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December 10, 2008

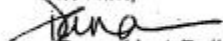
Dear BHM Family,

I knew it was something very serious! It was approximately 5:23 am on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and my phone rang. It was my dad. He said, "Dana, I just can't do it. Can you and your brothers handle the ministry today?" I knew we had to step up but in the back of my mind I knew it would be difficult filling his big shoes. He has definitely left his footprint on the City of Dallas and other cities. It is hard for us to realize that one so strong can become so vulnerable. Dad has always prayed and believed that this ministry would continue even in his absence. Well, I knew that for Dad to say that he might not be at the Thanksgiving banquet, he was not feeling well at all! After all, this was going to be our 29th annual Thanksgiving banquet! Dad sings a song, "Somebody Bigger than you and I." GOD IS BIGGER! We went on with our preparation for the banquet and Jesse went to Dads house and picked him up and brought him to the Plaza. Dad stayed about one hour and was able to visit with many volunteers and even some of the homeless men and women. More than 200 volunteers came and lovingly served a large crowd of more than 600 men and women a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Everyone was doing their part. I was reminded once again the value in YOU, our partner. I have always known that **GOD IS BIGGER**, but with day to day responsibilities and constant concern over support, sometime God has to freshen my thinking. It is called the renewing of your mind. *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2*

Dad stayed at home in bed for several days leading up to Thanksgiving Day. His breathing was labored and you could tell he was having difficulty taking a breath. Then a few days after the holiday he went to his doctor for his regular check-up for medications. During that visit the doctor immediately admitted him to a special ward in the hospital. The next day we were told he had multiple pulmonary embolisms (blood clots on the lungs). This diagnosis was very scary to hear. One of us has stayed with him night and day and he is still in the hospital today. Dad needs your prayers. I asked Dad about the Christmas event and he said, "When God gets me up, I am going to preach." Let's all agree that the great gift of Christ will bring salvation, healing, and restoration to all who have needs this Christmas Season. May we all experience that special gift this year.

I know that these are trying times and many of you have needs. Please know that we are praying for you, as you pray for us. Our Christmas event is scheduled for Thursday, December 25th at City Hall Plaza. We will be serving a Ham and yam dinner with all the trimmings. **We need your help.** With your assistance, we will also be providing each person with a wrapped gift. Please bring a wrapped gift for a homeless person to the Plaza on Christmas morning. Warm clothing items are needed (gloves, stocking caps, socks, sweatshirts, coats, blankets, sleeping bags etc.)

In Him,


Dana Hart-Ball

P.S. As you prepare for Christmas with your family, remember BIGHEART. \$100.00 will serve 30 souls.

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