

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 4TH QUARTER 2012

My Life For Others

By
Gary Kinnaman
Board Member



The election is over, and some things never change. Life goes on. God is in control. And people - especially God's people - have no less a responsibility to do everything they can to help others. Can I take the risk and say that politicians are not the hope of the world? Jesus is. And he told us - you and me - that we are the light of world.

A lot of folks do not want the government to play Robin Hood, taking from the rich and giving it to the poor. Yet, how do we feel about what the Bible demands of us? In simple summary, God's people should live simply, spend less, and give more.

Queen Esther, in the Old Testament, is known for her response to her cousin Mordecai who asked her to do the impossible. "Go talk to the king," he told her, "and plead for your people." As you probably know, the Jews were facing extermination.

If I may paraphrase Esther's first response: "You are asking me to do what?! Talk to the king without an invitation?! Are you kiddin' me?! People have died for that! Sorry, that's something I can't do. Besides, my life is going great. I feel like I've won the lottery. I have a private cottage, servants, awesome food, a feather bed, and cabinets filled with exotic fragrances."

But Mordecai was persistent: "Listen," he said. "You're a Jew, and either way, you're probably going to die anyway. And who knows: maybe you're right here, right now, for such a time as this."

Somehow in that moment, Esther got it. Maybe she thought to herself, Mordecai is right. Life is not random, and I'm not queen because I'm lucky. I'm queen because God has a higher purpose for my life. This isn't all about me. It's about others.

So Esther took a deep breath and announced, "OK, I'll do it. *And if I perish, I perish.*"

She appealed to the king, and the Jews were saved. And she didn't die!

Personally, Esther has taught me a couple of extraordinary principles:

1. Life isn't about what God can do for me. It's about what God wants to do *through me for others.*
2. We've all heard it said: *You can't take it with you.* But, in fact, there is something you can take with you. Forever. It's what you do for others.

Like Jesus.

Most of our readers likely know the name Jerry Colangelo, former owner of the Phoenix Suns and the Arizona Diamondbacks. His team won the World Series in 2001. For the last several years, he's served as Chairman of the Board of USA Basketball and led the American effort to win Gold Medals in the last two Olympics.

Yet I've heard Jerry say, "I only want two words on my tombstone: HE CARED."

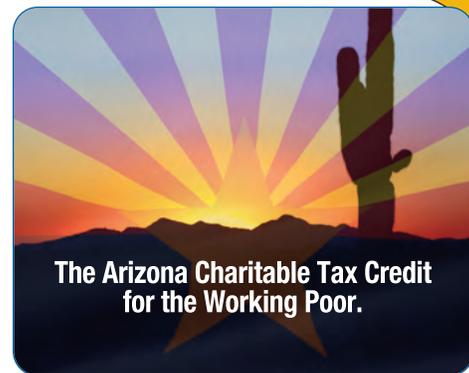
Why do we remember Esther? Not her wealth or position, but her sacrifice for others. She cared.

Like Jesus.

Mother Teresa wrote a short autobiography: *My Life for Others.* Like Jesus. Jesus and Mother Teresa did not come to be ministered to, but to minister—and to give their lives to others.

How do you measure your life? What are going to take with you? Do you live to give?

At the Neighborhood Christian Clinic, we are able to provide medical care - and love and hope - to thousands of people, *because people like you give generously and sacrificially.* Thank you!



Taxpayers filing in Arizona have the unique opportunity to actually redirect a portion of their state income tax to organizations that minister to the working poor; at no financial cost to themselves! It's "giving without giving"!

For many, handling their finances and tax obligation is a matter of stewardship. What better stewardship is there than to give your tax dollars to a qualifying charity like TNCC rather than to the state. Dollar for dollar, your tax liability is reduced by what you donate (up to the limits below).

	Individual	Couple
Working Poor	\$ 200	\$ 400
Private School	\$ 1,003	\$ 2,006
Public School	\$ 200	\$ 400
Combined Total	\$ 1,403	\$ 2,806

The Bonus: you can take advantage of all three tax credits simultaneously each year AND your donation may be deductible on your federal returns. If you have already given to the Clinic this year, don't forget the credit when you file your Arizona returns. If you have yet to give, please consider a donation that takes advantage of the tax credit.

More information about the credit is available at: www.azdor.gov. Donate online at: www.TheChristianClinic.org or download a form to mail-in.

Special Pastor Event

Tell your pastor that TNCC is blessed to have Lee Strobel, the award winning author of *Case for the Real Jesus*, *Case for Christ*, and *Case for Faith* speak to Valley pastors at the Clinic on December 29. It begins at 8:30am and will include

an incredible breakfast.

