

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 3RD QUARTER 2012

Hope and a Prayer: Four Short Stories

by Debby Summitt, RDH

1 When Lupita entered the dental operatory, we could feel her apprehension as a new patient. Sometimes our patients have either had a bad experience in the past, or don't know what to expect having never been to a dentist previously. When we asked how we could help her that day, she burst out crying and said, "I don't like my teeth, my boyfriend says they are ugly and I need new ones." It obviously affected her self-esteem. At times hope seems to be lost; this time for new teeth. But on this day,

Lupita's aching heart was touched as we prayed with her.

2 Sometimes it's not about teeth at all; it's about a heart that aches to be heard. As is customary at the end of each appointment, I asked Celinda if there was something she wanted me to pray about. She broke down crying and said that her 39 year old brother, Sergio, had died of a heart attack a month earlier and that her mother was having a very hard time. She also said that recently her two boys were in a small auto accident which immediately made her think, "What if something happened to my boys?" Celinda walks around day after day waiting for something bad to happen. It doesn't take much to get me to pray, but that day, also being a sister and a mother, I had more than enough reason to pray. After asking the Lord to rebuke the evil one out of her life, after praying for comfort for the grief stricken mother and family, and after praying for Celinda's boys, she stood up and said, "Thank you, I feel better." "Search for the Lord and for His strength and keep on searching." I Chronicles 16:11.

3 It was no ordinary Friday, especially when Maria entered the dental operatory. We recalled that she had cancelled her appointment months previously because her 10 year old son had died of Leukemia. Blanca, our dental assistant, interpreted the many words this broken mother had to pour out of her heart. As the story unfolded, she admitted she had taken too many pills because she wanted to be with her son...yes, she was trying to take her own life. As we prayed with Maria, Jesus touched her heart in a way that only He can do. "I am praying to you because I know you will answer, Oh God. Bend down and listen as I pray." Psalm 17:6.

continued on back



Life on a Mission

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

My wife, Kelli, and I arrived here in Arizona 22 years ago. Through a unique set of circumstances, God directed us to complete our medical residency training in a city that neither of us had ever called home. However, Kelli was excited about living here near a couple that she had grown close to through Young Life, and we were quickly welcomed into their community. A few weeks before we arrived, their first baby was born. As we spent time as friends sharing life together, I frequently spoke about my desire to open a Christian clinic for the poor in Phoenix, while this young baby smiled, laughed and played near us.

By God's grace, The Neighborhood Christian Clinic opened its doors in 1999. By that time, our friends' baby, Kayla, was a beautiful young girl, with a heart that matched her appearance. My conversations with her parents about the clinic I was helping to start had not gone unnoticed, and she began to dream her own dreams about healthcare for the poor.

continued on back

Meet Gary Kinnaman

We asked Gary to share why he felt compelled to join the Clinic's Board; here's what he said:

Since leaving Word of Grace (now City of Grace) in early 2008 I have served the Christian community across the Valley, and as important to me as anything is spending time with key leaders urging them to serve our community together. I love the church, but I also love our Valley cities. I have a special place in my heart for people who are doing more than "church work;" people like the team at The Neighborhood Clinic who are doing God's work, kingdom work.

As a Senior Pastor, I gave a lot of personal energy to getting people out of the church; not to leave church but to take the grace of God into their world. In his first public appearance in ministry, Jesus unrolled the scripture scroll of Isaiah and read "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Each of us are the hands of God in our troubled world. A mystery of our faith is that sometimes God seems silent about our suffering but he speaks loudly every time someone shares his Word of life with those living in the shadow of death; or when someone provides pure water to someone who is thirsty or when doctors and dentists care for those who are not well at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic.

It's why I agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Clinic's remarkable ministry; Jesus is here in every word, every touch.

Gary Kinnaman, D.Min. is one of TNCC's newest Board members. Pastor Kinnaman obtained his BA from Biola University; an MA from ASU; a Master of Arts in Theology from Fuller Seminary; and his Doctor of Ministry from Western Conservative Baptist Seminary. To share of few things about Gary's involvement in the community, he currently is a Pastor At Large; for 26 years he was the Senior Pastor at City of Grace in Mesa; he has served as Chairman of the AZ Governor's Council of Faith; has traveled worldwide as a keynote speaker and has published seven books. Gary currently serves on Governor Brewer's ArizonaSERVES Task Force; is a current Board member of Phoenix Seminary and preaches 35-40 times per year.



