

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 4TH QUARTER 2017

God Provides Richly in His Time.

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

I'm always amazed by the way my patients are able to live with severe health and social problems. Loose and broken teeth, arthritic knees and shoulders, difficult marriages to alcoholic spouses. The prevailing strategy in the face of pain seems to be that if treatment is too expensive or difficult to access, then you simply pray for the pain to subside and hope that it doesn't return. This however isn't my own strategy. I personally recall biting down on a bagel a few years ago, splitting my tooth down to the root and having pain shoot down into my jaw and my neck. It was a Saturday morning and dental offices were closed, but that didn't stop me from calling the dentist's answering service and reaching him at home so I could get started rapidly on treatment. Having health insurance certainly made that path more available to me.

I thought of this when, during a routine physical exam on a new patient to the clinic, I found that the patient, who I'll call John, had a colostomy bag in place over his abdomen, after having sustained a gunshot injury 13 years ago. He was uninsured, and received excellent emergency care in the hospital, but there was no coverage to take down the colostomy and restore normal function to his intestines when the surgical healing period was completed. In fact, when he came in to see me, he didn't even mention the fact that he had the colostomy in place. For years he had just come to accept this as part of life, apparently assuming that definitive surgery to repair the problem was out of his reach.



Thanks to a relationship we have with St. Joseph's Hospital, I was able to refer John to their surgery clinic, where their surgeon rapidly moved to get the patient on his surgery schedule. Preparations were done including colonoscopy and a preoperative clearance visit at our clinic. A short time later, John walked comfortably down our hallway with his wife and baby daughter, unencumbered by the clumsy bag that had been his companion for so many years. The daily reminder of that horrific day 13 years ago was replaced with a well healed scar and a smile on his face. God had not forgotten him, and although He had required John to wait for a period of time that would have seemed unreasonable to me, he had provided richly in His time.

What life issues have we been facing for such a long time that we've come to assume that God either can't help or won't help? God was faithful, in His time, to John, and we can trust that His plans will be accomplished in our lives as well!



Simply Awesome.

by
Dr. David Tellez, Board Chairman

I am a pediatric intensivist at Phoenix Children's Hospital and have practiced for over 32 years. What is it like to practice whole patient care as a healthcare professional?

I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior in 1980 during my third year of medical school. In 1986 I started my career as a pediatric intensivist at Phoenix Children's Hospital and met Paul Liu who encouraged me to attend my first Mets conference in 1989. It was there I learned how I could leverage the platform God had given me as a physician for His kingdom through whole patient care. I have traveled around the world working in clinics with like-minded physicians in under developed countries. It was in 1993 that God gave me a vision to start an inner-city clinic to care for the working poor and to train and equip healthcare professionals to share the love of Christ with their patients. I realized the greatest gift I had to offer my patients was God's grace and love through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have found prayer to be the most comforting way to communicate God's love for his suffering people.

Praying With Patients

For example, one patient I cared for was from an eastern Indian family. The patient had a rare, acquired autoimmune illness that was life-threatening. The family came up to me one afternoon and desperately asked me to pray to "my God" for their son. I mentioned that I had been praying for both them and their son and that God loves them very much, as much as he loves me. We then prayed together which they found to be very comforting and peaceful. After experiencing God's healing they could not resist their realization of His love and rejoiced in His gracious gift of Jesus Christ and began attending a local Bible church in Phoenix.

It was clear to me whole patient care was not something I should keep to myself. So, along with the help of many others, we developed teaching materials from lectures we had been giving around the world that is being transformed to Internet-based learning modules to be used by healthcare providers around the world thanks to the graciousness of Grand Canyon University. With the addition of the CMDA Student Bible Study Fellowship this Fall and the renovation and development of the house we just purchased,

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Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
June	718	82	714.5	64
July	701	68	703.8	25
August	*903	85	845.5	120

* Dental set a new record in August of 303 Patient Visits

A Medical Student's Perspective on CMDA

I think in our current culture, it is easy to ask, "How are you?" as a courtesy question with no expectation of a serious answer. The first time I came to a CMDA Bible study as a first year medical student, I was so touched that at this meeting not only was I authentically asked this question, but the study was set up to have the time, support, empathy, and caring to ask this question and expect a complex answer.

