

## **Living the Good News** by Jamie Janosz

There is an often quoted saying to “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” That was certainly true in the form of a news story that graced television this month. In this inspirational story that was covered by every news outlet from ABC to WGN to CBN, God was certainly glorified.

The news story told of a Chicago area man who donated one of his kidneys to save the life of his favorite grocery store clerk.

Dan Coyne was a regular customer at an Evanston Jewel store. He and his wife would usually frequent the same aisle to chat with their favorite check-out lady. He is one of those types of people who makes it a point to know the names of the people he meets. It was because of this friendly habit that Dan learned the name of Myra de la Vega, his favorite cashier. “My take on meeting people is, every individual is important,” said Dan. “Each one is a valued person with a name.”

About three years ago, Dan noticed that Myra did not look well – she also seemed upset. He asked her if anything was wrong, and Myra got tears in her eyes. She said she had been diagnosed with renal failure and would need to go on dialysis.

Dan, a Christ follower, said that he and his wife would keep Myra in their prayers.

This news did not sit well with Dan Coyne. After much prayer and discussion with his wife, the 42-year-old decided to offer one of his kidneys to Myra de la Vega. At first, she hesitated to accept the offer – wanting to check her own family for matches. But months later, when no one provided a match, she accepted Dan’s offer of help. Dan went to the hospital to be tested.

When he learned he was a match. Dan went to the Jewel store to share the news with Myra. Her knees buckled in response. Her face lit up with joy.

The Christian Broadcasting Network quoted Maria de la Vega’s response. “I was shocked, but at the same time I was honored and privilege. He is an angel who lives on Earth.”

*The Goshen News* reported that in Coyne’s view, Christian service takes different forms. It could be a simple “hello” on the street. It could be clothing or feeding the poor. “We can’t go around saving the world. I know that,” Coyne said. “... But when certain needs present themselves, I think we are called upon to give, unconditionally.”

“Granted, the kidney thing’s a little unusual,” Coyne said. But it feels natural, he added, and it isn’t costing him a thing money-wise. “The balance of this is a woman’s life?” he said. “That’s huge.” “It’s worth it.”

The news of Dan's gift resonated across the media this month. His generous act of love and faith spoke volumes and was an amazing living testimony to our God.

Now that's good news!

*I'm Jamie Janosz for Prime Time America.*