

## PART II

*"Celebration of Life" by Norma V. Rivera*

Last month we read about Irish Faye. We learned because of her lupus, Irish was in need of a kidney transplant. Donovan, her brother, was a match and was willing to donate one of his kidneys. The day he decided to schedule the surgery, Donovan got so busy at work and didn't call at 2 PM, like he had planned. Suddenly, he had received a call from his sister Irish. "Oh no! I forgot to call, he let her know. Irish said to him, "you don't have to call; I might have a kidney." Donovan replied.... "But I haven't called yet." Irish explained that the hospital just called her, and there was a potential donor. She was fourth on

the list and if she matched, she would receive the kidney. Two hours later she called back to say she was a match, and was on her way to the hospital. The first 3 on the list did not match. The surgery was set for 5:00 am. The news was overwhelmingly good! When Donovan got home I rushed to hug and told him, "The Lord has provided a donor and you are spared." What a relief for him! No more surgery. He is faithful and provided a way of escape.

The events went so fast. Before all this, I had granted my Director of Nursing, Lilian, to take vacation for six

weeks since we did not know when the surgery would be scheduled. We manage a small nursing facility and when she is away, I act in her place. Now, who is going to run the nursing home? Again, God opened a way. Another nurse stepped up to take Lilian's place. Praise God! We were also scrambling for flights that afternoon, but there were no more, and all the flights the following morning were also booked. Irish and Reo live in New Orleans, Louisiana, and we live in El Paso, Texas. Dion in his frustration said he would drive to New Orleans but it takes about 18 hours to get there. I said, "Do not

worry, the Lord will provide." If He provided a donor and spared Donovan, He will open up a flight. I was very excited. I couldn't believe what was happening, but my faith sky rocketed. "If you have faith like a grain of a mustard seed, you could move mountains and cast it to the sea." I called my prayer warrior, Pearl, and she rejoiced to hear the wonderful news. Early the next morning, God did open three seats and we were on our way. When we arrived, the surgery was over. Irish was in her room, still sleepy from the anesthesia.

Reo's parents, Romy and Marilyn, were in Houston, of which Reo was not aware. They live in Andrews, Texas some 16 hours away, but were in Houston for the weekend. When Reo called them, they were only five hours away and arrived in New Orleans ahead of us. What a providential coincidence. God answers prayer! God is faithful to His promise and will not give a trial we cannot endure. Again and again, we have seen His miracles in our daughter's life. God has a thousand ways to solve our problems. He will provide for our needs. It was like a puzzle that fit all together in God's time frame. The very day, the very hour Donovan was

to schedule the surgery God provided a donor. Reo's parents were five hours away instead of 16 hours. He provided someone to take Lilian's place in the nursing facility. The airlines opened up three seats that morning when the night before, everything was b o o k e d .

Even our dog was cared for by Paolo, a friend, while we were gone. He coordinated everything beautifully.

Today, we are going down Mt. Moriah telling the good news that God spared our son, Donovan. He provided a donor for our daughter, Irish, so that Donovan would not need to be oper-

ated on and give one of his kidneys. The experience is overwhelmingly good. We cannot keep our mouth shut, for if we do, the stones will cry out to tell the Lord's goodness. We have witnessed His power first hand and have a testimony to tell the world. "All our trials are common to men, but God is faithful and will not give us a trial we can-

**There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**  
**1 Corinthians 10:13**

not endure. And with the trial provide a way of escape." 1 Cor. 10:13. We are rejoicing because He

that as God had given her life back, she has to return the blessings to others. Work is a blessing. God did not create us to be inactive. When we reach out and help others with their needs, we in turn will be blessed and our health will improve.

measure. And we are here to testify that the Lord is good. He answers prayers. He will provide a way of escape for every problem that we have.

has turned our trials into triumph and our sorrows into joy. Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of Light. My faith has become stronger and I am bold to say that yes, there is a God that answers prayers.

We are blessed to have children that have been tested beyond measure early in life. All three are heroes- Irish for braving the storms in her life, Donovan for being willing to donate one of his kidneys, and Reo for braving to marry Irish despite her lupus and consequences. Reo will be graduating this May as a Medical Doctor and will continue his residency in oral surgery. While marriage is easily dissolved due to minor problems, Reo's love for Irish has been enduring beyond

But the greatest mystery about His love is ..... He spared Isaac, and he spared Donovan, but when it came to His only begotten Son, He did not spare Him. His love for you and me is beyond comprehension. Get to know this God who poured out all heaven just to save this world instead of letting it be eternally lost. Do not waste this love so amazing and so incredible. Oh what love...

Today, Irish is doing well, and her kidney function is normal. She went back to work two months after the transplant as a Physician's Assistant and is praising God for a new lease on life. She could have opted to remain in disability the rest of her life, but she didn't. She knew



**\*If you would like to share your story of how God has blessed you by being a good stewardship please send it to:**

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