CMDA has had a huge impact on me, because I found other students, residents, and seasoned physicians following Christ in their words, actions, and attitudes. I was so impressed to find a community of medical professionals joining together on a regular basis to support and encourage one another, to seek the truth of God's word, and to ask the difficult questions that a medical career demands answers to.

As a medical student, I am seeing that stress, the pressures of competition, and the drive to achieve can easily shift my focus and identity away from being found in Christ. What an encouragement it has been to see God's faithfulness in other students and residents who have stayed the course to seek Christ and His kingdom first, and allow everything else to come alongside.

CMDA events include a wide range of medical professionals, from students beginning their career to those who have retired. The range of viewpoints really puts life into perspective, and demonstrates the importance of the Gospel in whole person and spiritual care. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of CMDA and to join this community so early in my medical career. It is not an easy road to be a Christian in the medical field, and to have support and encouragement from other like-minded individuals is a true blessing.

Bethany Bennett
2nd Year Medical Student
University of Arizona, College of Medicine-Phoenix



Have a Used Car?

Want to donate it to the Clinic? Give us a call at 602 254-0445 or e-mail gplooster@tncclinic.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.



Thinking About Estate Planning?

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



**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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we hope to have an increased presence in the development of young healthcare professionals that God sends our way.

Mentor and Be Mentored

It is as important to mentor as it is to be mentored. God has brought many great men and women of God into my life to help transform me into the likeness of his Son (ongoing work in progress). It is now my time to return the favor going forward. It is through spiritual multiplication that, "thy kingdom come... on earth as it is in heaven."

Best advice to pass on to the next generation - the wonderful discovery of being a Christian who happens to be a healthcare professional is transformational. My identity is who I am in Christ, not based on what I do for a living.



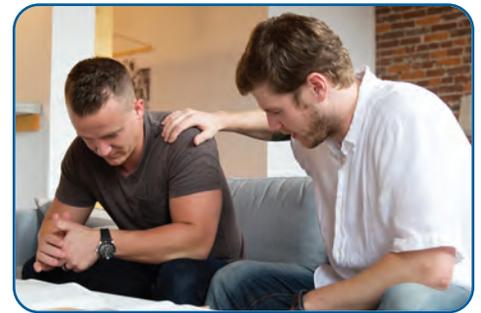
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 The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

A Career Contrast

by Gary Flooster, Executive Director



As we were preparing for this issue of "The Pulse," I was struck with the contrast of two articles in this issue written by Dave Tellez, MD and Bethany Bennett, a 2nd year medical student who also volunteers at the Clinic. I am not speaking of the content of their articles; rather, of the contrast in where these two individuals are in their careers. Dave is a seasoned doctor who is a very gifted evangelist that has used his gift for nearly 30 years to deliver whole person care to patients and families as an intensivist at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Dave has prayed with and shared the Gospel with innumerable patients and their families. Bethany is a strong Christian who is in medical school with the hope of being able to honor God through her chosen profession. She shares how appreciative she is of CMDA (Christian Medical & Dental Assoc.) which is a community of like-minded individuals in which she can be encouraged. Both love the Lord and seek His glory.

Study Fellowships

Two decades ago, Paul & Marilyn Liu began a CMDA Bible Study Fellowship with medical students in Phoenix. Because Paul & Marilyn are leaving Arizona, the Clinic has agreed to host these CMDA Bible Study Fellowships going forward; initially at the Clinic but eventually moving to an adjacent home once the remodel is complete. The first of these Study Fellowships occurred in early October and will meet twice each month bringing Whole Person Care veterans together with medical students who want to similarly glorify God with their careers. These CMDA Bible Study Fellowships help train up the next generation of healthcare professionals to use their careers to expand God's Kingdom.

Praise be to God for working out every detail for the Clinic to play a role in the process of equipping the next generation.

