



Today was cool enough to almost have Autumn expectations. In another month or so, we can look forward to cooler days with less humidity and less daily thunderstorms.

It's been a tough past few months for everyone dealing with the various effects of the current pandemic not to mention a rather active hurricane season that blessedly has not threatened our area. For some it has been tougher - those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 or other health causes, those who have lost jobs, those who have had to stay away from others due to health risk causing loneliness, cancelled activities and events, etc. Our lives and the world as we once knew has been turned upside down.

Even when life was normal (however "normal" is defined these days), we all had days when things seemed to pile up on us, one problem after another occurs and we are left wondering how much time will be required to solve them. Imagine those problems are medical ones that could endanger your health if not taken care of and you have no health insurance and few options where to seek treatment.

One of our Nurse Practitioners recently saw a new patient who was in this dilemma. He is a responsible husband, and a father of three young children. He works two jobs as an auto mechanic and lawn care worker being the main provider for his family. He presented to the Clinic with two issues:

- 1) While working on a car, something had fallen in his eye. It was now inflamed and painful.
- 2) He had a wound on his foot, possibly caused by the recent wet conditions of mowing lawns.

Both of these conditions required further examination and care by a specialist. Under normal circumstances, in a private practice setting, this type of care requires a referral and need for another trip (or trips) by the patient to see the specialists. Because this patient came to the Judeo Christian Health Clinic, and through good fortune, the day that patient came in for his primary care visit, both an Ophthalmologist and a Podiatrist were here, seeing other patients. Amazingly, this gentleman was able to be seen for both conditions on the same day as his original primary care appointment. The eye issue was especially critical as a tiny piece of metal that may have fallen from a car he was working under had fallen into his eye causing the inflammation. The doctor was able to remove the piece immediately, possibly preventing the eye from getting worse and causing blindness. The wound on the foot was also treated the same day by the podiatrist.

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It is the unique nature of our clinic having both general medical doctors, nurse practitioners and specialists seeing patients available in the same location that made all this possible, saving the patient valuable treatment time. In most other settings, this would not have been possible. But at the Judeo Christian Health Clinic, hope and great blessings, make the impossible come to fruition.

Our mission of providing health care services to the uninsured members of our Tampa Bay community during these uncertain times is why the Judeo Christian Health Clinic exists. Contributions received make it possible for the Clinic to be able to continue to provide healthcare services even during the global health crisis of the corona virus pandemic. Our patients are the working poor of our community who do not qualify for government funded healthcare programs and cannot afford private health insurance premiums, deductibles and co-pays. Doctors and volunteers continue to see patients who have immediate healthcare needs. It is a comfort to patients in the Tampa Bay area to have somewhere to turn for their healthcare needs.

Here's looking forward that "normal life" returns to all of us soon. In the meantime, stay safe and well, and always love each other.

Warmly,

Kelly Bell, MBA
Executive Director