. I totally love the English Premier League.”

Nick’s father was a computer programmer and accountant and he taught his little son how to type with his toe at just 6 years old. His mum invented a special plastic device that meant he could hold a pen and pencil.

Despite the risk of bullying, his parents insisted Nick attended mainstream school. “It was the best decision they could have made for me,” adds Nick, who later achieved a degree in Financial Planning and Real Estate. “It was very hard but it gave me independence.” Nick, who was teased and bullied, had an electric wheelchair for mobility, and a team of caretakers to help him.

“I was deeply depressed when I was eight years old,” he said. “I went to my mum crying and told her I wanted to kill myself. I felt cold and bitter. I hated God for doing this to me and was terrified of what would happen when my parents weren’t there to look after me.”



Ten-year old Nick at school.

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“I could brush my own teeth with a wall mounted brush and wash my own hair with pump action soap, but there was so much that was impossible for me.”

At age ten Nick, tried to drown himself in the bath but luckily the attempt was unsuccessful. “I felt there was no purpose when you lack purpose and strength it is hard to hold on,” he said.



Nick enjoys the Hawaiian sun in his customized electric wheelchair.

But with the help of his religion, friends and family, Nick managed to pull through to become an international symbol of triumph over adversity.

The football fan is now a motivational speaker and has travelled to over 24 countries speaking to groups of up to 110,000 people.

“When I was 13, I read a newspaper article about a disabled man who had managed to achieve great things and help others,” said Nick, who also plays golf with the club tucked under his chin. “I realized why God had made us like this - to give hope to others. It was so inspirational to me that I decided to use my life to encourage other people and give them the courage that the article had given me. I decided to be thankful for what I do have, not get angry about what I don’t. I

looked at myself in the mirror and said: ‘You know what the world is right that I have no arms or legs, but they’ll never take away the beauty of my eyes.’ I

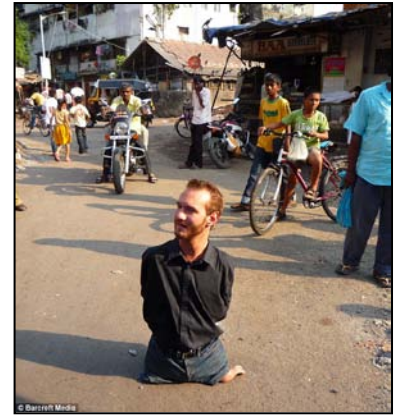
wanted to concentrate on something good that I had.”

In 1990 Nick won the Australian Young Citizen of the Year award for his bravery and perseverance. “When kids run up to me and ask, ‘What happened?’ I just lean over and whisper ‘cigarettes,’” he laughed. “And once I was in a car and this girl at traffic lights was giving me the eye. She could only see my head so I decided to do a 360 in the car seat to freak her out. Her face was like wooooooah what is going on? She sped off really quickly.”

Nick began travelling the world and in 2008 he went to Hawaii and met surfing master Bethany Hamilton, who had her arm bitten off by a shark when she was 12. “She was amazing,” said Nick. “She taught me how to surf and I was terrified at first, but once I got up there it felt absolutely fantastic and I caught some waves pretty well.”

Nick quickly learned how to do three 360 degree spins on his board - a feat that got him on the cover of Surfer magazine within 48 hours. “No one has ever done that in the history of surfing,” he said. “But I have a very low centre of gravity so I’ve got pretty good balance.”

He moved to Los Angeles two years ago and plans to continue to travel the world - this year he will visit South America and the Middle East. “I tell people to keep on getting up when they fall and to always love themselves,” he said. “If I can encourage just one person then my job in this life is done.”



Nick pictured during his travels in India. He has visited 24 different countries, touring the world as a motivational speaker.



Nick writes using his mouth.

See Nick Vujicic on YouTube:

[Nick Vujicic - Life Without Limbs](#)

[Nick Vujicic: Life Without Limbs - CBN.com](#)

Visit Nick’s web sites:

[Life without Limbs](#)

[Attitude is Altitude](#)