

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 1ST QUARTER 2011

Volunteer Corner

A Heart to Give Back

The Neighborhood Christian Clinic is blessed to have many churches that encourage their members to engage with local ministries; particularly those that serve the working poor. One such church is Covenant Community Church whose desire is to have 50% of their church's budget dedicated to missions. Wow!

Because of their local ministry philosophy of "blessing our neighbors" the clinic has benefited from CCC's members who volunteer as well as from monthly financial support from their Mission's Committee for which we are eternally grateful. A couple of years ago, Steve Hoshiwara, MD (a member of CCC) came to the clinic having long had a heart to serve the working poor. At the time, his vision was to begin a mobile Clinic to serve the homeless; however, many obstacles stood in the way. Steve revisited the Clinic and God orchestrated things in Steve's private practice in such a way that make it possible for him to donate one day per week for seeing patients at the Clinic. Steve also sits on CCC's Missions Committee which, in addition to financial support, recently coordinated volunteers to paint the walls around the perimeter of the clinic building.

Clinic Walls Are Painted

What a blessing it was to have talented, God centered people spend nearly a full week painting walls; some of which have never been painted and others not since the Clinic was built. George Livergood and his crew did the prep work and sprayed nearly 35 gallons of paint over nearly 4,000 square feet of block walls to help preserve & beautify the clinic.

Without support from local churches, the clinic simply could not do all that it does to care for the poor who have no other means to obtain healthcare. Through medical and dental professionals and others that come from churches throughout the Valley, we are able to serve many who live in need.

We encourage anyone interested in having their church learn more about TNCC to invite their pastors & leaders to a Clinic Open House which is held on the third Thursday of each month. You will meet the staff, tour the Clinic and have a "light" lunch. Alternatively, call 602.254.0445.



George & Steve

Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours
December	525	78	500.1
January	668	92	691.3
February	603	82	568.8

What is the Purpose of the Church?

by Dr. Paul Liu

Most churches in America have a mission statement that includes the concepts of evangelism, discipleship, outreach or growth.



But is there more?

The Bible describes the Church in many ways. In I Corinthians 12:12-31, it is described as one body with many different parts. We learn that the body of Christ is not uniform but is made of many components with many different functions. If one part ceases to function, the whole is not healthy (definition of disease).

In the preceding passage (I Corinthians 12:7-11), the idea is presented that the spiritual gifts which God gives to His people are really different manifestations of the same Holy Spirit. The goal is for all these manifestations of the Spirit to be practiced in the Church. In this passage, healing is listed as a manifestation of the Spirit. While some believe that gift no longer exists, we often think only of miraculous healing, e.g. Jesus healing the blind, the lame, the woman who was bleeding. But there are also more mundane things like taking a way a fever (royal official's little boy and Simon's mother). So, one could easily deduce that one function of the body of Christ (the Church) is to heal the body, mind, soul, and spirit! Yet, we have acquiesced and permitted "society" (government or other organizations) to take over this function and role to the detriment of the Church and its people.

As one looks at the history of medicine and hospitals in western civilization, you find them intimately linked to the Church. The early Church understood it. Early physicians were spiritualists, calling upon unknown spirits to heal people, using herbs and other remedies. When Christianity was introduced, the value of man was elevated. No longer were only the fit and strong allowed to survive but value was given to all life. Because we were made by an intelligent Creator (and not

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Costly Care

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

My daughter was having a grand time on our backyard swing, floating higher and higher, until the moment that she slipped off and hit the ground at an odd angle. As she ran into our house crying and holding out her wrist, I was sure that she had broken the bone. After an ER visit with x-rays and a splint, followed by an outpatient exam by an orthopedic surgeon with placement of a fiberglass cast, her arm is well on the road to recovery. Just when her medical prognosis began to improve, our family's financial prognosis worsened, as bills arrived from the hospital, the doctors, and the clinic. Even with insurance, the cost of care for non-operative repair of a broken arm can be overwhelming.

As I was lamenting the payments I was facing for my sweet daughter's injury, I treated a patient that required hospitalization. Her daughter had brought her from Nigeria to live with her, but she suddenly developed stroke symptoms. We referred her to a local hospital where they arrived at the unexpected diagnosis of seizure, and expertly prescribed medications that restored her ability to speak and use her arm. When I saw her for her follow up appointment, her daughter was so grateful for the care she received. However, she shared that she would need to pay \$38,000 for the 5 day hospitalization.

I prayed for their tremendous financial need, and then the daughter prayed a passionate prayer of blessing over our clinic.

At the end of the visit, she had one more request. Her mother was upset because she couldn't read the Bible in the morning because of blurred vision. Was there an eye doctor that I could refer her to? She was thankful when we referred her to a local ophthalmologist who has volunteered to see our patients. Instead of having to anticipate another medical bill, she can now expect to receive competent care from a physician who is only interested in meeting her medical needs.

Each day at the clinic, we see patients who would have otherwise gone to a local emergency room at tremendous out of pocket cost to them. It is wonderful to be able to offer acute medical and dental care to patients at what is often less than 5% of the cost of a visit to the ER. Also, by offering access to primary care services, our patients are less likely to need expensive hospitalizations. We are able to do this through the Lord's blessing and the generous support of so many who care about the poor in our community.

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the result of any haphazard process) the world around us could be studied and organized. This is what we called "Science." In fact, many of the early western scientists were Christians and theologians. Sir Isaac Newton wrote more about God than he did about physics or mathematics.

Hospitals were initially developed around abbeys and monasteries. Monks were among the earliest physicians. Many of our existing hospitals had religious affiliations. Yet all this is lost when our current society insists that we divorce spiritual care from physical healing! Worse yet, many Christians also succumb to that lie. We need to reclaim our heritage and restore what is rightly a function of the Church. Not only for the betterment of society but for the health of our Church, the Bride of Christ.

Please keep the ministry of the Clinic in your heart and prayers.

*Paul Liu, MD
Intensivist, Phoenix
Children's Hospital
TNCC Board Member
Chairman, Medical
Strategic Network
(Medical Evangelism
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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.

Clinic Revenue & Expenses	(Last Year)
Year to Date Revenue	\$ 1,005,471
Year to Date Expenses	929,893
Surplus	\$ 75,578

**TAX REMINDER:
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF YOUR TAX CREDIT WHEN YOU FILE
YOUR ARIZONA TAX RETURN!**

A Year in Review

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

Reflection on last year certainly provides ample opportunity to see God's hand in the ministry of the Clinic. During the first quarter of last year, Clinic revenues were such that we found it necessary to dramatically reduce services. During the second quarter, God richly blessed the Clinic in such a way that we were able to reinstitute most of those same services. By the end of the year, the Clinic had experienced its second largest revenue year in the last eleven. Such support came through many, many faithful donors who were joined by over two hundred donors who had never given to the Clinic before until 2010. Our God is faithful and worthy of all praise.

Late last year, we surpassed 50,000 patient visits since the Clinic opened and in January we treated patient number 10,000.

Nearly fifty new volunteers joined in to help and all volunteers chipped in with over 7,000 hours of service during the year. Our cost per patient dropped by over 6% and we had a new "state of the art" ultrasound machine donated.

God was even at work when a car crashed through the wall of a "full" waiting room. By Divine intervention, two patients who were sitting against the impact wall were called up just seconds prior to impact; and, it made possible the painting of the entire exterior of the Clinic which was badly needed.

As we begin to think about the joyous celebration of Easter and all that it means; we intend to be faithful to a God who redeems us; who extends mercy when it is undeserved and support when it is most needed.



To God be the glory!!



**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives

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