Dark Memories

This is a story of my early life in school. My name is Tobe Dick. I was born with cerebral palsy. It affects the right side of my body. When I was younger, kids would make fun of me because of my disability. They would look at me like something that they had never seen before. They always judged me, made me feel like I did not belong. It was hard to make friends. I felt alone and misunderstood. Every day was the same thing. I hated going to school because I knew that those kids there would make fun of me. I feel that if someone had given me a chance, maybe I would have made more friends.

I was never mad at those kids, I just felt as if they did not understand me. The only friends I had were my teachers. One of my favorite teachers then was Mr. Wolke. He was always there for me whenever I needed him. He always told me to be happy for who I am and that those kids who made fun of me just did not understand. He told me never to be mad at them; instead, I should love them and let my heart be filled with compassion for them.

I started to grow and go to church. At one particular service my former pastor was preaching about something and I felt that the message was meant for me. He said those who make fun of others don’t know how that person they are bullying feels, but when the bully is put into a situation he doesn’t like then he will understand how it feels to be bullied. For those that are being bullied, don’t be mad you are perfect the way you are, and God made you that way for a reason so don’t get mad at the bullies, but just love them and forgive them no matter what they did to you. When I heard that, it touched me that someone had actually been there and witnessed bullying. One day, back at school a bully came up to me and started making funny remarks about me. I just looked at him and laughed because I
remembered what my pastor had said so I walked away and told him to have a nice day. During lunch the bully decided to sit next to me and he came up to me and apologized. I accepted his apology and smiled at him.

That experience, made me more humble and kinder to people. I treat people the same way I want to be treated, no matter the wrong they have done to me. I always try to remain kind to everyone because that’s what God did. He showed love to everyone. The older I get, I realize that as long as God loves me and I love myself, that’s all I need.

I know that I am always going to have cerebral palsy and that people will always judge me and look at me in a certain way, but I know that as long as I love myself and accept myself for who I am I will be ok. But before, I always questioned God. I asked him why me? Why was I made this way? Why should I go through these struggles? But I learned that God has something planned for me in my life. I know that he is always by my side whenever I need him.

I hate seeing other kids being bullied or messed with because they are different. I want kids who are being bullied to believe in themselves. I learned that every person is unique; all of us have different gifts from God and that’s why I want those kids who are being bullied to see and use those gifts to build their self-confidence. I want them to know that when no one else loves them, they should look to God for guidance. That’s what I did when I felt alone and empty inside.

That’s why I want to change the world, to make it a better place for kids everywhere. I want kids to love themselves and stand up for themselves and not pay attention to the words of those kids who are making fun of them. I want them also to know that things will get better for them as long as they keep their faith and look to God for help.

I am happy now in my life because I know that God has a purpose for me. I feel like that purpose is to tell my story about the things that happened to me so that others can change their views about how they look and treat people. Also I want their hearts to be filled with love and compassion for one another.

I have faith that one day everyone will love and accept one another. I am going to do my part by going to school and getting a good job to make that dream happen one step and
one person at a time. I feel like this is the way to serve God. I love my family and I love my life. I am grateful to God for making me this way, and nothing will ever change that.

I thank God for every blessing he has giving me and my family. I will love him always.