

# May is ALS Awareness Month

**T**HE MDA<sup>1</sup> HIGHLIGHTS INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE country who have been diagnosed with ALS.<sup>2</sup> I have been truly honored to have met so many really great people through MDA in the past year and a half. I would like to introduce you to one person I met, brother Philip Fronckiewicz. He is a source of peace and inspiration to all of us.

When asked what life is like after being diagnosed with ALS, brother Philip responded, “While I cannot change the harsh diagnosis, I can choose *how* I will live with ALS. This involves actively accepting and going through what *is*: being willing to wrestle with the often unanswerable questions; looking beyond my own situation in order to bring healing to the brokenness of our world; and choosing love and gratitude every day.” This statement had a profound effect on me. Brother Philip continues, even with his daily struggles becoming more and more difficult, to consider what he can do to help everyone else.

When asked about what significance meant to him, he responded, “Love and faithfulness are not a pipe-dream. They are fashioned in the crucible of life, as each of us lets go of all that is unimportant to be free for the matters of the heart. We brothers journey into this territory *together*, step by step. I believe that our love and compassion will only deepen as we stand with every human being.” Brother Philip is an insightful and well spoken person. His ability to express to all of us the need to look beyond our daily lives at the bigger picture is a true gift. One that I felt was important to share with you. ■

Excerpted from the article written by **Penny Brand**  
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<sup>1</sup> Muscular Dystrophy Association

<sup>2</sup> Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease)