

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • AUGUST 2019

Remember His Miracles!

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

The Lord's timing is perfect. So is his memory. Mine? Not always perfect. I'm amazed at the things I can forget. Even more disheartening is my ability to forget His miracles. So when an especially challenging patient came to our clinic seeking care for a complicated foot wound, I had forgotten how God had worked a miracle, even though I shared it with you in a Pulse article dated June 2016! At that time, I had written:

Maria arrived at the clinic, nodded to the receptionist, and took her usual seat in the waiting room. Across the valley, a woman and her husband hopped into their car. This woman had just learned of our Clinic, and had loaded up their car with medical supplies they would be donating to us. Without their knowledge, God had arranged that these three people would be on site at the Clinic together. Maria was escorted to her exam room by the volunteer nurse, walking gingerly on her bandaged leg. Within minutes, the dressings were removed from her leg, revealing the deep skin ulcer that had refused to heal for months. As I inspected the wound, I realized that even after months of care, the approaches we had been taking were not resulting in wound healing. Walking out of the exam room, I said to our nurse, "This patient needs to see a wound specialist! But the specialist I've called has not returned my calls!" Down the hallway, our volunteer recruiter welcomed the couple with the donated items, and gave them a tour of our facility. As I sat down in my office, I overheard the husband mention "wound care."...I left my office and joined the conversation. The husband, John, actually is a wound care specialist, who had just accompanied his wife to assist with the delivery of the medical supplies! Incredulous, I shared our current need for his skillset, and within minutes he was examining the patient's wound. These types of wounds are typical for his practice setting, and he was quick to offer suggestions.

But today was a new day, and I was on my own again.

The wound specialist had moved to a new job, which hadn't allowed him to volunteer for two years. Lying on the exam table was a diabetic patient who had spent a week in the hospital for a foot abscess, and he hoped that we could care for his complicated wound. Sparing you the details, I worked on his wound, but walked back to my office concerned that we may need to send him back to the hospital to treat what appeared to be a new abscess. As I jotted notes into the medical record, I heard a man call my name as he dropped off donated medical supplies in the hallway. "Paul, it's John." Yeah, that John. The wound care specialist that I hadn't seen in two years, who had arrived at the most opportune moment three years ago to assist with a complicated wound. Now three years later, here again when a patient with the most complicated wound I'd seen recently was lying on an exam table in our clinic. In a few moments, John was back in the exam room with me, guiding my hands as I worked on the wound, making recommendations and committing to reengage with the clinic as a volunteer! Our patient is now two weeks into his recovery, and the wound is healing well.

As always, God's timing is perfect, whether I realize it or not. As I reflected on the experience, I remembered a verse that I have thumbtacked to the bulletin board above my desk:

*Look to the LORD
and his strength;
seek his face always.
Remember the
wonders he has
done, his miracles,
and the judgments
he pronounced.*

Psalm 105:4-5

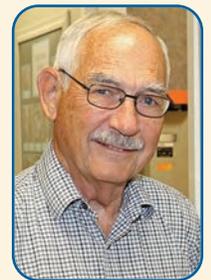


Volunteer Corner: Dr. James Mouer

Being a doctor defines so much of who I am. I have practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Phoenix for the past 47+ years. Even after I retired, I could not seem to stay away from practice. The lure of a golf course was not as enticing as I thought it would be and I found myself seeking ways (or them finding me!!) to continue to practice medicine. While medicine defines much of who I am, the real identity I claim lies in my faith in Jesus.

In 1983 my wife Joyce and I took our family (four children) to Zimbabwe to work in a mission hospital for five months. That trip completely and forever changed my view of medicine. Of course, I had always wanted to help people; but, after our experience in Zimbabwe I saw medicine as a way to help patients not only with their physical bodies but with their spiritual ones as well. It is so gratifying to help people who might not otherwise receive medical care but it is really special to be able to share Jesus with them in whatever ways I can. We returned to Zimbabwe three more times as well as similar trips to Kenya, El Salvador, and a small fishing village in lower Baja. I genuinely believe our family was prompted by God to go on these trips for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

Over time, I had heard about the Neighborhood Christian Clinic and its delivery of Whole Person Care. I believe this is the type of care that God calls all believing healthcare professionals to deliver. I have been serving as a volunteer at the Clinic since 2006. It is such a great experience to serve the uninsured patients at the Clinic who have no other means of getting healthcare of any kind. I have been overwhelmed by the Clinic's facility, but the Clinic staff and other volunteers are simply amazing. The compassion they exhibit makes me feel like I am watching God at work. God continues to bless the ministry of the Clinic even to the extent that over the last couple of years we have been able to arrange for patients to have

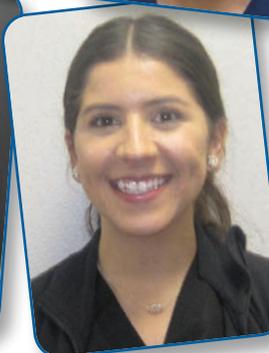


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Volunteers

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

Volunteers are mission critical to the ministry of the Clinic!! Did you know that over half of Clinic patient visits are facilitated by volunteer providers and nurses. Did you know that 85% of our patient visits require interpreters – all of whom are volunteers? Did you know you do not have to be bi-lingual to volunteer? Did you know you do not have to be a healthcare professional to volunteer at the Clinic?! We are often asked; “what are the Clinic’s two greatest needs?” Undoubtedly and always, “more volunteers” is one of those. With more volunteers we could see more patients! With more volunteers, more people would have access to healthcare! With more capacity to see patients, we begin to chip away at the rate at which we turn people away who seek care. We don’t have the capacity to see everyone who comes; turning people away is very difficult. Please join those pictured here in caring for the uninsured, underserved population in the name of Jesus.



Save the Date!

November 9, 2019 for our 20th Anniversary Celebration Event at The Clinic.

Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
April 2019	910	150	1,245.1	132
May 2019	758	107	898.5	121
June 2019	717	95	814.4	103



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much needed surgeries that otherwise would not have been available. Through professional acquaintances and relationships, resources have poured in to provide hope for many women and their families. St. Joseph’s Hospital has been an integral part of this aspect of the Clinic’s ministry and I am so thankful for their willingness to be involved.

I believe the success of the surgery program and fund points directly to our Creator and brings glory to His name. Nothing could have been achieved without His blessings.

Being a part of the Neighborhood Christian Clinic, for me, has been one of the biggest blessings in my life. I encourage anyone reading this, including friends and colleagues to support the surgery fund and to be a part of something that has such a huge and lasting impact in God’s Kingdom.

Thinking About Estate Planning?

Join others who have already decided to help secure the Clinic’s future of Restoring Health & Restoring Lives for the uninsured and underserved. Interested? Please contact the Clinic or the Arizona Community Foundation at 602 381-1400 or 800 222-8221.



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