

News Story Summary

Maurie Cone and Gates Orlando each received an ultimate gift but their gifts did not come in Christmas wrapping. Maurie Cone, who suffered from kidney failure, received a transplanted kidney, and Gates Orlando, who suffered from congestive heart failure, received a transplanted heart.

The measures to keep donor recipients like Cone and Orlando alive speaks to the gravity of their conditions. Some people who suffer from kidney diseases receive daily dialysis treatments, to cleanse the blood of dangerous toxins and waste. Orlando was being kept alive by an artificial heart. Orlando waited 10-months for a donor.

Many people who suffer from organ diseases may wait years for the perfect donor. Indeed, it is the ultimate gift for people like Cone and Orlando who are no longer dependent upon machines to sustain their lives.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrases “special report kidney donor” and “stories about organ donation”)

Focus Attention

As the group arrives, share the story about Maurie Cone and Gates Orlando. Include facts about the condition of people who suffer from diseases that require an organ transplant. Ask: *If people who need them do not receive organ transplants, what alternatives do they have?*

After most have arrived, ask: *What alternatives do people have if they do not receive Jesus as Savior? How does life without the Savior compare to life while awaiting a transplant?*

Call attention to the title of today’s study (“God Provides a Savior”). Say: *The story of Jesus’ birth is the greatest event in history. It is the story of the birth of our Messiah. God provided a Savior not to deliver people from Roman rule or to establish a worldly kingdom. Jesus came to deliver humanity from sin.*

Challenge

Remind the group of the Maurie Cone and Gates Orlando. Lead them to discuss the difference an organ transplant can make to someone who desperately needs that organ. Guide the group to compare the difference made by an organ transplant with difference Jesus makes to humanity. Ask: How does the change seen in the life of an organ recipient compare to the change seen in those who accept Christ?

Challenge the group to prayerfully consider how they can share the gift of Jesus with others. Lead in prayer and ask God to use each group member to share the precious of gift of Jesus sometimes during the holiday.