

Blood from the Surgeon

Dr. Samuel Weinstein, chief of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery for The Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, went to El Salvador in 2006 with Heart Care International to provide life-saving operations for poor children.

It would take more than expertise and advanced equipment to save the life of Francisco Calderon Anthony Fernandez, 9, however. After 12 hours of surgery, the boy began to bleed out of control. The hospital lacked both the medicines to stop the bleeding and the blood to give the boy transfusions. Francisco's blood type was B-negative, which – according to the Red Cross – is present in only 2 percent of the population.

Dr. Weinstein has the same blood type. So he set aside his scalpel, took off his gloves, and began washing his hands and forearm. Then he sat down and had his blood drawn.

When he had given his pint, Dr. Weinstein drank some bottled water and ate a Pop-Tart. Then – 20 minutes after stepping away from the table – he rejoined his colleagues, who watched as Dr. Weinstein's blood began flowing into the boy's small veins. Weinstein then completed the operation that saved Francisco's life.

In a sense, Dr. Weinstein's action was an imitation of what Jesus did for us. He, too, gave His blood that we might have life. But the sacrifice made by Christ assured *eternal* life for those who believe in Him.

– Beecher Hunter