

# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 3RD QUARTER 2011

## Kingdom Mentality

By Dr. Dave Tellez, Chairman of the Board

“**T**hy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” This verse is commonly recited by many Christians when we recite the Lord’s Prayer but is rarely taken seriously. It is true though. God wants to build his kingdom here on earth and it is His will that we are part of it.

This truth took hold of me back in 1989 when I attended a Medical Strategic Network conference in San Diego. I was not sure how to go about it but I knew there was a spiritual movement underfoot that I wanted to be part of. Initially this developed into going on mission trips around the world with like-minded physicians and nurses once or twice a year. During this time I was challenged with the concept that healing was not merely science or even humanitarian care in the name of Jesus. To be authentic, we must integrate our Christian faith with our healing. Easily said but not commonly practiced because many

practitioners feel ill equipped to relate the content of the gospel to the needs and concerns of patients and colleagues. I became more active with the Medical Strategic Network to learn how to do this which led to the inspiration to start The Neighborhood Christian Clinic. It would become part of this spiritual movement within the healthcare community to train and equip providers to reach their communities and patients for God’s Kingdom. Rather than travelling the world to find the poor, we would reach out to the underserved in our own community. Volunteer providers would be able to work in an environment that would model whole patient care that integrated our faith as Jesus demonstrated. Hopefully they will catch a glimpse of the vision of building God’s Kingdom through their profession by healing and the training of others. If the Clinic is

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## Spiritual Care as Part of Healthcare

– that’s what happens at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic.

by Gary Plooster

**P**rayer is a powerful medicine in physical healing as is the hope of eternal life that Jesus offers. Prayer, hope and quality medical attention is what the Clinic provides in love.

Healthcare has many of its roots in the church and there is an organization that works to restore the spiritual foundations of healthcare professions. The Medical Strategic Network is an organization which works to equip, network, and mobilize physicians, dentists, nurses, other professionals, and students to help fulfill the Great Commission. They host a METS Conference in Payson, AZ each year which is a conference for Medical Evangelism Training and Strategies.

This year’s METS conference in Payson will be held at ASU’s Camp Tontozona. Designed by health professionals for health professionals, this conference will provide practical, hands on training to more effectively treat patients both spiritually and physically thus treating the whole person.

If you are a healthcare professional who desires to incorporate a spiritual component in what you do, I want to personally encourage you to join many of our Clinic staff and volunteers in attending this conference on September 30 – October 2. I believe you would benefit greatly and I know it will have a significant impact on how you approach your profession.

For more information: [www.gomets.org](http://www.gomets.org) or call me personally 602.254.0445.



## Opportunities to Serve

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

**I** love my job. I work alongside Christian brothers and sisters, caring for needy patients who are incredibly grateful for the care they receive here. I get to be the one who hands them medicines they couldn’t pay for, who sends them to see surgeons and specialists they otherwise couldn’t afford, and who prays with them to the true source of healing.

One aspect of my job that I’m less enthralled by is the need to continually be seeking support for the clinic. I find myself calling specialists frequently, asking them to donate their services. This often involves conversations with office staff and business managers who may not be on board with the concept of volunteer service.

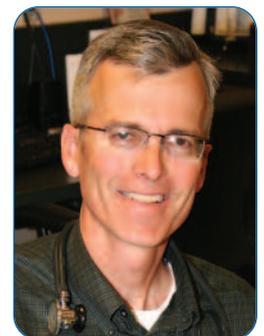
Dr. Dave Tellez, the president of our board of directors, has a different view of the task of asking for support. He said, “Paul, you’re giving these people an opportunity to serve! This is something they need to do!” I thought about that for a moment, and I began to like the idea. A quick reflection on scripture reinforced the concept...

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...” Mark 10:45

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” Matthew 25:40

“If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.” Isaiah 58:10

Our patients get this. They volunteer as interpreters, front-desk clerks, and landscapers. They bring us home cooked food. They hug us and pray for us. And yes, they donate! I saw a patient recently whose husband had left her, and she had no job. A week later, she donated to the clinic. Some may call that irresponsible, others may believe her to be naïve, but she is merely doing what the Lord has called her to do. She’s giving out of her resources to care for the poor, and trusting God to be her provider. And I believe she is being blessed by the Lord for her actions. If you spent five minutes in conversation with her, I’m sure you would be convinced of this as well!



