

# **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. All 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**

**“We can create a good life for ourselves, by learning to use what works for us.”**

## **Answering the Call that Never Came**

For many years I waited for someone, a group, an organization, a church, an employer or a relationship to recognize my worth and value. Recognize my worth and value as an individual.

You see, 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. As a result, I spent many years waiting for the call.

When the call to use my gifts, talents and abilities, through my educational and vocational experience, did not come, I felt inadequate. I felt a sense of shame for not being enough.

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 and by not giving up, my discouragement and despondency motivated me. Motivated me to begin to be open to solutions and to look for those solutions.

**“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.” Helen Keller**

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.

**I just needed to find a way to answer and express my call.**

In my awakening, I realized that I no longer needed the approval or validation of an organization, church, employer or a relationship. Approval and validation to answer the call to use my gifts, talents and abilities in ways that would work for me.

**Through my awakening and, by grieving what I could not change, I realized that I had choices.**

I realized that I no longer needed to wait for an organization, church, employer or relationship to value what I considered and consider to be of value and essential.

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

**Through my quest, I discovered that I could answer the “call” through writing and speaking.**

On **February 6, 2007** I started on the journey to answer the “call” that was in me. The “call” 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. Your “call” is on the inside of you. Your call, regardless of your disability or limitations, is waiting to be realized. Realized by taking one step at a time.

One step at a time by trusting the process, trusting a loving God and trusting yourself. Trusting yourself and by your ability to learn from the process. More will be revealed with time.

**“Once we take the first step and keep walking before long, we will be able to look back and see how far we have come on our journey, because we did not give up.” Craig J. Phillips MRC, BA**

### **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. Your gifts, talents and abilities are waiting to be mined.

You have already been called to learn to use your gifts, talents and abilities. Learn how to answer your call one step at a time.

**“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 too much.” Ralph Waldo Emerson.**

**“If you advance confidently in the direction of your dreams and endeavor to live 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**

**10 years** to obtain my undergraduate degree and **3 1/2 years** to obtain my graduate degree as a **rehabilitation counselor**. Working in both non-professional and professional jobs to no avail.

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.

### **My Two Departments of Vocational Rehabilitation Experiences**

While 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 thereafter, 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. But I needed to find a way to answer my call.

### **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. When the 1<sup>st</sup> computer failed, I had to **re-enter** the data of my poems and articles onto the **2nd computer** hard drive.

### **Lesson Learned**

I learned from my experience to store data from my **2<sup>nd</sup> computer** onto an external hard drive -- poems, autobiography and articles.

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 computer rebuilds**, piece by piece, 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 reenter 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, but I am glad that I did not give up on the process.

## 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 many 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.

## Writing Style Changes

When I first started to write, as with my poems, autobiography and book I was very cerebral (like **Data** in **Star Trek — The Next Generation**). As I continued to write, I began to combine the emotive (feeling) with the cerebral (logical) to my writing style.

With time, I received comments from readers who told me that what I was sharing with them, in my articles, was what they wished they could say and communicate.

**I helped them to put into words what they wished they could say and communicate.**

**I share my process with you to encourage you to not give up on your quest on to discover your call.**

**To answer your call and 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. I also wrote letters to send to contacts both domestically and internationally.

For the next **3 – 4 years** I spent **45 – 50 hours a week**. Then (at the writing of this article in 2013) for the past **3 years** I have spent between **40 – 50 hours a week** writing / creating, answering emails and comments.

I also continued to send email introductions of Second Chance to Live, both domestically and internationally. I continued to learn how to be a more effective as a creator, writer, and communicator.

## **Transition from wordpress.com to my Own Website**



4-5 years after hosting my **Second Chance to Live** on **wordpress.com** a kind friend and webmaster helped me. Helped me to move from hosting my website on WordPress.com to another blogging platform to have my own website (real estate).

secondchancetolive.org was birthed at that time and has been going strong for the past **17** years or so.

After transitioning from **secondchancetolive.wordpress.com** to my **secondchancetolive.org** there was a tremendous amount of time and energy spent.

