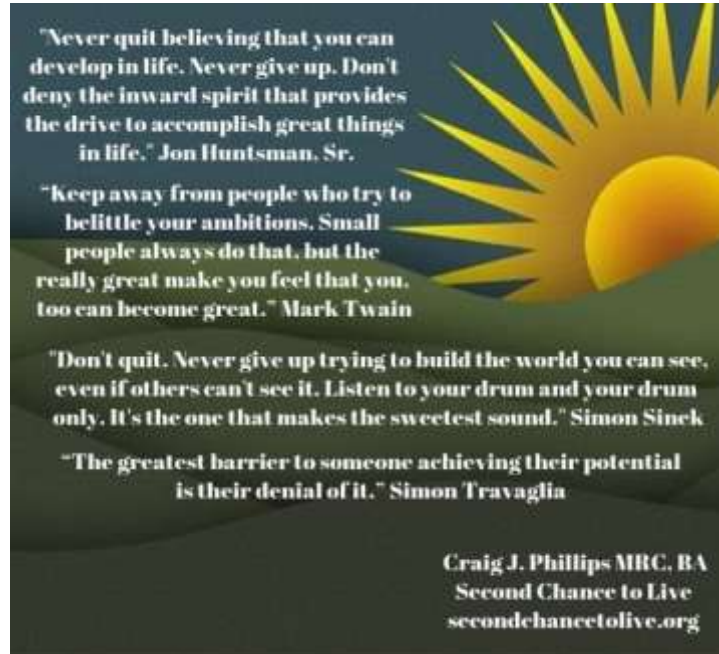


**Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live
Answering the Call that never Came Presentation
Second Chance to Live -- Craig J. Phillips MRC, BA**



Several weeks ago, I wrote the article, **Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live — Answering the Call that Never Came.**

[Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live — Answering the Call that never Came](#)

To make the information available to individuals who learn better through **watching** and **listening**, I created a **video presentation** of the article.

[Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live — Answering the Call that never Came Video Presentation](#)

Yesterday, I put the article and information into a **PDF file** to make the information available to be shared through a **zoom presentation**

**Comprehensive History of Second Chance to Live --
Answering the Call that never Came Presentation**

Below is a comprehensive history of Second Chance to Live and my answering the call that never came.

I share the below with you to encourage you to not give up on your process and journey in the pursuit of your destiny.

Your process and journey of discovering a way to use your gifts, talents and abilities after your brain injury and stroke.

More will be revealed, as it has been to me, by not giving up. Be encouraged my friend. The struggle is worth the gain.

On **February 6, 2007** I created **Second Chance to Live**.

I did so in response to **Answering the Call that never Came**.

Scroll Down to read the History of Second Chance to Live

In **October 2009** I wrote an article, **Answering the Call that Never Came**.

In **October 2013** I wrote an article, **Backstory of Second Chance to Live**.

Below these 2 articles, I share Resources created to Answer the Call that never Came.

Background to Answering the Call that never Came

10 years to obtain my undergraduate degree and **3 1/2 years** to obtain my graduate degree as a **rehabilitation counselor**.

As I shared in my series, **My Journey thus Far** I had a long **20-year history** of getting and losing jobs, both non-professional and professional jobs, despite my diligent hard work and best efforts.

Answering the Call that Never Came

“Empowering the Individual, not the brain injury, diagnosis or prognosis”

“It is not as important what happened or happens to us, but how we respond to what happened or happens to us.”

Craig J. Phillips MRC, BA



For many years I waited for someone — a group, an organization, a church, an employer or a relationship — to recognize my worth and value. I bought into the notion that I had to obtain some type of stamp or validation of approval before my gifts, talents and abilities could be deemed to be valuable and worthwhile.

Sure I used my gifts, talents and abilities, but I did not feel as though my gifts, talents and abilities were that significant. Consequently, I spent many years waiting and hoping for the call.

When the call to use my gifts, talents and abilities did not come I felt inadequate. I felt insignificant. I felt “less than” the individuals who had been recognized and validated for their gifts, talents and abilities. Consequently, I became discouraged and despondent. Thankfully — with time — my discouragement and despondency motivated me to be open to solutions.

My discouragement and despondency continued to persist until I became sick and tired of being sick and tired. When I reached that point in time point — in my life — I became willing and motivated to look for solutions.

Through being open to solutions, I had a spiritual awakening. I realized that the call I had been waiting for, but never came— from outside of me — was already inside of me. In my awakening, I realized that I no longer needed the approval or validation of an organization, church, employer or a relationship. Approval or validation to use my gifts, talents and abilities.

Through my awakening and, by grieving what I could not change, I realized I had choices. I realized that I no longer needed to wait for an organization, church, employer or relationship to value what I considered/consider to be essential.

With my realization, I started on a quest to find a way to use my gifts, talents and abilities to pursue what I valued and considered important.

