

Thursday - February 15

*Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.
Proverbs 31:8*

We had barely made the abdominal incision when the surgeon gasped, “Oh my....most of his organs are dying.” It was a sickening sight to see. What should have been pink, warm and vibrant was ashen, cold and still. The person had chronic A-fib and apparently developed a blood clot (that had cut off the blood supply to his abdominal organs). “We’re closing, there’s nothing we can do,” the surgeon stated. Anesthesia wondered if he wanted the patient to stay intubated and asleep until he expires. “Yes, no need to wake him. I expect him to pass soon.”

That is when I spoke up.

“Doctor, if we keep him asleep, he will never have that chance to say his good byes. There are two sons and a daughter in the waiting area for him. I think it is important they are able to talk to him.” The anesthesiologist supported my request and guaranteed full pain control until he expired. Thus, the plan was set into motion. I went with the surgeon to talk to the family and we explained the situation. They were shocked, but grateful for this last opportunity with their father. Later, I met with the patient and his entire family. We spoke and I was asked (by the family) to inform their father of the situation. This was challenging, but I allowed the Spirit to be my guide. I placed my hand on his shoulder and held his hand with my other as I revealed what we had found. I prayed from the heart and I concluded with the Lord’s Prayer. The tears flowed as the family drew close to him and I witnessed a pouring river of love. Jesus was there in that recovery bay. It was electric. I could sense it.

I know that we had made a difference.

After my shift had ended and I was driving home, I thought a lot about what I had just witnessed.

David Narance

Prayer: Thank you, Father for allowing me to be the nurse for that patient...your timing, your perfect place. You allowed me to become the voice advocating for my patient and his family. Continue to give me your voice so that I may speak in love and peace. Amen