

(The Pastor of a Church spoke about one of the parishioners need for a kidney transplant. That person followed up with this letter)

Dear,

This is probably the most difficult letter I've ever had to write. You see, I am in need of a kidney transplant, and I am just not sure what the polite way to let you know about my condition.

I went on the kidney transplant waiting list three months ago. Recently, I went on dialysis. I go to the dialysis clinic 3 days a week. I'm hooked up to the machine for three and a half hours. By the time I travel to and come home, I've spent most of my day, and when I do get home I'm often very tired. Being on dialysis for me is physically and emotionally draining.

Kidney failure runs in my family. Aside from my kidneys I am in good health. I've been very active in my community, volunteering at my Church and at the local school. I've had more than 10 people genuinely offer to be tested to donate – but almost all of them had the wrong blood type and several were ruled out for health reasons.

Most people can donate who don't have high blood pressure, cardiac problems or some other medical condition. I am pursuing a living donor for two main reasons, (but there are many others,) kidneys from living donors last, on average, twice as long as kidneys from cadavers and because the waiting list in Chicago for a cadaver kidney could be 7 years.

Here's some basic information about kidney donation:

- We are born with an extra kidney – you only need one to live a full, healthy, long life.
- The majority of the donor surgery is done laproscopically, with tiny incisions.
- The recuperation period is generally 2 weeks for those with a desk job and 6 weeks for those whose job entails heavy lifting.
- The surgery would be done at a hospital that has some of the best surgeons in the country.
- All expenses would be paid by my insurance benefits.
- Most donors say if they had another extra kidney they would donate again in a heartbeat and that it is one of the best experiences of their life.

Would you please consider giving the Gift of Love and hope? Please call me and I will send you an information packet that will help you make a well-informed decision. Or, if you would like to explore this in more detail before you let me know about your decision, you could call the ABC Hospital and ask for their Transplant Coordinator. You could let them know about your interest in being a living donor to one of their patients, and you will not have to disclose my name at this time.

Thanks for listening and for all of your prayers of support.