

Blood and organ donation: How one person can help save lives

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ABSTRACT

The project "Blood and organ donation: how one person can help save lives" was developed to raise awareness and promote blood and organ donation. It began with a survey of the community in the Jd. Esplanada II neighborhood in São José dos Campos, SP, revealing concerns about the shortage of blood components and the lack of information about donations. Educational materials were produced, and a lecture held to train multiplier agents, with the aim of keeping blood stocks safe and facilitating transplants.

Keywords: Blood donation, Organ donation, Awareness raising, Blood component shortages, Transplants.

INTRODUCTION

The Project, Blood and organ donation: how a person can help save lives, was developed in the discipline of Extension Activities – **Integration of Skills to Transform the Self**.

During the implementation of the project, Blood and organ donation: how one person can help save lives, the following were carried out: observation of an upper-middle-class community, a research, a problematization, identification of the main cause of the problem, production of material and realization of a lecture.

The action was to promote an increase in blood and organ donations by raising people's awareness.

The activity carried out aimed at the need for blood replacement in the Blood Bank Centers and their agencies. The number of monthly donations fluctuates during the year, which leads to periods of scarcity of blood components, which ends up compromising the treatment of patients. In the case of organ and tissue transplants, misinformation leads to organ loss. Many families refuse to donate the organs of family members who are potential donors.

OBJECTIVE

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the activity was to provide a moment of awareness of people through education about the importance of blood and organ donation.

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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

To provide information on technical and human knowledge for the recruitment of blood and organ donors, in order to maintain blood stocks in city hospitals at a safe level to meet the needs of blood transfusions and the supply of organs and tissues for transplants.

METHODOLOGY

Over the course of three weeks, a face-to-face survey was conducted with people who live and work in the Jd. Esplanada II neighborhood in São José dos Campos, SP. In this research, people's concern about the possible need for health treatments with organ transplants and the use of blood components in the treatment of diseases was identified. In view of this concern of the community, I understood the need to inform and share information relevant to the themes, blood and organ donation, because the number of organ donations is low and the stocks of blood components fluctuate a lot throughout the year, which generates periods of low stocks, leaving blood banks and hospitals on alert.

To reduce the lack of information on blood and organ donation, material was produced in three weeks with information on blood donation, organ donation, blood transfusions and transplants. This material was made available to the community online, for quick consultation and research. In this material it is possible to find the basic requirements for blood donation, how a donor can help more than one person through blood donation, how to express the will to be an organ donor, in the case of a deceased donor, how the family should proceed to make the donation effective, in the case of a living donor how the person should proceed to be a donor and statistical data on organ donation and transplants performed in Brazil.

With the aim of creating multiplying agents, in the final stage of the project, a lecture was given to the public of the training course for religious leaders, with certification of the participants. The participants, now multiplier agents, are ready to disseminate basic information about blood and organ donation to members of the neighborhood community and the municipality.

DEVELOPMENT

Initially, a survey was carried out on the needs of the community. In this research, the lack of information on blood and organ donation was identified. Despite seeing an improvement in the number of potential donors and transplants performed, the numbers of blood and organ donations are still small, and one of the causes in the community is the lack of information about the act of donating blood and organs. After a bibliographic survey and statistical analyses, an informative material was produced and a lecture was planned. The lecture took place on May 13, 2024 at the headquarters of the National Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in the city of São José dos Campos, SP. The audience reached were the students of the



religious leaders training course. The lecture and the digital material were made available in the institution's media.

FINAL THOUGHTS

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

My work in this community began with a field research on issues that concern people in relation to health and well-being, the second moment was the elaboration and production of an informative material with answers to the main questions of the community about blood and organ donation and I ended by giving a lecture based on the material produced and shared.

With this activity I reflected a lot on love. I used this word because I believe it synthesizes various forms of good feelings. During the activity, reading the book "What I think of life, the world and God" written by Father Mario Bonatti, I got to know the way the author divides love in a basic way. The author divides love into three basic forms: erotic love, agape love, and bestowal love. In the introduction to his book, in an excerpt entitled "There is a strength and a charm in love," he said: "In its most beautiful form, the love that is self-giving, also allows the approximation of the notion of God which, in Christianity, is defined as God."

I am very aware of how laborious it is to acquire knowledge and how difficult it is to develop wisdom. From this awareness I am sure that, in addition to having knowledge, I need to know what to do with it, because what is the point of having so much knowledge if it is not useful to humanity. By combining the knowledge of biomedical science with that of theology, it was possible to develop a work with technical and human content that produced, in me and in the community, a movement of valuing life and love for others. I am observing the community moving and acting in order to multiply the information and, in a discreet way, donate blood and express their intentions to be organ donors.

RESULTS

Cristiana F.C.: Today, I had the opportunity to reflect a lot on a topic of immeasurable relevance: organ donation. If, before, I already wanted to be a donor, after today, I've ratified that desire even more! Thank you, Dr. Nevicthon, for taking the time to share! It was enriching!

Maria de Fátima S.: I reflected on the experiences he had with God to be able to survive and today be on mission, witnessing this great miracle that God has given him: a new opportunity to live a new life. Thank you for this testimony that has edified me.

