

AMEN!

Nurse M., (Canadian ACT member) had helped the new team acclimate to the OR. The doctor appeared ready and able. Less confident, was the elderly, female patient who awaited the pacemaker procedure.

At the Doctors' first attempt to numb the target area the woman cried out "Doctor, you're killing me!" Each attempt by the doctor to commence the procedure anew was met by similar verbal resistance. Attempts by M. to have the woman put a positive spin on her responses ("try saying the Doctor is helping me") were short lived.

Frustration and tension mounted and everyone knew they were facing a challenge. They also knew the procedure was of the essence for the patients' health.

M. had been praying silently, as was her custom, when she worked in the OR, but she felt led to speak up. More was needed. She addressed the patient, "Would it be alright if I said a prayer for you?", she asked. "Yes" said the woman flatly. M. continued as if to gain stronger consent from her. "I'm going to pray to Jesus of Nazareth for you, OK?" The patient shot back, "I don't care who the H--- you pray to, just pray!" M. had her permission. In addition, the hospital manual allowed for a spiritual component in patient care. M. lost no time. She lifted up the situation, entrusting it to Jesus' care, and asked for peace for all involved, in Jesus name. To her surprise the head Doctor chimed in, "Amen", as she finished. Instantly a peace descended, the woman relaxed and the Doctor completed the procedure. The pacemaker was implanted successfully. The prayer had made a tremendous difference. Fear had been conquered. M. waited until the end of the procedure and quietly addressed the Doctor who had added the Amen. "Are you a believer?" Without missing a beat he answered, "No, but I am now." As they smiled the patient added, "I will never forget your Jesus." M. thought to herself, "Neither will I."