

Personal Persistence

Christy Brown, a cripple from Dublin, Ireland, was born with inconceivable handicaps. He was unable to walk, dress himself or feed himself, talked in a guttural sound, and never attended school a day in his life.

Born in Crumlin, Dublin, in Ireland, he suffered from cerebral palsy, and was considered mentally disabled until he famously snatched a piece of chalk from his sister with his left foot. He became a renowned author, painter and poet.

Despite his disadvantages, Brown wrote a literary masterpiece that received world acclaim. In his autobiographical novel, *Down All the Days*, the author told the story of what it was like to be all but helpless, to be one of 22 children, and to live in the slums. The book became an international bestseller, with translations into 14 languages.

Here is the amazing part: It required Christy Brown 15 years to write his book, for he typed it with the little toe of his left foot.

His diligence and his commitment shame me. Each of us who has been showered with blessings should re-examine how we are using the talents a loving God has bestowed upon us. And we should approach with patience and determination what He calls us to do.

The example of Christy Brown should inspire us to do great things.

--Beecher Hunter