Time and energy spent setting up **secondchancetolive.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.

Click here to view a playlist of my now [454 video presentations](#) created from articles.

During the course of the 80 months (at the writing of this article in 2013), I have written 1130 articles and created 168 video presentations.

## **February 12, 2024**

I have written **2153 articles**, created **454 video presentations**, written **12 eBooks**, created **29 Keynote and Workshop presentations**.

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 (at the writing of this article in 2013). 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. I have used all of what I have gained through my experience.**

In the time since my first workshop in Anchorage, Alaska, I have spoken at other conferences and in different locations.

Since late June 2020 I have spoken **130 times** with upcoming presentations scheduled through **29 Keynote and Workshop Presentations**. To view, click on this link [view](#).

### **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.

**Preparing me to use my gifts, talents, and abilities to answer my call, in ways that work.**

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

Don't let that discouragement and those disappointments stop you from answering your call. Don't Quit. Keep moving forward as you pursue your call. More will be revealed to you as more has been revealed to me.

**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.

By not giving up give up on your process, a loving God or yourself you will answer your call.

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 and disillusionment.

You will see that the adversity that you experienced has empowered your call.

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.

My Email Contact is: **secondchancetolive1@yahoo.com**

**Serving the International, as well as the Domestic Brain Injury Community**

**During 17 years Second Chance to Live has benefited lives in the following Countries**

**United States, European Union, Brazil, Canada, United Kingdom, Spain, Ireland, Russia, China, Hong Kong, India, France, Finland, Denmark, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Czechia, Croatia, Indonesia, Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Greece, Philippines, Japan, Serbia, Slovenia, Portugal, Morocco, Egypt, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Switzerland, Thailand, Israel, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Netherlands, Ghana, and South Africa**

**Translate Second Chance to Live into Your Language**

To give non-English speaking and reading visitors to Second Chance to Live I have created a tool. A tool to translate Second Chance to Live into a variety of languages. Below are a series of language links. To translate Second Chance to Live, click on the desired language link.

When the translation page opens click on the small blue box opposite <https://secondchancetolive.org/>. Doing so will then translate Second Chance to Live.

[Albanian](#) [Arabic](#) [Bulgarian](#) [Catalan](#) [Chinese Simplified](#) [Chinese Traditional](#) [Croatian](#) [Czech](#) [Danish](#) [Dutch](#) [Estonian](#) [Filipino](#) [Finnish](#) [French](#) [Galician](#) [German](#) [Greek](#) [Hebrew](#) [Hindi](#) [Hungarian](#) [Indonesian](#) [Italian](#) [Japanese](#) [Korean](#) [Latvian](#) [Lithuanian](#) [Maltese](#) [Norwegian](#) [Polish](#) [Portuguese](#) [Romanian](#) [Russian](#) [Serbian](#) [Slovak](#) [Slovenian](#) [Spanish](#) [Swedish](#) [Thai](#) [Turkish](#)

[Second Chance to Live Author's Autobiography in Bullet Points](#)

**Articles, Video Presentations, eBooks, Slideshow Presentations and Posters**

[2153 Article/Video Presentation Links within 12 Peer Support Categories](#)

[Navigating Life After a Traumatic Brain Injury 454 Video Presentations Playlist](#)

[29 Keynote and Workshop Presentations Public Speaking Availability](#)

[Navigating Life After a Traumatic Brain Injury 49 Video Presentation Series Playlist](#)

[Second Chance to Live — 20 Brain Injury Recovery Slideshow Presentations](#)

[Building Your Life After a Traumatic Brain Injury 30 Video Presentation Playlist](#)

[See Testimonies and Endorsements for Second Chance to Live](#)

**Information on the Power of Neuroplasticity**

## [Stroke, Brain Injury and the Benefits of Neuroplasticity](#)

### [Neuroplasticity, Small Successes and Learning/Relearning Skills/Skill Sets](#)

#### [Nine Habits to Benefit from Using the Principle of Neuroplasticity](#)

#### [How I Use Neuroplasticity to Create Neural Pathways/Brain Reorganization](#)

#### [Childhood Stroke \(Brain Injury\) and Healing our Brain and Body](#)

### **My Process and Journey with Neuroplasticity**

I have been using different martial art disciplines for the past 26 years to create new neural pathways and brain reorganization (neuroplasticity) through repetitive mirrored movements.

