

## Broken Life

05/17/2016

It is with a touch of disbelief that I am even having to address the pains MS has caused. I have a wife, 3 children and a home. Before MS I earned a large income. I was a provider. All that has changed.

I was not, and am not, unhappy. In my life, I have been around the world, seen many things and am thankful for all of them. I still have a wife, three children, a home, but am not employed. What I am educated for, and what I was good at, is Health care IT. You think that would be a most tolerant workplace, you'd be wrong. Instead of thinking they're getting a bargain, (I am down to looking a employment options paying 30% of my former income,) MS has made me a pariah. I think I have reached the acceptance stage of MS, life is not what it used to be, and likely never will be. It has been said before, but I am tired. Tired of 'you look so good,' 'Power through it,' Well, I am not 'so good,' and cannot 'Power through MS.' Everyday is a struggle.

From SSDI to the job search. I was pursuing a MBA, and except for the joy of having knowledge, there doesn't seem to be much (any) point. MS has been mostly physically disabling for me, my mental acumen is not diminished or changed. SSDI policies on getting gainful employment, is a disincentive for me. The threshold for Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) means you are **working** and making more than \$1,130 per month (about &7/hour) in 2016. My background is a salary of \$135,000.00/year (\$11,250.00/month,) plus bonus' and at the end, at the onset of MS, \$68/hour.

You would think that an early retirement, and a fairly substantial 'nest egg,' would get me by, You would be wrong. MS has taken ALL my retirement, ALL my credit and is now taking my home. I have gone from a net worth of about \$1,000,000.00 to a net worth of less than \$250,000.00, and that is what's left of equity in my home. It took less than 3 years. My monthly drug bill is about, \$10,000.00/month, so the remainder will go fast.

I explain MS as 'starting the day with half a tank, and it just runs out.' Even those around me look for consistency. I am constantly told 'you look tired, why not take a nap?' The problem is, when the tank reached empty, and tired becomes fatigued, it often looks the same to the uneducated.

I know I have more, and am looking for the right employer/circumstance to apply the skills acquired over decades, that can be applied to benefit someone.

I am losing my home, lost my job and in general, life is not something to be looked forward too, but something to be endured. My wife and I still have our children, and that brings much joy. It pains me to admit that I cannot give them the same advantages that I had, but 'cie le vie.'

Dave

[www.mspeople.biz](http://www.mspeople.biz)

[dave@mspeople.biz](mailto:dave@mspeople.biz)

Twitter @fishingwithMS