

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • AUGUST 2018

What is hope? What is our hope based on?

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

Sitting in the waiting room, she confessed that she had lost hope. The young woman whom I'll call Silvia had sought care for her problem in two other medical centers, and was told she would be charged at least \$14,000. As an uninsured patient, this was much more than she could pay. In fact, she had only come to our clinic because her mother-in-law needed a ride here for her dental appointment. While she waited, she was engaged in conversation by Olga, one of our interpreters who visits with people in the waiting room and at times has the opportunity to talk about their lives, their families and their faith. Olga recognized despair in the voice of Silvia as she shared the story of her disfiguring medical condition and her inability to afford surgery. At the right moment, Olga encouraged her not to lose hope, and urged her to trust God. Not stopping there, Olga went on to inform our clinic administrator of the nature of the patient's problem and asked if she could be evaluated by one of our doctors.

When I met Silvia in the exam room, she actually looked to be healthier than most of the other patients I had seen that day. But Silvia's long, thick hair hid the reason for her visit to the clinic. Near her ear, beneath the skin and growing out from her skull, a large tumor had altered her appearance. It was now larger than a golf ball, pushing her ear forward, with thin skin stretched tightly over the mass. In addition to the effects on her appearance, it was beginning to become painful. I completed the visit by assuring her that I

would do whatever I could to help her, but I could see in her eyes that doubt remained.

Silvia was soon evaluated at our clinic by our volunteer neurosurgeon, who then contacted a colleague as well as a plastic surgeon who agreed to take the case and to waive their fees. They spoke with administrative staff at their hospital, who because of the surgeons' willingness to serve permitted the surgeons use the operating room at no charge to the patient. Everyone involved in her care took personal responsibility to move her case forward, and soon Silvia was under general anesthesia, with two of Phoenix's best surgeons expertly removing this bony mass and then reattaching her ear back into its correct position.

Yesterday, Silvia sat in my office with her new look, no longer needing to hide the tumor with her hair pulled back in a ponytail. With tears in her eyes, she thanked us for our help. She hadn't had a chance to thank Olga, but wants Olga to know that her encouragement kept her in the waiting room on that day when she doubted that this clinic could help her. Olga, for her part, was God's instrument that day, bearing witness to the hope that she has in her heart through her faith in Jesus. And our Lord, the God of all comfort, proved the psalmist correct, who said, "LORD, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them" Psalm 10:17.



Restoring Health & Restoring Lives.

by Thomas M. Tobar, M.Ed.

Instructional Designer, College of Theology
Grand Canyon University

I have come to really appreciate the Clinic's tag line "Restoring Health & Restoring Lives." When you think about it, it embodies the work of Jesus. Through His work on the cross and resurrection, Jesus makes possible eternal life in a completely restored or new body for all who believe, i.e. he will restore health and restore life (Rev 31:4). While Jesus was among us, He promised eternal life to all who believed and healed many who were sick. His earthly ministry included many examples of restoring health.

For the past year, my team and I have had the great privilege of partnering with the leaders of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic (TNCC) in the development of curriculum to support the integration of the Christian in healthcare. It has truly been a privilege to work alongside such inspirational and honorable professionals to develop "The Neighborhood Christian Clinic's Whole Person Care Program." As a Christian myself, it is exciting to be part of a project that will equip healthcare professionals to minister to the spiritual needs of patients, in addition to their physical needs.



The Harvest is Plentiful

In Luke 10:2, Jesus told the disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." In April of this year, I was given the opportunity to meet a group of healthcare professionals who showed interested in the Whole Person Care curriculum that we are developing with the TNCC team. I found that these healthcare professionals have a strong desire to do God's will in their healthcare environments; however, they lack the resources or strategies to fulfill this desire. It became clear to me that the harvest is indeed plentiful, and the need for this curriculum is a great one. With the finished curriculum, many healthcare professionals will be able to prepare themselves, as well as entire teams, to understand and practically implement a Christian approach within their healthcare environment.

