

Faith In Practice

Life Changing Medical Mission

Hearts of Stone



*A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit
I will put within you; and I will remove from
your body the heart of stone and give you
a heart of flesh.*

Hearts Made Whole Women's Luncheon



Join us at our **new location**:

The Westin Oaks - Houston
Friday, April 24

Speakers

Abigail Berkman
Twyla Brack
Susan Eyre

Chairs

Allison Cattan
Megan Vondra

[Register now.](#)

**Giving Something Up
for Lent?**

A crumpled piece of paper hangs by a tack in my office. Scribbled in blue ink are the words, “The whole point of this mission is to see each others’ true hearts.” While it hangs within my line of sight each day, I fail to notice it. It was important enough once for me to tack it to the wall, but somehow, I have forgotten. Its truth has been muffled, stifled, by the cacophony of pressing decisions to be made. Stresses. Responsibilities. Fears. And then...

Eddy catapults into my arms with an embrace that will not let me go. His eight-year-old little body holds me tight. I do not see his heart at first. I do feel, however, my own heart of stone melting within me. Emerging, expanding, breathing. Free. Freed. All in a second, a flash. In an embrace.

And, I wonder, as true as the words on that crumpled scrap of paper are, does not the miracle begin when we start to feel our own hearts come alive again? Alive so that heart can suddenly, surprisingly recognize heart? Our once hearts of stone marveling at what was within our line of sight all along?

Today is Ash Wednesday. The day when many of us will bow our heads, receive the smear of ash and oil on our foreheads and hear the words, “Remember, from dust you have come, and to dust you shall return.” A reminder that all of us are a blessed mix of earth and spirit. Yes, earth that is finite. But, also, spirit. And what enlivens us is the very breath of God. The breath of God that courses through each of us, all of us. Every day. Beckoning us to remember that miracle and to cherish it. Cherish it by allowing God to transform our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. The God who is as close to us as our next breath, and yet, so often, we forget. We forget.

Today is Ash Wednesday. The beginning of Lent when we again begin to journey with him to the Cross. To journey beside him again to remember what love looks like. Heart to heart. That is my hope for myself this Lent. That I will be able to follow and remember. That I will be able to allow him to melt my heart during the journey and that I might again find myself seeing others’ true hearts along the way. For his sake. For his love. By his love.

Today is Ash Wednesday. And today, Eddy, the bundle of love and energy that catapulted into my arms, melting my heart of stone, will receive a surgery. His father, Balthasar, traveled



Maybe it is coffee or candy or wine. The majority of Guatemalans live on less than \$2 a day. If you are giving something up for Lent, consider donating what you would have spent and make a difference in their lives. Your donation will change a life.

[Make a donation here.](#)

The Johnson Team: On the Ground



The Johnson Team saw more than 2,000 patients in the northern part of Guatemala. Dominga, Juan de la Cruz, and our Guatemalan volunteers are now bringing the Johnson patients referred for surgery to the Obras and Hilario Galindo Hospitals. Thank you for making it happen!

[View in-country videos here.](#)

DeRoyal Surgical Packs

eighteen hours, walking, then sitting in the back of a pick-up truck, and then on a bus to meet the Mann surgical team at Hilario Galindo Hospital this past Thursday. Before he embarked upon this journey, Balthasar was told that his little boy would not receive a surgery, only an evaluation. But that did not deter this faithful father from following his star.

The evaluation by the Mann surgical team on Thursday led to a trip to Antigua to meet the Gill surgical team only two days later. And, today, on this Ash Wednesday, Dr. Apel, a first-time volunteer, an expert hand surgeon, will give little Eddy, and his father Balthasar, a miracle. A surgery to separate his webbed and tangled fingers.

But I know that on this Ash Wednesday, so much more than a surgery will occur. Ash will mingle with oil. Heart will see heart. Stone shall be transformed into flesh. On this Ash Wednesday. And, for that miracle, I give God thanks.

Wishing you all a blessed Lenten Season and in deep gratitude for all the ways that you bring your hearts to this mission all year long. Heart to heart.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO

[Forward to a Friend](#)

*Pictured above
Eddy with his father Balthasar
at the Casa de Fe patient guest house in Antigua*



DeRoyal has manufactured a pediatric surgical pack based upon specifications determined by our pediatric medical volunteers for us. Those same volunteers, many who work at Houston's Texas Children's Hospital, used the packs this past week on the Mann surgical team. Thank you DeRoyal for bringing healing to the children of Guatemala.

[Read stories from the Mann team here.](#)



We Need Volunteers



Come serve with us! We have a variety of volunteer roles that need to be filled for teams serving in 2020.

[Apply now.](#)



Copyright © 2020 Faith In Practice, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

7500 Beechnut St., Suite 208 - Houston, Texas 77074

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)