

## **HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE?**

*Inspired and edited from a story found in the net.*

A young musician, Mr. Patrick Henry Hughes was rolled onto the stage in his wheelchair, and began to play the piano. His fingers danced across the keys creating a most delightful music.

Then as he played, he began to sing, and it was even more beautiful. I felt that there was something special about him. There was a aura about him and his smile so magic!

After a while, someone came on the stage, and introduced us the young pianist: *Patrick Henry Hughes*

Patrick, was born, he said with no eyes, and a tightening of the joints which left him crippled for life, As a child, he was fitted with artificial eyes and placed in a wheelchair. Before his first birthday, he discovered the piano. His mom said, "I could hit any note on the piano, and within one or two tries, he'd get it." By his second birthday, he was playing requests like, "*You Are My Sunshine*", "*winkle Twinkle Little Star*"

Today, Patrick is a junior at the University of Louisville. His father attends classes with him and he's made nearly all A's, with the exception of 3 B's He's also a part of the 214 member marching band.

He's a blind, wheelchair-bound trumpet player. His Dad and he attend the band practices and many performance in front of thousands. In order to attend Patrick's classes and every band practice, his father works the graveyard shift at UPS. Patrick said..."*My dad's my hero.*"

But even more than his unbelievable musical talent, it us Patrick's "attitude of gratitude" that touches the soul of his audiences.. On stage, between songs, he talks to the audience about his life and about how blessed he has been.. He says: "God made me blind and cripple. BIG DEAL! He gave me however, the musical talents I Have ...and thus a great opportunity to meet many people."

When his performance was over, Patrick and his father were on the stage together. The crowd rose to their feet and cheered them for over five minutes.

In life, to uplift us, we need meet people like Patrick Henry Hughes, we need heroes, Their example, their smile, their courage: but most all, their wonderful attitude of gratitude sustains us/

We all, face adversities, handicaps and obstacles in our daily living.

It's not they, however, but how we react to them

That will determine the amount joy and happiness in our life.

**"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...  
it's about learning how to dance in the rain!"**

*During tough times, are we not spending too much time feeling sorry for ourselves?*

*Let us, rather, learn how to gratefully and gracefully dance in the rain?*

*"When we choose not to focus on what is missing from our live, but are grateful for the abundance that's present....we experience heaven on earth."*