



## The True Source of Healing

By Dr. Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

As a primary care physician, I have opportunities to build strong relationships with patients through repeated visits over the years. In addition to managing ongoing illnesses and ordering screening testing, I check in with them about their jobs, families and their faith. Sometimes visits require minimal decision-making, and conversations are filled with smiles and small talk. At other times there are serious discussions about abnormal test results. Ultimately, many patients become like friends to me.

Once, when I asked a patient how her family was doing regarding an issue we had prayed over, she excitedly told me how God had worked in that difficult situation, and followed by asking “Can I call you my brother in Christ?”. What a privilege to be held in that regard!

Once, as I prepared to see a longtime patient, I realized he was Medicare eligible, and I would need to advise him this would be his last visit. As you know, our clinic provides healthcare only for those who lack any form of health coverage. He and his wife had received care with us for years, and we had prayed together over various issues on multiple occasions. I was concerned he may have difficulty receiving the news that he would need to find a new clinic for his ongoing health needs after forming such deep bonds at our clinic. After checking on his current supply of medicines and new concerns, I informed him of his need to find a new clinic and braced myself for his reaction.

God blessed me through his testimony. Instead of being angry, he accepted the news calmly. He didn't stop there. With a warm smile, he leaned back and thanked me for taking care of him and his wife over the years. Then he said, “You know, when I first came to the clinic, I couldn't breathe! But you gave me medicine, and I began to breathe normally!” I was so thankful he recalled how the clinic had blessed him and that he gave me a glimpse of the impact of our healthcare services for those in need.

But then he stopped for a moment, gathered his thoughts, and stated, “Actually, I think I got better because you prayed for me!” Not only did he understand the value of the healthcare services he received, he also understood the ultimate power behind any healing was God! This is our goal at the Clinic. Our desire is that our patients are healed, but don't walk out our doors thinking they were simply well cared for by nice people in a nice facility. We ask God to use the Clinic to demonstrate his love to each person that walks through our doors, and that

patients who don't know Him would be drawn to Him through their experiences here. As Jesus prayed in John 17, our hope is “that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

Pray with me that God continues to use our clinic as a powerful witness of his love to this community.



## Servant to Many

Remembering our friend, Greg Morell

Early in 2023, there was an onset of a rare, incurable ailment in a very dear friend. On August 31, Greg Morell, a beloved Clinic Board member, passed into eternity to be with Jesus forever. Greg, supported by his wife Dawn, served faithfully on the Clinic's Board for over twenty years.

Greg absolutely loved the mission and ministry of the Clinic and supported it wholeheartedly with his prayers, time and resources. He was more than just a member of the Board; Greg was a true friend to everyone in the Clinic's community of Board members, staff, volunteers and even patients. He was loved by all.

Greg was always the first to show up at Board meetings (or the Mexican dinners prior to) and the first to volunteer for any project that was undertaken. He was always gracious and kind and had a gentility about him that was very endearing. He never missed an opportunity to ask how someone was doing and rarely spoke of himself.

Greg certainly was God's blessing to Dawn, his two daughters and two sons-in-love; but, he was also an incredible blessing to everyone who knew him. He had a great knack of making everyone feel special by caring for, listening to and praying for everyone he knew. Greg was never critical of anyone.

The most important thing about Greg is that he was a man of God with an unwavering firm and strong faith that Jesus Christ was his Savior and Lord. Greg strove to glorify God's name with every aspect of his life.

It is with great love and a deep sense of gratitude that we bid Greg farewell by saying, “Until we meet again.”

If you wish to learn more about Greg's life, please use this link: <https://www.azcentral.com/obituaries/par071760>



## From Patient to Volunteer to Staff to Hygiene School and Volunteer

Volunteer Spotlight

Recently, a staff dental assistant left the Clinic having been accepted into dental hygiene school. Melissa Anaya began her involvement with the Clinic as a patient, then became a volunteer, then a staff dental assistant. When she resigned, she wrote a letter detailing her journey with the Clinic. Below are excerpts of that letter with minor paraphrasing for space reasons:

*I write to share the incredible journey I experienced as a volunteer seeking to contribute and make a difference. I was blessed with an opportunity to be a part of this beautiful community as a staff member. It transformed my life in ways I could never have anticipated.*

*Throughout the years and the challenges I faced, the Neighborhood Christian Clinic has become more than just a place of service—it became my home and a sanctuary, much like a church family. The unwavering support, camaraderie, and love that permeates this community has been a source of strength during difficult times. The clinic’s walls have witnessed my struggles and triumphs, making it an integral part of my faith journey. My heart overflows with love for the patients and the entire community of the clinic. This love transformed me into a more compassionate, kind, and selfless individual. I have come to see every person I encounter through the lens of how God treats His beloved children - with boundless compassion, unwavering acceptance, and genuine love.*

*The clinic became a cornerstone of my salvation story—where I found healing and spiritual salvation amidst my battle with depression. It was here, amidst the darkness of depression, that I found a spiritual pathway. Through the clinic, through His children, and His divine plan, I encountered the Lord and discovered a perfect love that illuminated my life.*

*I vividly recall the first time I boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It was a quiet morning in the medical hall, and Dr. Griggs posed a simple yet profound question: “Do you believe Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior?” Without a second thought, I answered, “Yes, I believe Jesus*

*Christ is my Lord and Savior.” In that moment, a flood of brightness, peace, and acceptance enveloped me, washing away the darkness that once consumed me.*

*One of my core beliefs is treating every patient with respect and genuinely listening to their stories. I strive to care for them as I would for my grandmother, aunt, or uncle. My commitment to this principle stems from witnessing the underserved treated as second-class citizens during my formative years. These painful experiences left an indelible mark on me. The Neighborhood Christian Clinic starkly contrasts this injustice, and I am grateful to be a part of a community that treats every individual with the dignity and compassion they deserve as image bearers of Christ.*

*Though I may no longer on staff, I envision myself continuing my journey with the Clinic as a dedicated volunteer in the capacity of a Dental Hygienist. My passion for this work and love for the clinic compel me to keep serving and making a positive impact in the lives of so many who need Jesus.*

*Thank you for creating a space patients where transformation, healing, and love thrive. The Neighborhood Christian Clinic is more than just a healthcare provider—it’s a beacon of hope, a place of belonging, and a testament to the power of community and God’s boundless love.*

*With deep appreciation and a heart whole of purpose,*

While attending hygiene school, Melissa continues to volunteer weekly to assist with dental care that includes sharing the Gospel of Christ and praying with patients.



### Join the Year-End Challenge

Generous friends are giving a \$100,000 year-end gift to the Clinic, and they’re challenging you to respond out of the generosity of your heart and to give as God leads.

Your gift will help spread the Gospel through whole-person care. Donate now at [thechristianclinic.org/donation](http://thechristianclinic.org/donation).



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## By the numbers

Month	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours
Jul.	666	62	724.5
Aug.	745	55	670.8
Sept.	746	69	668.5