Its Not About Me

By Tracy Hill PT, DPT, CSCS, FAFS

I remember when I was going through physical therapy school saying to my mom, "God is going to do big things with me in my profession." I laugh because I probably meant more that "I was going to be big." Little did I know God really did have a bigger plan for me in my profession; it was not just about me.

Physical therapy is an amazing profession because it is a medical profession that allows touching the patient's mind, body and spirit. It is an opportunity to interact with people while caring for their physical pain while realizing that sometimes with physical pain there will be mental and spiritual pain. People are hurting for many reasons and sometimes the physical realm is not the true source.

I came to The Neighborhood Christian Clinic about three years ago looking for a place where I could further use the gifts God gave me to help a population that might otherwise suffer in pain for the rest of their lives. Many of the people who come through the Clinic's doors are suffering with multiple ailments that have piled on top of each other because they have never been given the full care they need after a sickness, injury or accident. With chronic pain comes the emotional pain of dealing with these issues and not being able to live their lives to the fullest. Many have lost hope and think their pain or injuries are too big to be "fixed." This is where the beauty of physical touch, a little laughter and movement brings people back to life. Their hope becomes restored. They begin to live life again. They begin to see that no problem, pain or ailment is too big for God to solve and that hope is not lost. Having your physical needs met brings out the best in people and their lives begin to be restored and they begin to see the amazing healing and compassionate side of Christ.

It's not about treating pain. It's about treating people.



4

continued from front

After explaining to another patient how the selection process for new patients worked, we prayed that her 14 year old son would get in soon. As I walked Virginia to the waiting room, Gloria, the Clinic's receptionist, told me my last patient for the day had not arrived. God answered our prayer that quickly. As I relayed this information to Virginia, there was a big smile on her son's face. When the appointment ended with prayer, we thanked God for letting that young man receive much needed dental care.

Praying teaches me to love more deeply; to love because He loved; to let Him touch broken hearts. Who would have guessed that a dental professional's heart could be touched more deeply through caring for the precious patients God brings to the Clinic. "Pray without ceasing." I Thess. 5:17.

As a volunteer, you will find your own prayer life increasing as you pray with each patient at the Clinic; and if the opportunity should arise, in private practice.



Birdies for Charity

Thunderbird Charities and the Waste Management Phoenix Open extended an invitation for the Clinic to participate in "Birdies for Charity." The Thunderbirds will increase donations to the Clinic by 10% provided they are made through the program. This will be a fun way to be involved with the 2013 Phoenix Open and to leverage your support for the Clinic at the same time.

Simply pledge an amount for each birdie made during the Open or make a onetime donation to participate. Then, sit back and watch the Open on January 31 - February 3, 2013 and count the "birdies."

See the insert for details and guidelines on how to participate; or, visit the Clinic's website for a link to more information.

Added bonus: Tom Lehman will be our guest speaker at the next Clinic Forum on Saturday, January 26. Watch for details. RSVPs required prior to the event.

Clinic Polo Shirts

TNCC is offering women's and men's dri-mesh, embroidered, dark blue, polo shirts to all of our friends for only \$30.

See the enclosed order form.

Life on a Mission *continued from front*

On one particularly memorable day, Kayla rode her bike to our home with her mom, and donated her allowance to the clinic. She became a regular clinic donor from that time on, but God was also preparing her to serve Him as a healthcare professional. Instrumental in this process were five weeks she spent in Africa at age 17 with her father. Reflecting on that experience, she says, "I realized what a need there was for basic healthcare around the world, which is what drew me to nursing." Kayla entered nursing school at Seattle Pacific University, and volunteered at our clinic while on summer vacation.

Last month, the dream of a childhood became a reality, when Kayla passed her nursing boards and began volunteering as an RN at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic. Others may have chosen to hold off on volunteer service until student loans were paid off, or until they had a steady job, for that matter. But God impressed on Kayla's heart that before all that and while life is going on, she is to give herself in service to the poor and needy. In Matthew 8, two religious men committed themselves to following Jesus, but were distracted and discouraged by life issues. In contrast, Kayla is on a mission, and understands that Jesus doesn't want a piece of her life, He wants her whole heart.

What's next for Kayla? She's planning on pursuing nursing abroad, possibly in Africa, this coming January. What's next for you and me? Only God knows. But he has revealed his purposes in the Word, and he speaks to each of us through the Spirit. May the mission that directs our activities faithfully reflect the heart of our Lord!

Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
June	677	90	687.1	289
July	893*	86	655.8	309
August	887	88	790.2	198

* Monthly Record



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Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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