#### **Benefits**

To improve and enhance muscle memory, coordination, agility, body awareness, hand/foot/eye coordination, precision, dexterity, spatial orientation and balance on both the right and left side of my body.

#### **Develop Your Own Program**

For more information to develop your own programs to create new neural pathways and brain reorganization click on the below link.

### [Neuroplasticity, Small Successes and Learning/Relearning Skills and Skill Sets](#)

#### **My Program**

In **2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018** and **2021** I was fortunate to have had several individuals record presentations. To see my progress of development from **2013–2021** scroll down.

Because of a shoulder injury and Covid I was not able to record a demonstration in **2019** or in **2020**.

#### **The Process and Goal**

The goal has been to improve my ability to mirror the same abilities on both the non-dominant side (left side) of my body with the dominant side (right side) of my body.

As in the below demonstrations, I engage both sides of my body (my hands, arms, elbows, legs, knees, and feet).

I engage both sides of my body to improve my gross, fine motor skills and muscle memory. I engage both sides of my body to improve.

Improve my dexterity, hand-eye coordination, agility, balance, stamina, precision, focus and awareness. I improve these factors by engaging both sides of my body to improve my skills and abilities.

I engage both sides of my body to improve and enhance the quality of my life and well-being. I engage both sides of my brain and body to create to answer my call. To pursue my dreams and to be of service.

## **Create Your Own Program**

In the event that you have not begun, I would encourage you to create a program. Create a program that will empower you to create neural pathways and brain reorganization. Brain reorganization through repetitive mirrored movements on your dominant and non-dominant sides of your body. Brain reorganization to improve and enhance your quality of life and well-being.

**Click on each blue link (s) to watch the demonstration on YouTube**

**Neuroplasticity through Martial Arts 2013**

<https://youtu.be/snHjkxYrRYU>

**Neuroplasticity Demonstration August 2014**

<https://youtu.be/sV82V2y-Jrk>

**Brain Injury, Neuroplasticity and Personal Gains August 2015**

<https://youtu.be/j4BajiK5qB8>

**Balance and Coordination through Repetitive Mirrored Movement  
2016**

[https://youtu.be/Ljsr\\_S18Fng](https://youtu.be/Ljsr_S18Fng)

**Brain Injury Recovery and Repetitive Mirrored Movements 2017**

<https://youtu.be/EXVq5vICWZI>

**Improving Our Brain and Body's Ability to Excel after Brain Injury  
2018**

<https://youtu.be/syCBmRi-P3E>

**Due to a shoulder injury, I was unable to create a video presentation  
in 2019. Due to Covid I was unable to create a video presentation in  
2020.**

**Stick Fighting, Knife, Western Boxing & Wing Chun Drills**

**Created September 2, 2021**

<https://youtu.be/YLOeOUq4170>

**Transition Drills to Improve Agility, Focus, Speed & Coordination**

**Created September 6, 2021**

[https://youtu.be/4JOel\\_4upWM](https://youtu.be/4JOel_4upWM)

**Hand Eye Coordination and Precision Drills using Fine Motor Skills**

**Created September 12, 2021**

<https://youtu.be/seeH9xbkKDs>

**Using upper and lower body coordination and movement to improve  
focus, agility and balance of upper body and lower body martial art  
skills. Created February 14, 2022**

<https://youtu.be/nBSQx0y3aP0>

## **Our Facebook Community — You are Welcome to Join**

Several years ago, I created a Face Book Community, The **Building Your Life after Traumatic Brain Injury Community**. I would invite you to join our community by clicking on this link and asking to join.

[The Building Your Life after Traumatic Brain Injury Community](#)

[Past and Present Organizations Using Second Chance to Live as a Useful Resource](#)

[Publications and Radio Programs hosting Second Chance to Live to Empower Members](#)