

Twenty Years with a New Heart

David Hollar

March 31, 2011 marked the twentieth anniversary of me becoming the recipient of a heart transplant. My battle with heart disease began on March 11, 1989, when I suffered a major heart attack at age 44. I had no risk factors for heart disease. Since that date, the Department of Veterans Affairs has added heart disease to the list of diseases caused by exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. I was a rifle platoon leader in Vietnam.

My 2007 book, *Mr. NewHeart: From Heart Attack to Transplant and Beyond*, describes the entire ordeal which culminated in a new heart in 1991. I have donated it to a number of church libraries and others have purchased the book. The March 2010 issue of *Bookmarks* published by Bellevue Baptist Church library in Cordova, Tennessee stated that it is “the uplifting story of David Hollar’s 1991 heart transplant will inspire anyone facing life’s tragedies. It shows how faith in God can and will help bring one through these difficult times”.

Many readers find the portions of the book that address the story from the viewpoints of my wife, Sylvia, and our son, Mike, the most compelling. Mike was 19 and in college at the time of my illness. Their words make a significant contribution to the book.

A review in the newsletter of Fredericksburg Baptist in Fredericksburg, Virginia reads in part “Mr. Hollar’s story would be helpful for anyone who has or knows someone who has heart problems”. It is “both informative and inspirational.”

The writing process proved to be very cathartic for me. It helped me to mentally and spiritually process the impact of the life-altering series of events that my family and I had experienced.

It is my prayer that my story will be both inspirational and helpful to others undergoing crisis situations in their own lives.

David Hollar is author of *Mr. NewHeart: From Heart Attack to Transplant and Beyond*.

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