



Bethesda

HEALTH CLINIC

A FAITH-FILLED JOURNEY

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“What we love about this community is that it’s not just the Bible Belt... it’s Jesus Land.”

Gihan has two pieces of jewelry she wears with pride... a cross around her neck and a sparkly red, white and blue “USA” pin on her shoulder. They shine as bright as her smile, and that she is able to wear them openly, every day, is a source of great joy, symbolic of the life her family now leads.

It was not always so for Gihan’s family. Though her husband, Mokhlus, built a successful business in their native Egypt, and though they were surrounded by a large and loving extended family, Mokhlus dreamed of immigrating to the United States. In the “land of opportunity,” he thought he could build an even better business, but more than that, he wanted his family to be able to openly live their Christian faith that was the center of their lives.

For years, religious persecution had escalated for Christians in Egypt. They were often taunted, even spit upon in the streets, their churches terrorized by bomb threats. It was not a climate in which Gihan and Mokhlus wanted to raise their four boys.

For eighteen years, Mokhlus applied for a resident visa, granted through a lottery each year in which only a few thousand are issued. Each year, the family was not chosen. Meanwhile, his business thrived, and his family lived well, with a beautiful home, and all that came with financial success and security. Still, Mokhlus and Gihan continued to pray for their dream. As Gihan describes it, their prayers were different. “My husband always pushed God to do what he wanted. ‘You can take away half my money,’ he would pray, ‘but give us a visa!’ My prayer was for God to do it in His way, in His time, His choice.”

And then came 2009. The family’s assets plummeted along with the world’s markets. Their beautiful home in a historic area of the city was taken by eminent domain so that an ancient roadway between two temples could be excavated for a museum site. Gihan survived a horrific kitchen fire, miraculously escaping without a burn, and Mokhlus survived a terrible car wreck. The final blow came one night with the sinking of a cruise ship on the

Continued on page 2.



We would like to thank the Tyler Morning Telegraph, anchor Campaign at the end of the year. Because of this generous

Continued from front cover.

Nile, taking down one of Mokhlus' shops and most of its valuable contents. The next morning, a phone call came from his mother. "You have a letter at my house," she said. It was the letter notifying the family that their resident visa had been granted.

"Both our prayers were answered," asserts Gihan. "Mokhlus asked God to take away half of our money and give us a visa, and He did! And I asked Him to do it in His time, and He did." By 2010 their family was in East Texas.

Mokhlus and Gihan also found help at Bethesda Health Clinic. Though both are working, their income is modest and neither has health insurance. At Bethesda, they have received both medical and dental care they can afford in the Christian environment they journeyed across the world to find. "Everyone is so patient and kind," says Gihan. "The dentist, Dr. Holland, prayed with me and asked me to pray too. He told me, 'you are in faithful hands... not my hands but God's hands.'"

Mokhlus and Gihan are now U.S. citizens, and their boys are thriving in school with big dreams for their own American futures. "What we love about this community is that it's not just the Bible Belt... it's Jesus Land," says

Gihan. "I can't say we picked this community, but I can say that God picked it for us. God has given us more than we dreamed. He has put many small miracles together to build big miracles."

One dream remains. Mokhlus would like to start his own business and use its success to give back to the community that has been so good to his family. He already has a name for it – The Ark. "As Noah believed in and obeyed God, we trusted Him to

bring us to a new life," says Gihan. "And He did! Isn't He good? Isn't it a miracle?"

By supporting Bethesda, people like you have helped Gihan's family and many other of our East Texas neighbors get the help they need while celebrating their faith. Gihan is right. God is good and we are blessed and proud to be a part of this generous community.



Becoming U.S. Citizens!

It's not complicated...

Sometimes when people read the words "planned giving" they think about the tax code, or the complexities of estate law. Sometimes they think, "Oh, that's not for me. Planned giving is only for the very, very wealthy, and I'm not that!"

But planned giving need not be complicated, and it's not just for the wealthy.

A planned gift is just what the words describe: a "gift" which requires some "planning." Most planned gifts are simple bequests made in a will. And most planned

gifts come from people who are not very, very wealthy.

If you have a heart for the mission of Bethesda Health Clinic, when you next update your will, we hope you will consider making a planned gift through your estate. If you need more information, we would be happy to meet with you. And if you've already made arrangements for a planned gift, we hope you will let us know so that we can thank you.

Planned giving is not complicated, but it means a lot to Bethesda and to the people we serve.



donors and members of the community who donated to the Shine Your Light community response, Bethesda is grateful to have received \$18,846.21.

STILL IN THE MISSION FIELD

Each year, with your support, Bethesda Health Clinic has been able to provide our hardworking low-income neighbors with the affordable healthcare that they desperately need. The need in our community is great and it continues to grow. But because of your generosity, Bethesda has been able to welcome Dr. Matt Humphries as the clinic's second full-time physician to help with this growing need.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Humphries join our team," says Dr. John English. "He has dedicated his life to serving others in need and his mission-driven heart is exactly what Bethesda looks for in all of its staff and volunteers."

A heart for mission work was instilled in Dr. Humphries while growing up with missionary parents. And it was during a mission trip to Macao, China in 1992 that Dr. Humphries felt the Lord telling him to stay. So he did.