## Lessons in Community

By Kabrina Kershaw

In July of 2009, I came to one of TNCC's monthly open houses. I had been looking for an opportunity to volunteer as a pharmacy technician, and the environment at TNCC struck me as incredibly supportive, in both a learning and spiritual capacity. Every person I met (and continue to meet) at the Clinic seemed to be acting in a very humble, mindful manner, aware that each is doing God's work in their own way. My way to contribute turned out to be staffing the medication room in the evenings, helping with the annual medication inventory and assisting wherever else I could.

Although I do not often have the opportunity to directly interact with patients, I have found a telling pattern in the stories of the people at TNCC – including and perhaps best exemplified by Dr. Paul's famous case studies. While the Clinic provides important medical care to those who would not otherwise have access to it, it also provides a more valuable service, i.e. a sense of community for the patients as well as for those who serve. In today's society, all too often we find ourselves isolated in the middle of a crowd. This isolation can breed a lack of place and belonging, a sense of worthlessness and a lack of life direction or meaning.

The Clinic provides an environment in which each person that walks through the door helps build a community we all crave. When we know someone values us as a person, we are reminded that God loves and cares for each one of us. Believing that can change our lives 180 degrees. In some cases, one's physical symptoms that defy medical treatment can be alleviated in part or in whole from feeling connected to other people and to God. The staff at TNCC is in a unique position to observe this transformation over time.

While my healthcare discipline will focus on treating ailments with modern pills and potions, I am grateful for having learned firsthand what an impact simply caring about people can have on others. I am currently applying for entrance to a Doctorate of Pharmacy program. As I continue on my path to practice pharmacy, I hope to remain mindful of and to find opportunities to apply the lessons TNCC has taught me.



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successful, it will be duplicated by others we have trained at the Clinic through the process of spiritual multiplication. This has happened on several occasions with the opening of New Hope Clinic in Tempe and the Payson Christian Clinic in Northern Arizona. Both clinics were birthed by volunteers from our Clinic.

This September, the Medical Strategic Network will hold its annual conference in Payson. The dates are the weekend of Sept 30th thru Oct 2nd. The Clinic will be a sponsor along with the Payson Christian Clinic. There will be many speakers from both clinics; with most being doctors, nurses, dentists, etc. who have worked at these clinics and who have a heart to share the Gospel within the health-care profession.



*Dave Tellez, MD  
Intensivist, Phoenix  
Children's Hospital  
TNCC Board  
Chairmen*

## God's Impact at the Clinic

by Dr. Gina Thorley, Dental Director

It is such a blessing to work at the Clinic. It has had and continues to have an incredibly positive impact on my life both professionally and personally. I see things here that I know I would not see elsewhere and I have opportunities to make differences in the lives of patients however large or small those differences might be. For example, I often treat patients who are nervous and anxious about their condition, appointment and the necessary dental treatments that will follow. It may not seem like a big deal, but just taking a moment to pray with them before any procedure begins seems to bring an incredible peace for them. It is such a joy to be able to encourage patients through prayer and to reassure them using God's word which demonstrates that He is sovereign and ruler of all.



On a daily basis, I see God's hand at work in the lives of patients, staff and volunteers; especially mine. With each day spent at the Clinic I see my faith in Christ grow more and more and each day I become bolder in sharing by faith with patients and others. During my daily commute to the Clinic, I never feel like I am driving to "work" and when I arrive it often feels the same way as when I arrive at church on Sunday mornings to worship. I feel excited to be surrounded by a community of believers who love the Lord, who care about each other and who work together to serve. I believe my work at the Clinic is an opportunity to glorify God while serving others.

I would encourage any healthcare provider to be a volunteer at the Clinic. I can assure them that they will experience God and grow in ways they may not have thought possible. It will very clearly strengthen their faith as it has mine. I am truly blessed to be a part of God's work at the Clinic.

### Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours
June	642	72	650.7
July	570	74	552.2
August	719	83	710.8

**Used Cars:** We sold them all and need more!! Do you have a car you could donate? Call us – it is really easy. We will pick it up and you will be helping to provide health-care for those to have no other means to obtain it. 602 254-0445

**Thinking About Estate Planning?** Did you know that you can name the Clinic as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy? Ask us 602.254.0445 or AZ Community Foundation 602.381.1400. Please help secure the future of the Clinic.



**The Neighborhood  
Christian Clinic**

*Restoring Health • Restoring Lives*

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