

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

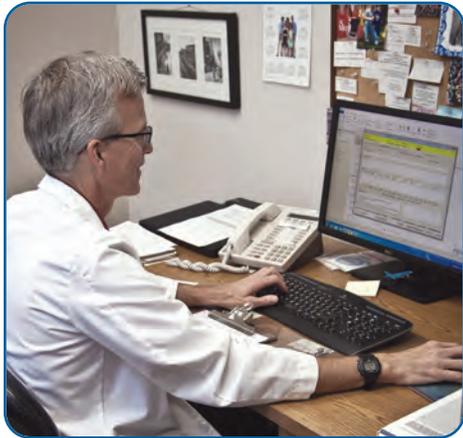
RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • APRIL 2018

PRAY, Angeles needs a hip!

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

The sticky note with this urgent appeal hung on the bulletin board above my desk, where I had placed it almost two years ago. In fact, it had hung there so long that I had almost begun to ignore it...but today, it caught my attention, and I realized that our God had not forgotten her!

Angeles is one of my favorites. Maybe I shouldn't have favorites, but I do. She and her husband always come in together, and after decades of marriage, clearly still enjoy being together. She has suffered the relentless crippling pain of arthritis, but nevertheless fills the room with her radiant smile and always testifies to the goodness of God.



When she began to develop difficulty walking due to hip pain, our volunteer rheumatologist made the recommendation that we hoped we wouldn't hear; she needed a hip replacement. At the time, the only idea I had was to write this note to remind us to

pray for God to provide a new hip, because this extremely expensive surgery was simply not available to our patients. We were thankful for God's provision for outpatient surgery for so many patients, including gallbladder and hernia surgeries, but the costs involved in hip replacement surgery are in a completely different league. I knew of only One who could provide this, and it would require prayer! I wrote the note and stuck in on the bulletin board, and our clinic prayed.

Angeles, however, worsened.

She became wheelchair bound, and the smile would vanish temporarily, but would always return at the end of our visits, when she would declare her trust in God and his provision.

Her husband's face wore the stress of a man who literally carried his wife in and out of the car and around their home. They even asked for a second wheelchair that they could leave at church, to make those transfers easier. She briefly improved somewhat through the care of a very committed chiropractor, but eventually the arthritis pain dominated her life.

As I picked up her chart to walk into the room, I realized it was time to take a step of faith. Together with her husband, we prayed that God would open a door for her to have surgery, and her eyes shone as she expressed her trust that God would provide. Remembering that one of our patients had once received joint surgery in a specialty

continued on back

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives.

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

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.

Jesus told us to join Him in His work in John 14:12 *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."*

Even today, Jesus wants us to join into his work. At the Clinic we try to do that very thing. Yes...we treat patients physically; however, we care about their psychological, emotional and spiritual needs as well. We treat people physically but we also try to restore their lives in all aspects. Our Board Chairman, Dr. Dave Tellez, often says: "we don't want to heal broken bodies just so someone can continue to live a broken life."

Each person that Jesus healed was a living testimony and tribute to the grace, mercy and love of Jesus and a reminder that true healing comes only through God. Those who were healed and the people around them knew what God had done. They remembered what had happened and most likely never tired of sharing it with others. Even throughout the Old Testament, God told his people to "remember" and to be thankful for what they experienced in order to understand their complete dependence upon Him. As we look back on the Clinic's history, we are very mindful of our dependence on God's provision knowing that the Clinic would not exist without His blessing.

A look back at 2017

Last year alone, we remember and are thankful that God used friends and supporters of the Clinic to help provide a record donation year, a new dental PanX machine and a much needed dental microscope as a gift. We were also able to initiate semimonthly CMDA Bible Study Fellowships with medical students, and to complete Course 1 of 5

continued on back

Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
January	869	140	979.3	101
February	912	133	1136.8	88
March	802	136	1070.3	103



Volunteer Corner: Yvonne Leake

Hmy name is Yvonne Leake. I have the absolute privilege of serving at TNCC as a fellow Christian and a volunteer Registered Nurse, to help promote wellness in the community.

A little about myself, I am blessed with three kids and am married to my high school sweetheart. I grew up in a small town in New Mexico and received my Bachelors of Science in Nursing from New Mexico State University 25 years ago. I've been volunteering off and on with the clinic since 2011 and my passion is serving and using my gifts and talents. My other passion is kids, in fact I was a pediatric nurse for many years.

Why do I volunteer? It's simple, God has given me a compassionate heart to help others. I truly enjoy using my nursing background to positively impact people's lives, and the reality is; I am blessed as much as the patients that we serve. I am so impressed by the high level of quality care administered on a daily basis and the lives ultimately impacted that it's one of the reasons I continue to serve in the clinic.

Fun fact, did you know the staff gathers to pray together twice a day (sometimes three times if there is an evening shift)? The deep Christian faith that the staff shares acts as a foundation for the top quality service and giving hearts of this organization.

I'm deeply honored to serve with The Neighborhood Christian Clinic. I look forward to the days I'm scheduled to work and the patients I will have the opportunity to care for and love.



continued from front

of a Spiritual Care Curriculum with the help of GCU. Further, we secured a relationship with Oasis Hospital for inpatient surgeries. The list of God's blessings is very long and clearly demonstrates to us that we are "dependent upon the Lord."



Having recently celebrated Easter, we are more mindful God's past blessings and of the future hope we have in Christ. When Jesus triumphed over death, he rose with the keys to eternity in his possession and invited us to join him in his heavenly home. Paul reminds us in Philippians that our citizenship is in heaven and from it we await a Savior. While we wait, Jesus calls us to be about his work of sharing the Gospel and caring for the poor while restoring health and restoring lives. At the Clinic, while we work to restore health, our real ministry is to point patients to Jesus who is the one who can truly restore life.

Each reader participates in the Clinic's efforts with very kind and gracious support. With your help, we are joining Jesus in his work. Thank you for your words of encouragement, for your financial gifts, for your prayers and for your efforts in time.

May the Lord bless each of you for participating with the Clinic in the ministry of "Restoring Health & Restoring Lives."



continued from front

hospital in Phoenix, I reached out to the surgeon, who quickly put me in touch with the CEO of the hospital. I felt like a beggar as I shared with him the mission of our clinic, the specific request regarding Angeles, and the understanding that the patient had no ability to pay for the surgery that could cost tens of thousands. But to my surprise, this hospital executive quickly and enthusiastically agreed to cover the cost of her care, and Angeles was on her way to surgery!

Angeles had a successful operation, and we had the opportunity to see God provide again when a local physical therapy group accepted her for 10 weeks of therapy to get her literally back on her feet after months of being restricted to a wheelchair. We give praise to God, "who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."



Because of our volunteers we were able to facilitate 9,671 patient visits in 2017.

Thinking About Estate Planning?

Allow your legacy to make a difference!! Did you know that the Clinic can be named as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or for an annuity? Help secure the Clinic's legacy and ministry impact of *Restoring Health & Restoring Lives* for the uninsured, working poor. Interested?! Please contact the Clinic or the Arizona Community Foundation at 602.381.1400.

Used Cars: Have a used car? Want to donate it to the Clinic? Give us a call at 602 254-0445 or e-mail gplooster@tnccclinic.org. We will arrange for pick up and handle all the paper work. It's a great way to support the Clinic and receive a tax deduction.



**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives

1929 W. Fillmore St., Phoenix, AZ 85009

602.254.0445

gplooster@tnccclinic.org

www.TheChristianClinic.org