Vera M.: I really enjoyed the presentation. As Christians, I see organ donation as a way of continuing to honor God, serving others even in our death. How beautiful to see God's hand bringing life into existence, even though there seems to be no hope. This God of ours really is the God of the impossible. I remembered the January 1st devotional. We have access to God's storehouse of new body parts. It could be through a miracle or it could be through a transplant.



Pedro H. S.: I find it incredible how the intelligence that God has given us has allowed us to create the procedure of transplanting organs! Listening to someone who had a real experience, went through all the stages and survived makes me value everything I have... my family, friends, salvation, health... and have joy in living. And if one day it's time to donate my organs, it's our duty to let that joy continue in other people.

Rebeca M.: I was struck by the speaker's testimony! I thought the subject was extremely relevant and really very little covered. It made me reflect on the topic, on its importance within our society and how we need to pass this information on. May we value moments like the one we had tonight!

Sônia Arruda: I really enjoyed the lecture, which was enlightening, and listening to the wonderful testimony and once again being sure that God takes care of his own and God's purpose with each one. May God continue to give him the grace to speak and tell what God has done in his life and that through him God can save many lives and enlighten many about organ donation. May God continue to bless his life.

Leonardo K. S. T.: For me it was a moment of learning, awareness and appreciation of life. I thought it was something that really needed to be shared and that really deserves more emphasis and prominence in society. But for me, what struck me most was seeing Tony giving this testimony. Tony was my teacher at Poliedro in 2014, exactly 10 years ago, and he taught evolutionary biology. An area of biology that explains everything except the existence of God. And to see him today talking about all that, about such a beautiful experience, such a supernatural miracle that he experienced. It really struck me, and made me reflect a lot on our mission to preach the gospel. I would never have imagined that someone like the Tony I knew in 2014 would go through all this and today be talking about the love and miracle that Jesus did in his life. It was beautiful to see the new Tony, physically healed and willing to be a new man with Jesus!

Ana Cristina Rodrigues: Information and awareness can change a person, a family, a group, a society... and why not the world? As a child, I don't remember much talk or publicity on the subject. My father donated blood sporadically when an acquaintance needed a donation and had to be replaced. As a teenager I became more familiar with the subject and became a donor as an adult. My husband is also a donor and our example influences our youngest who also wants to be a donor. An example, an influence, a testimony can be what triggers multiplication... imagine how the project presented by Mr. Nevicthon can bless so many people. One action can be the miracle someone is waiting for. Christ came to give us life and life in abundance. We have Christ's DNA and we can give life! We can be the miracle used by God's hands!

Adilson F. Chieffi: First of all, Mr. Nevicthon, thank you for your willingness to share with us not only your knowledge, but, above all, your testimony of overcoming, strength and faith. It is prudent to say that organ donation is an extremely noble and supportive initiative that can save countless lives. It is therefore necessary that other people have the opportunity to learn the true secret of loving others. Law 9.434/1997 provides legal support, in addition to the right to life, which is one of the fundamental principles established in the Federal Constitution of 1988. On the other hand, it is worth remembering that there are bills going through the Federal Senate with the aim of encouraging organ donation. One example is Law No. 14.722/2023, which deals with encouraging and raising awareness of the issue. May this initiative of awareness and continuity reach countless other families in our city and others, and why not, Brazil. The struggle is great, but God is leading the way.

Rita de C.: Raising awareness of donation, as Tony did yesterday, not only sensitizes us through his impactful testimony, but also leads us to reflect on the importance of giving not only in our life, but also in our death, understanding that just as Jesus loved us and gave himself for us by giving his life for the love of many, he gives us the opportunity to be "like" him, by giving part of who we are.

Luciana G.: How wonderful to have the awareness to donate and to be brought to that reflection again last night. Mr. Nevicthon's talk on organ donation was extremely enlightening and impactful. He addressed not only the importance of the act of donation, which is an act of love, but also demystified various concerns that people generally have about the subject. Sharing his experience



raises awareness and reinforces the importance of the topic. I'm very grateful for the wake-up call on such an important topic.

Maria de Fátima S.: I would also add to my understanding of this brother, how he was a warrior, fighting for his life, with several infections, readmissions, months in the ICU. Very resilient; he is worthy of honor and praise to God, who fought so hard to save and rescue his life.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

Undoubtedly, the university extension activity was what added the most to the importance of the work developed by the Theologian in the community, in my academic training process. It was very pleasurable doing this activity, especially when I finished with the lecture, the face-to-face contact with people was very gratifying because observing the reaction of the listeners to the topics addressed was a fantastic experience.

It took a long time to find a partner institution to carry out the activity. There is resistance on the part of religious and school institutions to open the doors to the development of extra activities. There were months of searches, presentations, meetings with priests, pastors and school coordinators. It wasn't until my last attempt to get a partnership that I succeeded. I understand the justifications given for the refusals, I just don't agree with the lack of interest in receiving volunteer work within the institutions.

Academically, I would like to continue with this project in a scientific initiation and maybe take it to a graduate program. I hope to have the opportunity to take this path in my academic life.



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