

MARIE-THÉRÈSE JOSEPH

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**“All I need is just to walk.
I will do anything
to be able to walk again.”**

I can't remember very much about what happened before the car accident. It's hard on me, because I know one thing for sure. I almost got killed. And, oh! Jesus, I don't even know how to explain it. People tell me that I was drinking a lot, but I do not know. I think I had to forget Him, and you know who I am talking about. He owns me, He owns everybody. The Bible says God makes everything, and God owns everything. So God made me, and He owns me.

The accident was terrible. I was in the hospital for two years, just laying down mostly. My friends said that I was in a coma for six months, but I can't remember too much about that. Now I am home and I am just like a little kid learning all over again. I've got this walker. The Indian Affairs people gave it to me. So I do not need anything.

All I need is just to walk. I will do anything to be able to walk again. Sometimes, I get very tired, so I

think I will take a knife and kill myself, but then I do not want to do that.

I don't have great troubles. I have good friends to help me. When I came home from the hospital, Frieda, the community health representative, was right there. She comes by and sees me all the time. Sometimes my family does not want to walk with me, because they are scared. They say that I am too fat and hard to lift up and down the stairs. But Frieda, she is right there.

So are Laura, and Mary, and Louise. It sure is great to have friends.

I know my friend down the road, Clarence. He worked on the railway for twenty-two years and now he is blind. He would be in a lot of trouble if he didn't have the homemaker coming in to help him. Just to show him where the knobs are on the stove, and how to get around his house. You see, Clarence is blind.

I know there are lots of other people with big problems. I hear about the poisoning from mercury and things like that. But I don't have any problems. All I need to do is walk.

When I get better and can walk, there is a doctor in the Moncton city hospital and he says, "Miss Therese Joseph, if you want to work, you have a job right here. It will be ready when you are done with this sickness." So, you see, my only problem is to walk.

All my friends believe that one day I will be able to walk. They make me feel good when it is cold and rainy outside. I'm not afraid to go away for the rehabilitation, and I will do all of my exercises so I can come back to my home. You know, it will be a little holiday from here, and at the same time, I will learn to walk. It might be better if I didn't have to go so far away, but I know it is worth it, just to be able to walk. I will do anything to walk.

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