

MY FAITH...

An Exciting Journey

My faith is an exciting journey based in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. As a little boy, I went to a private school in Jamestown, North Dakota. My family, teachers and staff nurtured my faith. “*Jesus Loves Me This I Know*” became my theme. It gave me great comfort to learn I am created **in God’s image**. I, at a young age, needed no more proof than that. Even to this day I take comfort in the simple knowledge that Jesus **does** love me, cares for me, and is watching over me. Sure, there has been the question, “Why was I born with cerebral palsy?”

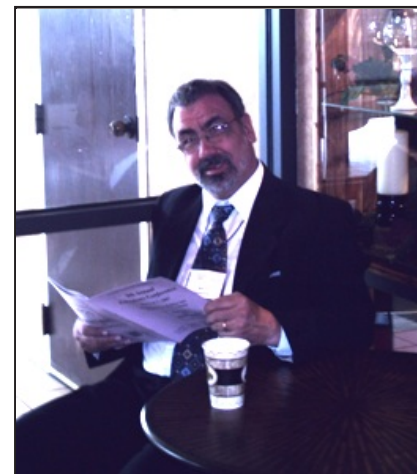
However, even with this disability, I learned to read. I read in the Bible about the people who went before me and the promises made to me. I read that I was chosen (John 15:16)! What does that mean for a person with cerebral palsy? Can God use me? Indeed He can! He has chosen me to spread the good news of Jesus Christ! My disability does not dictate who I am — my faith does. Many people make the mistake of seeing a disability like mine only as a limitation, but I see it as a way God will use and minister through me. How does one use weakness like mine to gain strength? God’s grace does exactly that — turns weakness to strength by the power of His Spirit!

It is easy to focus on our weaknesses. At one time I was very angry about my disability. It became bigger than I was and took over. I knew I couldn’t live with this anger ruling my life. I knew that Jesus Christ needed to rule. Now every morning when I wake, **I reclaim the fact that God chose me and I am His**. As God uses me in each instance of this journey, my disability becomes an asset to this vocation.

Since 1978, I have had the privilege to speak to thousands of people throughout the country. Many have heard my testimony and are affected by my faith despite my disability. Everyone has weaknesses and limitations. This is not the point. **What we do with them is the point**. I have been chosen to encourage others to trust God’s promise that He will make the weak strong.

I challenge you to think how your limitations can be turned into a gift for others. See yourself as a gift from God, chosen and redeemed. God will use you! God turned my disability into a positive so that I could help people and use it for His glory. I am bigger than my disability because Christ rules in my life.

Ben D. Anderson



BEN D. ANDERSON

I knew the book I held was one of great importance. Even though, at the age of ten, I couldn’t read its words or understand its concepts, I knew it was important. I knew that it contained promises meant for everyone and that included me. God had given me a ‘foundation of faith’ even before receiving that first Bible from my parents. I was born with cerebral palsy. I grew into a man of simple faith and have shared my heart with many people, speaking across the nation.

*www.bendanderson.com
715-554-1179*

Ben D. Anderson www.bendanderson.com.

Born: June 16, 1953 in Kenmare, North Dakota. with cerebral palsy (spastic quadriplegia).

Parents: Russell and Marlys Anderson.

Sister: Terri (2 years older).

First word: "Moo".

1957 Grandpa promises a John Deere tractor if Ben will walk.

1957-65 Ben lived at the Crippled Children's School (now the Anne Carlsen School) in Jamestown, ND.

1965 12 year old Ben moved home and enrolled in Kenmare special education that fall.

1968 Went to live with a family in Minot and enrolled in Jr. High there.

1969-72 Ben was living back in Kenmare and took the bus to Minot to school every day (7am to 5pm daily M-F)

1972 Graduated from Minot Sr. High

1975 After a year working on the west coast Ben spent a busy year back in North Dakota with a job as outreach worker for the mental health center in Grand Forks followed by summer work at Red Willow Bible Camp and enrollment at Lake Region College in Devils Lake, ND that fall. During that time Ben started his speaking presentations about persons with disabilities.

1976 Ben trained in with Lutheran Youth Encounter in St. Paul, MN and spent the summer working for a Christian urban outreach through Augustana Lutheran Church of Minneapolis with Dr. William Berg. That fall it was back to school- transferring to Golden Valley Lutheran College, Golden Valley, Minnesota.

1978 The spring saw the beginning of Ben's own company-Break Through, Inc. The advocacy for persons with disability work became his focus.

1981 Ben and Dick Beckmen cooperated to author a book entitled "*Breaking Through*"

1988 Back to school at UW-Stout in Menomonie, Wisconsin-graduated in August of 1992 with a bachelor of science in vocational rehabilitation (emphasis in community based rehabilitation).

1992 Lake Wapogasset named Anderson Hall in part to honor Ben and his work.

2006 -2012 Ben appointed by Wisconsin Governor to State Rehabilitation Council

March 26, 2006 Ben marries Dee at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp.

2007 Ben writes his second book entitled "IQ of 63, So What!" *Going Beyond Everybody Else's Expectations*. It is textbook at UW-Stout, WI and Minot State University, ND

2010 Ben was an honoree at "Morgan's Wonderland" "Walk of Fame" at the "Free To Soar" Inaugural Gala in San Antonio, TX

2012 Ben's booklet- "Last One Picked, So What!" *We can turn it around.* ("bullying"& disabilities)

South Dakota Tours in April & October 2012 sponsored by Developmental Disability Council of SD-spoke to over 6000 people for schools, educators and parents.

2014 "If I Can Do It, So Can You" *Going to College.* Booklet by Ben D. Anderson

2014-15 speaks at Wyoming/South Dakota K-12

2015 In-Service training-Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, SD-Voc. Rehab-Sinte Gleska Univ., Mission, SD

Visit Ben's "Presentation Calendar" page online at www.bendanderson.com/locations.htm to see places he has spoken over the past years including some upcoming events.

In the past 10 years-

He has spoken in Washington State, Washington DC, New Jersey, Florida, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Indiana, Utah, Texas, Missouri, Michigan, Kansas, Idaho and Wyoming. These range from keynote presentations, workshops and consultations.

Ben speaks and travels extensively around the United States with his wife Dee.

WE ARE OPEN TO BE INVITED TO SPEAK FOR YOUR EVENT.

call us at 715-554-1179 or visit us on the web.