It is the heart of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic to support and encourage

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Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
April	749	122	961.4	148
May	750	122	857.9	121
June	739	145	1117.6	118

Volunteer Corner: Amber Gearhart

I have had the honor and privilege of volunteering at TNCC and have become a trainer for new nursing volunteers. The position of nurse trainer fits well with my experience of training nurses, techs, and staff in the surgery centers I have managed over the years. It also fits because of my current experience as a Professional Nurse Tutor and Hispanic Concentration Coordinator at Chamberlain College of Nursing. I always look forward to my time at the Clinic with staff, patients, and volunteers on Thursday evenings; they feel like an extension of my family. The level of service available to the patients at the Clinic fills me with joy every time I volunteer and I enjoy sharing the TNCC story as I train other volunteers for various tasks.

I discovered TNCC through my medical mission work. I've provided surgical services (coordinating supplies and staff for cataract surgeries) for 17 mission trips to various parts of the world since 2003. Last October I was given an opportunity through my church family at Chaparral Christian Church to combine my medical mission experience with my love for Jesus. It was after a week at Northwest Haiti Christian Mission that I discovered how amazing it is to share my faith with my patients, something I had rarely experienced in 20 years as a nurse. We prayed with patients and their families before and after surgeries and we had a devotional every morning, afternoon and evening. I even had an opportunity to attend church in a local community. I did not understand the language but still felt a connection and love because of our common Christian beliefs. I returned from Haiti with a strong desire to find a way to care for people in need in my own community and to pair that with sharing the Gospel and love of Christ. With much prayer and internet searching, I found TNCC. One of my favorite verses sums up how focus my daily life and why I volunteer at TNCC: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your path" Proverbs 3: 5-6.

In my spare time I love to travel and work out as well as spend time with my family, friends and dog. I have an extensive travel bucket list and enjoy checking off locations on that list by traveling with my parents who live in Michigan.

I have a passion for volunteering which is a favorite hobby. Volunteering is a value that was instilled in me as a young child when I volunteered with my parents at various non-profit organizations. I have been blessed with a lot of opportunities to help people in need through nursing and through my membership in Lion's Club.

I love the Neighborhood Christian Clinic and the impact it has in its community by sharing the Gospel through healthcare.



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their healthcare colleagues. Where other companies would try to profit from such hard work and curricular value, it is exciting to see that the clinic is willing to provide their curriculum to anyone who wants it at no charge. Even students enrolled in a Grand Canyon University nursing course will have an opportunity to participate and learn from the "TNCC Whole Person Care Program." TNCC's act of generosity and selflessness shows whom they put their faith in. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



Preceptor Update

More than 35 healthcare students from around the country attended an intense, five week summer course in whole patient care. On the last day of their time together they visited the Clinic and were inspired by stories of God's work through the Clinic!

What is Your Legacy?



Have you ever thought about your legacy? What impact will you have on future generations? Have you ever thought that supporting the Clinic's ministry could be part of your legacy? In fact, your support of the Clinic is a legacy of sharing the Gospel through Whole Person healthcare for the uninsured, poor?

Planned giving provides powerful tax benefits while ensuring that at least a portion of your assets will provide ongoing support for God's work at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic.

Please consider naming the Clinic as a beneficiary for one or more of the following:

- your will or living trust
- a life insurance policy
- your retirement savings plan
- an investment account
- your 401K
- a gift annuity or charitable trust

There are many ways to establish a legacy of providing for Kingdom work that is ongoing.

Please seek counsel from financial and legal advisers. You may also call the Clinic to discuss planned gifts directed to The Neighborhood Christian Clinic.

Call direct at 602.254.0445 or
e-mail gpllooster@tnccclinic.org.
Confidentially is assured.

Legal name & address:
The Neighborhood Christian Clinic, Inc
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Tax ID # 86-0839580

Establish a legacy today.



**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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