

## *My Testimony*

God's grace is so evident in my life. I was born with Cerebral Palsy and have never had the opportunity to be "normal". However, the Lord allowed me to be raised in a Christian home. My mother shared the Gospel with me when I was 5 years old and it was then that I realized that I was a sinner and needed Jesus. I remember thinking "If Jesus loved me enough to die for me, then I want to know Him".

I am so thankful that I came to know the Lord and his great love for me at such a young age. I believe it is because of this that I never became bitter or angry about my disability. I do struggle at times with my disability and have what I call my "I wish" days when I desire my circumstances to be different. However, I have always known that God had good reasons for how he created me. I have come to realize that my disability is a blessing because it causes me to constantly call on Jesus for strength and help to stay focused on Him. Also, now I see how God is using my disability to encourage others.

In recent years the Lord has greatly increased my burden for discipleship. The Lord has also made it clear to me that He wants to use my disability more directly for His glory. I so desire for others with disabilities to see that they are valuable to the Lord and that they can be used in great ways in the Kingdom of God. I also desire to encourage people to include those with disabilities into their lives daily lives both inside and outside the church. I am so thankful to the Lord for His direction in leading me to Handi\*Vangelism Ministries International where I can flesh out these burdens and passions.

2 Corinthians 12:9 sums up my life and desires well. It states "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me".

Praise the Lord for His Grace!

*Tammy Arrowsmith*