Through my quest, I discovered that I could use my gifts, talents and abilities through writing and speaking. On February 6, 2007 I started on my journey to encourage, motivate, empower and share hope through **Second Chance to Live.**

Today’s Thought

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. What you possess is on the inside of you — your call. Your call — regardless of your disability or limitations — is waiting to be realized. Be bold and courageous my friend. Take one step at a time.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Trust the process. Trust a loving God. Trust yourself and your ability to learn from the process.

Don't Give Up!

More will be revealed to you with each day. You will discover how to use your passions. You will live your dreams. And if you have a hard time believing, believe because I believe. And please remember — you do not have to wait to be discovered. You do not have to wait to be validated. You have already been validated. You have already been called to embark on your process and journey.

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Insist on yourself, never imitate. Your own gift you can present every moment with the cumulative force of a whole life's cultivation; but of the adopted talent of another you only have an extemporaneous half-possession...Do that which is assigned to you, and you cannot hope to much or dare to0 much.” Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“If you advance confidently in the direction of your dreams and endeavor to life the life that you have imagined...you will meet with success unexpected in common hours.” Henry David Thoreau

In **October 2013** I wrote an article to share the **BACK STORY** of my creating **Second Chance to Live to Answer the Call that Never Came.**

Backstory of Second Chance to Live

I feel led to share this information with you to encourage you to commit to your dreams and your destiny, whatever that entails.

For many years I felt like someone all dressed up with “nowhere to go”. I felt this way after diligently applying myself to my studies.

10 years to obtain my undergraduate degree and **3 1/2 years** to obtain my graduate degree as a **rehabilitation counselor**.

As I shared in my series, **My Journey thus Far** I had a long 20-year history of getting and losing jobs, both non-professional and professional jobs, despite my diligent hard work and best efforts.

Departments of Vocational Rehabilitation

While a working as a DVR counselor with the **Florida Department of Vocational Rehabilitation**, I was made a client. That outcome did not result in a suitable job placement and I was then terminated as a client.

While in Florida, I applied for SSDI 2 times, however both of my applications were denied.

After being fired from several more jobs, in Florida, I was recruited to North Carolina to begin a job, as a **CRC** (certified rehabilitation counselor) in workers compensation.

I was fired from this job 4 months later. Following that firing and an unsuccessful job search, I reapplied with the **Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** here in **North Carolina**.

I also applied for **SSDI** benefits a **3rd time**.

After completing the evaluation and testing process with the NC DVR I was deemed to be **unemployable** by my counselor and the **North Carolina Department of Vocational Rehabilitation**.

Soon there after, my **3rd application for SSDI** was approved by the Social Security Administration. I began receiving benefits, I believe in January 1999.

Not Giving Up!

Although I had been declared unemployable and disabled, I still desired to use what I had to give to people who wanted what I had to give.

Beginning my Quest to Find a Way to Give and My Computer Experience

I wrote a collection of poems and a series of articles. After receiving some back pay, a friend of mine helped me to purchase a computer and I began to discover the world of dial-up technology. During the next 3-4 years the computer manufacture rebuilt **2 computers**, one piece at a time, through my working with **1st, 2nd, and 3rd level tier technical support** through several **dial-up** (not cable or dsl) companies.

Use of my Computers

With my use of the computer, I started to input my poems and articles onto the **1st computer's hard drive** and then **re-enter** the data of my poems and articles onto the **2nd computer hard drive**. I learned from my experience to store data on an external hard drive and make copies of my poems, autobiography and articles onto floppy and CD discs from my **2nd computer's hard drive**.

Saved me a lot of time from having to input my data from my **2nd** to my **3rd** and then to my **4th** computer.

Computer Rebuilds and Data Re-Entry

As you might imagine I spent countless hours on and off the phone following the computer manufacturers technical support recommendations. After **2 rebuilds**, and much aggravation, I asked some friends if they had a computer they were no longer using. One of my friends gave me an **HP computer**. I had to reload the operating program — **Windows XP** — at the time and re enter all of my data from my past **2 computers**.

Getting a New Computer

Several years later I was able to get a **new computer**, as the one my friend gave me no longer worked.

I had to start the process of reloading all the data from the computer given to me to the new computer. This involved a significant learning curve.

The Journey Began

Over the next **3 years**, I continued writing and developing as a writer. Through my process, I wrote an autobiography and then a book – **Table Topics for the Soul – Journey to the Heart**. I attempted to get my book published with several publishers – after registering my book with the **Library of Congress**. I spent nearly \$100 attempting to get my book published without success.

I continued to write and a year or so later — at the encouragement of a friend – I sought to create a weblog. After researching several blogging engines, I decided to create my weblog using **WordPress.com** to host **Second Chance to Live**. I created Second Chance to Live **7 years** after being told I was unemployable and began receiving SSDI.