Space is limited for this small and informal pastors only event. RSVPs are necessary. Details can be found on the Clinic's web site.



God's Orchestrated Plan

By Barney M. Davis, Jr., M.D., F.A.P.A.

The words “psychiatrist” and “Christian” are often not compatible in the same sentence; I know from personal experience. Raised in a Christian home but not personally saved until late in my 40’s, I could not have predicted the last twenty five years: full time general psychiatric practice when first saved, then an introduction to opportunities to provide medical and counseling resources to missionaries serving internationally, which led to the development of a full time ministry for both myself (psychiatrist) and my wife (psychiatric nurse) providing those services all over the world. It was a heady, exciting time, and I had expected to be doing that until the Lord took me home; where He took us, though, was into the world of progressive dementia and increasing care-giving needs, as my wife has young-onset Alzheimer’s.

I took a sabbatical from the ministry, moved us to Phoenix to be near one of our daughters, and mostly groused at God for removing me from ministry opportunities. Through a subsequent series of (now obviously God-orchestrated) circumstances, I heard about TNCC, met with Paul Lorentsen, and volunteered to come occasionally to see if there was a need for my particular medical specialty. I had expected that I might be able to help out with treatment recommendations for the usual depressions and sometimes more severe mental disorders that are ubiquitous in any culture; what I had not expected to find was that every time I come to TNCC I feel as if I have come home. The staff is warm, accepting (even of a psychiatrist!), and spiritually rock solid.

People get well here, absolutely, but more than the excellent medical care is the focus on the true source of healing, Jesus Christ. The patients have been gracious of my struggles with language issues; I had hoped to be of some encouragement to them, but am regularly finding that their stories, their courage, and their kindness even to this old shrink are even a greater encouragement to me. I have been blessed by all of it, and Lord willing will be able to do even more. We are, by the way, in great need of Christian counselors; if you have such skills and credentials, or know those who do, I can guarantee that TNCC can provide the most rewarding professional experience of one’s life...

Soli Deo Gloria, Barney



Meet Our New Dental Staff

By now you have heard the Clinic has opened three additional shifts. The new dental shifts began July 1 with the addition of a part time staff dentist and dental assistant. With increased volunteering and the added shifts, we treated 280 & 278 dental patients in July & August which eclipsed our 2011 monthly average of 179 visits per month. God is awesome and has clearly answered prayer. Welcome Lauren Harmon & Angelina Ricardo.

Angelina is from Columbia and began dental assisting at age 14. She was born into a devout Catholic family and moved to the US in 1997. She became a Christian at age 25 and has recently become engaged to “her honey.” Angelina loves working in the Clinic’s community, helps to support her parents and has ambitions of running a marathon.

Lauren did her undergraduate work at Texas A&M and in 2007 received her DDS from the University of Texas. She moved to Phoenix from Houston with her husband Phil who is an Ob Gyn in the West Valley. She attends Black Mountain Baptist Church, has two cats, loves to cook and hike and considers herself a nerd.



Clinic Forum

The Waste Management Phoenix Open is being held Jan 31 – Feb 3. Coinciding with that, TNCC is pleased to announce that Tom Lehman will be our guest speaker at the next Clinic Forum on Saturday evening January 26. What a wonderful opportunity to hear how God works in and through the life of a professional golfer. Mr. Lehman won the Hogan Tour Player of the Year (1991) & PGA Tour Player of the Year (1996). He has been a member of three Presidents Cup Teams and three Ryder Cup Teams; as Ryder Cup Captain in 2006. He won the British Open in 1996 and was #1 in the World in 1997. Most recently, Mr. Lehman won the Charles Schwab Cup Championship in October to become the first player to win the Champions Tour season points title two consecutive years. Don’t miss this. Space is limited; RSVPs are necessary.



Whether you attend the Clinic Forum with Tom Lehman or not you can participate in a fun way through “Birdies for Charity.” Thunderbird Charities supports the Clinic and has invited our friends to get involved with the Open and the Tom Lehman Clinic Forum by pledging a donation to the Clinic based on how many birdies are made at this year’s Open. So...**check out the enclosed pledge card** and sit back and count the birdies while supporting the ministry of the Clinic. **Bonus:** Thunderbird Charities will increase your pledges by 10% for the benefit of the Clinic.

Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
August	939*	88	790.2	198
September	786	89	706.8	233
October	858	98	696.6	231

* Monthly Record



The Neighborhood
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