



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Something has come up. Last week in my **Point of View**, I told you to expect my input regarding your/our retirement future. I'm not renegeing on a promise; I have a proposal for a different approach - call it "Change You Can Believe In" - but it will be just as impacting next week.

Last week, Cheri and I were in Charlotte, North Carolina conducting quarterly sessions for **The Master's Program** groups there. One of those groups is near the end of their three-year run in **TMP**; the three dozen men in that cohort are extraordinary Christian leaders with profound future potential to leverage their lives for the Kingdom. *Brian Henry is one of those future all-stars...*

Just one problem: seven years ago, Brian was diagnosed with Acute Renal Failure. Why have his kidneys shut down? He was an otherwise healthy young man, but his heredity was his risk factor. He has been placed on the National Kidney Transplant list. Average wait time for a kidney: five to seven years. In the meantime, he is on dialysis three times each week, three hours per treatment. The stats are not promising: most people on the list don't last for five years, even with dialysis (*about 20% of those die each year*). Click here (www.mastersprogram.org/pov/bhenry.pdf) to see his picture and read his story.



Here's a prescription for Christians, written by Dr. Paul of Tarsus: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2). The "law of Christ," according to Jesus, was: *"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."* (John 15:12).

When Brian told me about his accentuated situation last week, I asked him what he needed. He didn't hesitate: all he needs is just one healthy kidney, blood type O+. Bummer; mine is A+, so I'm not a candidate. What an unusual act of stewardship for someone who has two: one to **use**, and one to **share...**

Last year, there were 8,816 American kidney transplants from deceased donors... and 4,927 from living sources. The **Los Angeles Times** reported last Thursday that people who give kidneys to others not only have a normal life span, they also have fewer kidney problems than the general population. "We're hoping that these results make the decision

to donate easier for people and alleviate the anxiety about living with one kidney," says Dr. Hassan N. Ibrahim of the University of Minnesota Medical School, who led the study.

Let me ask you a bold question: *is your blood type O+?* If the answer is "no," the way you could help bear Brian's burden is to pray that he will get a kidney. *If your blood type is O+, would you consider standing in for Jesus, on Brian's behalf?*

Jesus said that he came *"not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28). A simple blood test would determine whether you could be a donor candidate. Giving up one of two kidneys - to make a normal lifespan likely for a great young leader who may not have the chance to maximize himself for the Kingdom without it - is a radical act of love. *Just the kind of thing that Jesus would have likely done...*

If you're willing to explore the possibility, would you call my office, directly? The opportunity to introduce you to Brian - and let you talk with him, personally - would be a privilege. Call me at (949) 721-4191. The conversation and consideration is free; the possible outcome is priceless...

Next week, we'll talk about retirement. This week, *I'd love to help Brian live long enough to deal with retirement...*

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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