When I first started to write — as with my book — I was very cerebral (like **Data in Star Trek — The Next Generation**). As I continued to write, I began to combine the emotive with the cerebral to my writing style. Subsequently, I had comments from readers who told me that what I was sharing with them was what they wished they could say.

I helped to put into words what they wished they could communicate.

I share my process with you to encourage you to not give up on your quest on to discover how to use your gifts, talents and abilities.

**“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.”
Thomas A. Edison**

Commitment to the Process once I Created my Account on WordPress.com

After deciding on WordPress.com to use as my blogging platform I spent **60 – 70 hours** a week for the next **8-12 weeks** learning about the world of the blogosphere, writing, publishing, answering emails and comments.

Then for the next **6 months**, I spent **50 – 60 hours a week** continuing to learn about the blogosphere, write/create, answer emails and comments manage my weblog and write letters to send to contacts both domestically and internationally.

For the next **3 – 4 years** I spent **45 – 50 hours a week**, then for the past **3 years** I have spent between **40 – 50 hours a week** writing / creating, answering emails and comments, sending email introductions of Second Chance to Live, and learning about how to be more effective as a creator, writer, and communicator.

Transition from wordpress.com to having my own website

4-5 years after hosting my **Second Chance to Live** on **wordpress.com** a kind friend and webmaster helped me to move to have my own website (real estate). **secondchancelive.org** was birthed at that time and has been going strong for the past 9 -10 years or so.

Lots of House Cleaning (so to say) after moving from secondchancelive.wordpress.com to secondchancelive.org

After transitioning from **secondchancelive.wordpress.com** to my **secondchancelive.org** there was a tremendous amount of time and energy spent. Time and energy spent setting up **secondchancelive.org** on the new theme, with categories, widgets, menus, indexes, etc.

Domestic and International Outreach and Service

I also sent letters to introduce and share the mission and vision of Second Chance to Live.

Click on the blue link to see some of the organizations reached and served [Domestically and Internationally](#).

A New Format — The Beginning of Video Presentation Creation of my Articles

On **July 29, 2011**, with the encouragement of a friend I created a YouTube Channel and started to make video presentations of my articles for people who learn through watching and listening. During the course of the 80 months, I have written 1130 articles and created 168 video presentations.

Update July 24, 2022

I have written **2025 articles**, created **446 video presentations**, written **12 eBooks**, created **14 Keynote presentations** and **40 Inspirational posters**.

In **April of 2013**, I presented a workshop in Anchorage, Alaska and then in May in a workshop in Seattle, Washington. In a few weeks, I will be giving a keynote presentation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I realize that I would not have been able to or be asked to be a part of these conferences if I had not followed my dreams. I do not know what is around the corner.

I am thankful for the opportunities that I have been given during the past 80 months. I look forward to future possibilities, as doors open for me to be of service. My experience has taught me that nothing in my development has gone to waste.

Update July 24, 2022

In the time since my first workshop in Anchorage, Alaska, I have spoken at other conferences and in different locations. During the past **26 months** I have spoken **85 times** throughout the United States through **13 different keynote presentations**. To view places and locations spoken, click:

[Public Speaking Craig J. Phillips MRC, BA Second Chance to Live](#)

Today's thought

In my experience, I have come to realize that I can trust the process, a loving God and myself. I have come to realize that everything that I considered to be disappointments and disillusionment was preparing me to use my gifts, talents, and abilities in ways that would work for me.

What appeared to be setbacks were actually set ups. I share the above details with you, for this reason, my friend. You may have also experienced disappointments, disillusionment, setbacks, aggravations and adversity during your lifetime.

My encouragement to you my friend, is to not give up. Keep moving forward as you pursue your dreams.

More will be revealed to you and to me my friend — with and in time.

My Encouragement to You, as I need to Remember

Commit to “suing up and showing up” in your life each day. By doing so, you will be amazed at the things that you can and will accomplish because you did not give up on your process, a loving God or yourself.

You will see what you thought was being used for your harm, was in actuality being used for your good. You will see why you needed to learn the lessons that your disappointment, disillusionment, and adversity has taught you.

You will see how all things have been working together for your good. You will be a blessing to the people who are brought into your life. You will see that nothing in your development has gone to waste.

To read an in-depth account of my journey and process, please click on this link: [In Depth About Page](#)

The Results of Answering the Call that Never Came and the Efforts of my Back Story

Below is a **Comprehensive list of Resources** created since I began Answering the Call that Never Came in February 2007.

2025 articles, 446 video presentations, 12 e Books, 40 posters and 14 presentations all to encourage a **holistic** (body, soul, spirit, mind and emotions) and **ongoing** brain injury recovery process.

To view all of the resources created to serve both the domestic and international brain injury community click on this link:

[Visual and Auditory Resources](#)

As you view these resources and questions come to mind, please ask. All questions are good questions and welcomed.

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