For almost twenty years, Dr. Humphries worked at the Hope Clinic in Macao, China. Similar to Bethesda, the Hope Clinic provided faith based, affordable medical



care to local individuals in need. So when the budgets for international mission work were cut and Dr. Humphries moved his family back to Texas, Bethesda felt like a natural fit.

"I have always said that if you provide the best medical care you can, it will open doors for you to share your faith," says Dr. Humphries. "That was true in China and it's true at Bethesda. We give the very best care that we can at the clinic, and the Lord opens a way to pray and share His word with our patients."

Dr. Humphries is also impressed by the support and generosity of our community and the congregations, organizations and people like you who make Bethesda's work possible. "That spirit of volunteering and giving is uniquely American," he comments. "There's nothing like it anywhere else in the world."

From Macao, China to Tyler, Texas, Dr. Humphries is still serving in the mission field. And thanks to your generosity, he now is sharing his medical skills and faith with the many patients of Bethesda.

DOCTOR LUKE AWARDS CEREMONY



Bob and Derrith Bondurant



Kat and Larry Stokes



John and Sherri Soules, Rachel and Duane Smith



Fred and Carol Smith



Sherilyn Willis and Sunni Boren



Sasha Vukelja, LaVerne Gollob, Betsy and Elmer Ellis



2016 Doctor Luke Committee – Annette Findley and Laura Hyde, Co-Chairs



DOCTOR LUKE AWARDS CEREMONY



Patrick and Sherilyn Willis, Tom and June Lowery



Drs. Roy Gerard, Jim Cotton, Tom Lowery, Alpesh Jethva, Nabeel Ahmed, Stephen Pamatmat



Doctor Luke Society Members

Back row: Drs. Bill Starling, Steve Hickerson, Sasha Vukelja, Don Smith, Clark Hampe, Bill Moore, Sam Houston, David Nichols
Front row: Drs. Kerfoot Walker, Gary Kimmel, Bob Gatti, Grace English, Sherilyn Willis, Tom Lowery



“This is where I’m supposed to be.”

JEANNE PARKER

Throughout Bethesda’s history, it seems the right person has often appeared with just the right skill at the right time to do just what was needed for the clinic. We call it “a God thing,” an example of the way He has always known whom to call and when to call them in order to help Bethesda grow and serve our most financially vulnerable neighbors.

The other side of that “God thing” is that those who are called to serve at Bethesda also find deep meaning and satisfaction in their connection with the clinic, a sense that “this is where I’m supposed to be.”

That’s just how Jeanne Parker feels. After her husband died, Jeanne was struggling to move forward. “Years ago, my mother-in-law just gave up after the death of her husband, and I told my kids I would never do that,” says Jeanne. “But one day, my children said to me, ‘Mom, you’re doing it!’”

Sometime later, Jeanne walked into Hangers of Hope, Bethesda’s thrift store, and learned of the work Bethesda is doing. “When I walked in the door of the clinic for the first time, it had an air of peace and people who care,” says Jeanne. “It was not about money, it was about people who truly want to help. And I knew I had found the right place.”

Jeanne volunteers as a data entry specialist, and she is confident that finding the clinic was the Lord’s way of offering her a chance to give back.

“Since my husband died, I have a hard time sleeping,” says Jeanne, “but on the days that I come to Bethesda, I go home and I can finally sleep. And it is a peaceful and restful sleep.” When asked about what she would say to others who are considering volunteering at Bethesda, Jeanne is quick to reply. “Everybody can do something. If you have a gift and want to give back to whatever you need for your soul, Bethesda is the place to do it.”

Thank you, Jeanne, for sharing your gifts with Bethesda. We think God is right. This is “where you are supposed to be!”





A NOTE FROM JOHN

Ministry and Medicine...

Those of us at Bethesda have always viewed our mission as both ministry and medicine. From the very beginning, the roots of Bethesda in the faith community cemented the clinic's commitment to be a ministry first, the hands and feet of Jesus offering the finest quality health care to its patients. Ministry and medicine are inseparable in all that we believe and all that we do at Bethesda Health Clinic.

In this newsletter, you will find stories of the way mission and ministry come together.

Dr. Matt Humphries, whose story is found on page 3, brings the commitment to ministry and mission to his new role at the clinic. In his service in the mission field he shared this same commitment, providing faith-based medical care to people in Macao.

Especially in East Texas, we are all blessed to be able to

express our faith and beliefs openly, and without persecution. That we at Bethesda can share our faith and provide good medical care at the same time is something we almost take for granted. But for many people around the world, this isn't the case.

Because of people like you and our strong faith-based community, Gihan and her family have not only found a home in East Texas, but also at Bethesda Health Clinic. Our community and Bethesda have given them a chance to celebrate their faith without fear and to receive excellent health care in a faith-centered setting.

Your support makes the blending of ministry and medicine possible at Bethesda. This combination is a life-enriching blessing to all of us, those we serve and those who serve.

Thank you.



THANK YOU! This year's FRESH15 supported several charities, including Bethesda Health Clinic. The photo above shows Brad and Trent Brookshire presenting a \$60,000 check to Bethesda staff, board members and Alliance volunteers. This represents a significant contribution to Bethesda and will highly impact the clinic's ability to continue its expansion of women's health services.

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