

Connie Nordin



I'm Connie and my husband is Kerry. I had polio but have been reluctant to join any type of group. The only other one I've visited seemed to be more of a gripe session than a positive experience. Your letter is so upbeat!! We have two grown children. Laura is married to Kenneth, whom we love as if he were our own, and Nathan is in school at OBU. We have a farm with cows and hay and I work at WalMart.

I had polio at 11 months, from the immunization. They were using a live virus on a sugar cube, but I don't remember any of that. I do remember the surgery at 4 when the doctor trans -located a muscle in my right leg so I could pick my right foot up again, mainly because it was cold! One of the affects of polio I do not have is the inability to gain muscle strength. We are members of Knoxville First Baptist Church where I teach and play the piano and my husband is a deacon. Every Monday morning, a group of us go to Countryside Manor to play and sing. Well, we make a joyful noise, anyway.

Right now, I'm on the waiting list to receive a corneal transplant, which has nothing to do with the polio. Working where I do is a challenge because it is so physical. One doctor said "Good!! You need to stay active." That's hard news for a lazy bum. Cows, hay, church and work have been our lives for the past 30 years. Yep, folks, I'm 50,, at least on the outside. On the inside, it ranges from about 3 to 100!

The thing that stood out most about this group is the fact you all met in Branson, my favorite playground. Had enough info? Good. If you all are anything like the letters you've sent, you have to be the happiest group of chronic pain suffers anyone could meet with.

Mom says I had polio in 1955, but wasn't diagnosed until 1958. The doctors had said I had rickets. We walked in to see Dr. Loggerquist and he asked mom when did "that child" have polio? Mom said never. He said "yes, she has" and so he was the first. He was also very able to say that since polio had been his specialty during the epidemic of the late 40s and early 50s. I got it from the sugar cube! He did the surgery to translocate a muscle in my right leg so my foot could be lifted up. I just thank God that the timing was so right. The doctor was in the Navy. Yep, I'm a Navy brat. We'd seen a different doctor each time we went. Every 6 weeks, we'd make that trip.

Growing up, I don't remember having much trouble. I was slower than the other kids, but was also taller so nobody picked on me much! I played basketball in High School. Our team did well. But we played only half-court back then. I got married in May of 1974 to Kerry and graduated from Arkansas Tech University in 1976.

I had Laura in 1978 and Nathan in 1985. We live on a farm raising cows and hay. Kerry runs heavy equipment and I work at Wal-Mart in Clarksville. When PPS first started being talked about, I kept saying I didn't have it because this body can still build muscles. HA! You know that is just one symptom. Oh, well, it's official. PPS is now a part of my life — but, hey, so is osteoarthritis! So, the doctor put me on Neurontin for PPS, and mobic. Do many of us have a problem with depression, too? I'm on Prozac. After reading the letters of this group, I know a type of Insanity is common!!! Hmm, is that also a symptom of PPS, too? It must be. I wonder if the experts know about this.

