

FROM THE HEART

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2006



We seek to reclaim the Biblical and historical commitment of the people of faith to care for the poor who are sick. The Clinic provides quality, affordable healthcare and health education to the growing number of low income, uninsured working people of Nashville who do not have access to primary medical care.

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Primary Healthcare For Those In Need

Letter from Dr. Henderson

For years I've been told that I should go on a foreign medical mission trip. "It will change you", was the most frequently proffered encouragement. For one reason or another I had never done so—the time never seemed to be right, balancing other commitments (including family), and I guess I also had some question regarding the appropriateness of short term mission efforts (the expense, not knowing the language, would there be adequate follow-up) for a primary care physician who does no significant surgery. I still believe those are valid concerns. Nonetheless, I and my wife, Linda, agreed to be a part of a team of six from Faith Family Medical Clinic (Traci Wagner, Liz Adams, Luke Boren, Barb Tincher) that traveled the third week of May to Clinica Ezell, a two hour drive southwest of Guatemala City. Established about 5-6 years ago, this medical facility serves as a base of operation that provides medical and surgical care to the poor and underserved of this part of the country, the vast majority of whom are Mayans. They are hard-working people who have been oppressed and abused for centuries, but generally are fairly healthy, if they've survived early childhood. I think we all came away from that trip with a greater appreciation for these simple people and their struggles. Of course, it prompts you to count your blessings for what we have here (FFMC) and motivates us even more to serve those all around us who are struggling because they, too, are medically underserved. A tip of the hat to our staff who stayed behind and served so ably in our absence.

In April I attended a seminar in Knoxville sponsored by the BCBS Foundation of Tennessee that highlighted the best practices of medical clinics throughout the state that serve the uninsured. Last year this conference was in Memphis; perhaps next year it will be in Nashville. This is held in conjunction with the "Remember the Uninsured Week", a national media event sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which garners considerable attention, but when it's over...it's over. You don't seem to hear much about the plight of the uninsured until the next May. I can't help but notice the contrast when Barbaro is considered—a racehorse breaks his leg (albeit in pursuit of the Triple Crown) and every few days we receive, via the major networks, a progress report as to his condition. I wouldn't venture a guess as to the cost of his veterinary care. Just today I had a discussion with EC (one of our wonderful patients) regarding her concerns about still being uninsured. She wanted to know if I was aware of any new affordable insurance that might be within her reach. I know more and more health insurers are offering lower cost plans with high deductibles designed to be used with HSA's, but for patients like EC with chronic conditions that are incurable, but controllable, the premiums would be exorbitant. So I simply told her that all her friends and supporters at Faith Family Medical Clinic would continue to strive to provide her the best possible medical care—that's what God has commissioned us to do, and she could trust HIM to continue to provide FFMC with all it needed to accomplish its mission.

Speaking of God's providence...we welcome Jack Faris as the new Chairman of our Board. Having recently retired as the executive director of the NFIB, Jack and Anne have long been faithful supporters of FFMC. We believe that God has equipped Jack for "such a time as this" and we're eager for the future. God is great indeed!

In Him,
Dr. Tom



"Faith Family saved my life, just as they save lives everyday. A friend of mine says luck and grace don't belong in the same sentence; I like that. So when someone tells me, 'Lee, you were really lucky', I reply, 'No, it was grace. Pure grace.' God bless the team at Faith Family Medical Clinic."

- Lee Domann

Lee Domann has been a patient at Faith Family Medical Clinic for two years and during his regular checkup last fall he asked Dr. Tom Henderson what would happen if he had a major health problem. Dr. Henderson's reply was that the clinic would help him get needed treatment.

Lee certainly did not anticipate that a major problem would occur within four months. He was walking his dog and suddenly experienced back and neck pain. He called the clinic and scheduled an immediate appointment. When he arrived at the clinic, he had an EKG, which was normal. However, Dr. Henderson was not satisfied and sent him to a specialist for a stress test, which he failed.

Lee then went to Baptist Hospital for an arteriogram, which revealed several blockages, and on January 24, he had bypass surgery. Lee is a professional musician whose specialty is church music, and he was recently able to perform for the first time since the heart surgery.

Lee has been without health insurance for three years and has tried unsuccessfully to enroll in TennCare. He has high blood pressure and high cholesterol and is on medication for both of these. He is impressed with the family feeling at Faith Family Medical Clinic and the fact that everyone is treated the same. Because Dr. Tom Henderson was persistent in pursuing Lee's problem and arranged for tests and surgery at reduced fees, Lee now is able to return to a normal life.

Lee Domann is one of over 14,000 patients who depend on Faith Family Medical Clinic for their primary medical care each year, and your support makes this possible.



Lee Domann

Your Memorial or Honorarium gift will live on—

A gift in memory of a family member, friend or colleague is a lasting tribute to the deceased person which will continue to bless the lives of people who need medical care and are uninsured.

A living honor gift is a thoughtful way to recognize and show appreciation for someone who is special to you.

Faith Family Medical Clinic will be pleased to notify the appropriate person when a memorial or honor gift is made, and the amount of the gift will remain confidential.

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FROM THE HEART



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Jack Faris is the new Chair of the Faith Family Medical Clinic Board of Directors, having recently retired from the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB). The NFIB represents small businesses in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitols with over 600,000 member firms. NFIB is based in Washington, D.C. and Nashville with 92 employees in the Nashville Corporate Support Headquarters.

NFIB has been recognized by a Fortune Magazine survey as the top business lobby in the nation and Faris was named the most influential person for small business in Washington, D.C.



As President/CEO of NFIB for the past fourteen years, I have been calling on Congress to enact legislation (Small Business Health Plan), enabling small businesses to have access to affordable health insurance. NFIB members ranked it as their number one concern.

The President and the House are in favor, but the immediate prospects for passage are slim in the Senate. A large number of uninsured today are the working poor, many of whom work in small businesses which cannot afford to offer health insurance.

My first involvement with Faith Family Medical Clinic was when Dr. David Gaw, FFMC's founder, asked me to contribute to support the new clinic. I thought then, as I do now, what a great concept—the medical community and the business community working together to assist the working uninsured. Faith Family is responding to a great need in our community. We focus on those who are employed but not earning enough to purchase health insurance.

Dr. Tom Henderson and his staff are providing excellent care to patients. Driven by the desire to serve others, they care for patients with the highest degree of medical professionalism. Now, after four years, the dream of a few has become a reality for many.

We continue to need volunteers, financial partners, and patients. Share the good news. Help is not on the way; it is here and now. Faith Family Medical Clinic is serving today's healthcare needs for many to have a better future.