

## Author Biography for **NICK VUJICIC**



Meet Nick Vujicic. He was born in 1982 in Melbourne, Australia. Without any medical explanation or warning, Nicholas Vujicic (pronounced 'Vooy-cheech') came into the world with neither arms nor legs. Having had an uneventful pregnancy and no family history to expect this condition, indescribable shock filled the hospital room that pivotal 4th of December day. A limbless son was not what nurse Dushka Vujicic, and her husband Pastor Borris Vujicic had been expecting. How would their son live a normal happy life? What could he ever do or become when living with what the world would see as such a massive disability? Little did they know, the little beautiful limbless baby would one day inspire and motivate people from all walks of life.



Throughout his childhood, Nick dealt not only with the typical challenges of school and adolescence such as bullying and self-esteem issues, he also struggled with depression and loneliness as he questioned why he was different from all the other kids. He couldn't get the haunting question of, "Why was I the one born without arms and legs?" out of his head. After a lot of frustration and feeling like the odd one out in school, at seven years of age Nick tried out some specially designed electronic arms and hands, hoping that he would be more like the other kids. During the short trial period of the electronic arms, Nick realized that even with them, he still didn't fit in with his peers at school. The artificial limbs turned out to be much too heavy for him to operate and negatively affected his general mobility quite significantly.



As Nick grew up, he learned to deal with his disability and started to accomplish more and more on his own. He adapted to his situation and even found ways to achieve tasks many would regard as impossible. Nick figured out how to brush his teeth, comb his hair, type on a computer, swim, and play sports. He actually began to embrace his situation and strived to make a difference in his neighborhood. In grade seven, Nick was elected captain of his school and worked with the student council on various fund-raising events for local charities and disability campaigns.

After high school, Nick went on with further study and obtained a double Bachelor's degree, majoring in Accounting and Financial Planning, from Griffith University in Logan, Australia. By the age of 19, Nick started to fulfill his dream of encouraging other people with motivational speeches revolving around his life story. He found the purpose of his existence, and also the purpose in his circumstance. Nick wholeheartedly believes that there is a purpose in each of the struggles we encounter in our lives and that our attitude towards those struggles can be the single most effective factor in overcoming them.

In 2005, Nick was nominated for the "Young Australian of the Year Award," which is a large honor in Australia, recognizing a young person for their excellence and service to their local community and the nation, as well as their own personal accomplishments. Nominations for this award are only given to truly inspirational people.



Today, this young man has accomplished more than most people even twice his age. Nick recently made the massive move from Brisbane, Australia to California, USA, where he is the president of an international non-profit organization, and also has his own motivational speaking company; Attitude Is Altitude. Since his first motivational speaking engagement back when he was 19, Nick has traveled around the world, sharing his story with millions of people and speaking to a range of different groups. Students, teachers, youth, businessmen and businesswomen, entrepreneurs, and church congregations of all sizes, have benefitted from his approach. He has also told his story and been interviewed on various televised programs worldwide. Nick's speaking engagements have gone beyond purely motivational speaking, he has had the opportunity to speak with several leaders, including the vice president of Kenya. In 2012 alone Nick was set to speak in over 20 countries.

People say to me,  
"How can you smile?"



People often ask Nick how he can smile, and inevitably they realize that there has to be something more to life than meets the eye, if the guy without arms and legs is leading a full life. The victory over his struggles throughout his journey, as well as the strength and passion he now has for life, can be credited to his faith, his family, his friends and the many people he has encountered along the way.

Nick shares with his audiences the importance of vision and dreaming big. Using his own experiences in worldwide outreach as examples, he challenges others to examine their perspective and look beyond their circumstances. He shares his view of ceasing to see obstacles as problems, and instead see them as opportunities to grow and reach out to others. He stresses the importance of attitude being the most powerful tool we have at our disposal and illustrates how the choices we make can have a profound effect on our lives and the lives of those around us. Nick shows through his own life that the major keys in fulfilling our biggest dreams are persistence and choosing to embrace failure as a learning experience, rather than allowing guilt and fear of failure to paralyze us.

How does Nick Vujicic feel about his disability now? He accepts it, embraces it and oftentimes pokes fun at his own circumstance as he shows off his many tricks. He meets challenges with his special blend of humor, perseverance and faith always encouraging those around him to examine their perspective as they develop and define their vision. He encourages people to make changes in their lives and to dream big!

In 2012, Nick fulfilled another dream—getting married! He makes his home base in Los Angeles, CA with his new wife, Kanae Miyahara.