

# FRIENDSHIP NEWSLETTER

For Thai English Students

## My Journey to Faith

Testimony of Chris Brignell, Short-term English teacher from England

I was only three years old when my six-year-old sister, Vicky became very sick. The doctors found a tumor on her spinal cord. The doctors decided not to do regular surgery. They thought laser surgery would be safer for Vicky.



But the surgery did not turn out well. Since that day, Vicky has been paralyzed from her neck down. As a result she can't walk but has to use a wheelchair. She can't do anything for herself. She can't turn the page when she is reading a book. She can't write. My parents and I have to help her all the time.

As a young boy it was very difficult to see my sister unable to do anything for herself. My parents found strength from their faith in God through going to church, praying and reading their Bibles. But I found it difficult to believe in God when I saw the problems in my sister's life. I had been taught that He was powerful and could help people. It did not look like He was helping my sister.



When she was eight years old, Vicky returned to school. She had to have someone with her all the time, to help her. She was a very good student. Because of her good exam scores, she studied high school at a special school for smart students. Then she studied at one of England's best universities, -- Cambridge! Today she has a good job working for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).

As a teenager, I began to realize that my sister could have died during her surgery as a six year old. I thought about how well she did in school and how she has such a good job at BBC. My thoughts about God began to change. I learned that He had really helped my sister and my family. I learned that Jesus was a real person who lived 2000 years ago. Now I believe in God and I want to serve Him with my life.

Questions:

1. What happened to Vicky when she was six years old?
2. What kind of surgery did Vicky have?
3. Tell about what Vicky can't do since her surgery.
4. How did Chris' parents find strength to care for their daughter Vicky?
5. Where did Vicky study? Where does she work now?
6. What three thoughts helped change Chris' mind about God?

By Chris Brignell as told to Arlene Sorenson

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