

I started bowling In the Manitoba Hydro 5 pin coed bowling league in September of 2004.I could only thank God for my bowling average of 169 the first year. I was put on the team named the crips. Our team was the skunk team of the league the first three years I bowled. My bowling average dropped every year. I did not care or even think of practicing like I did every sport I had participated in over the years, but decided I was thankful to just be able to bowl. I never looked at how the team scoring worked to know what position our team was in throughout the year. I rarely looked at the scoreboard while playing, only hearing my teammates holler it was the tenth frame. I was quite often embarrassed cheering for my own strike or spare or my teammates strike or spare when the left 2 pin was still standing. This happened because of the loss of the left side of my field of vision. I also felt awkward having to bend down on my right knee throwing the ball right handed. I put myself on my first ever monthly budget in August of 2008. I could not afford the 10 dollars per week bowling. I had my budget under control enough by the end of December to go bowl a game. My teammates told me they had won the first quarter of the year. I immediately said, “I will be sure not to return bowling, because it is completely obvious you all bowl better without me bowling.” They insisted I continue bowling with the team and they would find a new teammate for next year if I decide not to bowl anymore. I

agreed to continue bowling the remainder of the year, because I was a member of the team and did not want to cause problems as a teammate. At the beginning of April my teammates who are all related told me. “We bet the banquet will be on April 26, because we have all agreed to go to a relative’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday party that day”. As bet the banquet was on April 26. I had to attend the banquet by myself for the team. I was able to use my teammate’s tickets if I wanted to bring others with me. I decided to invite a new family, George, Lilia and Gevona Braz who were immigrating to Canada from Brazil. They drove me to and from the banquet, which was very fortunate, because our team won the grand aggregate and winners of the year trophies, which are the two biggest trophies for the league. It could only have been God giving our team this glory, because none of us wanted to, expected to or even tried to be the winning team of the league. We were there to have fun, without the requirement of winning to have fun.