

♥ Heartfelt Stories: Daniel ♥



Heart Care International not only heals hearts, we also listen to the heart beats and beliefs of those whose lives are in our care. In September 2018, the Heart Care International team met a family of Jehovah's Witnesses in Chiapas, Mexico whose son had a severe heart defect. Daniel desperately needed surgery to close a hole in his heart that was suffocating his lungs with excess blood flow. A surgery of this magnitude often requires a blood transfusion.

However, a blood transfusion would be against the family's firm religious beliefs leading the family to decline the surgery as it was initially presented to them by the local doctors. Fortunately, the Heart Care International team and in particular, Alistair Phillips, one of our surgeons, had extensive experience in caring for Jehovah's Witness patients. Alistair was able to

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connect his Jehovah's Witness liaison in Los Angeles with the Jehovah's Witness liaison in Mexico City. The reputation and experience of Dr. Phillips was of great importance to the family. Following a discussion with the Jehovah's Witness liaison in Mexico City, the family elected to proceed with the operation.

The surgery went beautifully and special surgical techniques were used to avoid a blood transfusion. The family was overjoyed, and Daniel made a rapid and complete recovery. The Jehovah's Witness Elders from Mexico City traveled to Chiapas and stayed with the parents to provide support. The Heart Care International team was widely acknowledged for its technical expertise and respect for the family's religious beliefs.

