



June 2024

Dear Friends and Partners with Olive Branch Mission:

There was a steady stream of staff members filing in and out of my office. I have served in multiple capacities over my 25 years of employment at The Mission. Currently, I hold the position of Director of Food Services. Most of the employees at The Mission are as dear to me as family members, so their concern wasn't unusual. My son, Alan, suffered heart failure and lived with an artificial heart for almost 8 years. Alan has been on several prayer lists where he was prayed for daily. Four days ago, Alan was called into surgery to finally receive a heart transplant. The surgery went well, and Alan was experiencing an amazing recovery. As I shared the updates with the other staff members, there were tears of joy and tears of empathy streaming down our faces. As we thanked God for answering countless prayers to save Alan's life, we prayed equally for the family of the donor.

I described the process as thoroughly as I remembered the doctors explaining it to me. Heart transplants are performed when all other treatments to remedy heart problems aren't successful. It's the last resort to saving the patient. Skilled surgeons assess the patient, decide if they're a viable candidate for a new heart, they assist in the process of getting them ready to receive a new heart and eventually they implant the new heart. This process can occur over the span of many years. The day of surgery can take anywhere from 6 to 16 hours depending on the patient and the circumstances. Afterwards the surgeon monitors the patient and gives them strict instructions on how to live. Then it becomes the patient's responsibility to ensure that their behavior safeguards their new heart.

After everyone left, I sat in my office processing all of these emotions, I thought about Alan's heart transplant and how he said, "Mom, I feel like a new man!" That statement kept reverberating in my head. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that we witnessed a miracle from God. When I consider things, I realized that I have heard that statement declared time and time again from various men at The Mission. And it caused me to reflect on the numerous "Heart Transplants" that God has performed right here at The Mission. Our residents come in hurt and broken. They've exhausted all possible remedies and are in a life and death situation. God assesses their circumstances. He decides if they're ready for a new heart. Some wait longer than others because their diagnosis is more dire than they ever imagined. They need to follow God's treatment plan for an extended period of time before they're ready to receive their new heart. Sometimes it may be months before He implants their new heart in one complete operation; and other times it may be years while He works on each chamber and ventricle separately. Either way, when they receive a new heart from The Masterful Surgeon, they are truly healed. It is necessary for them to follow "The Manual"-The Word of God-to safeguard their new heart. These men, unlike Alan, don't have the physical scars to show the presence of a new heart but their actions boast "HEALED AND DELIVERED!" So, they too proudly proclaim, "I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN!" and that's because they are.

We are thankful for your heart to partner with The Mission to provide the "hospital and the instruments" where God performs His heart transplant miracles of healing and restoration, in so many individuals and so many ways.

Genice Randolph, Director of Food Services

Please cut/tear off this section and mail with your tax-deductible contribution

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For each homeless man, woman and child at Olive Branch Mission. (JUN2024)



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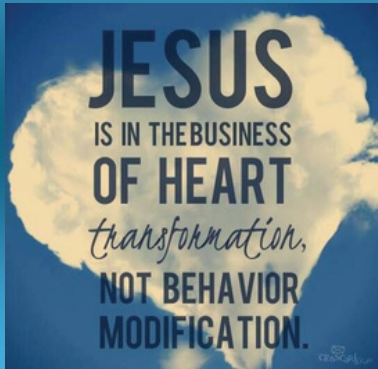
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*I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*  
Ezekiel 36:26



6310 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, Illinois

"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."  
1 Samuel 16:7

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