

# Those Peculiar Johnsons

1 Peter 2:9 "...You are God's peculiar people..." • Fall 2014

**No one knows whose womb holds the chief! African Proverb**

## Miriam Medical Clinic Is Now Open. It Was Worth the Wait.



Left: A Miriam Medical Clinic volunteer checking blood pressure at one of our on-the-street outreaches.



Left: Neil and Patricia Pitts and Michael and Kay Johnson of Miriam Medical Clinic at the exhibit table. Middle: Jennifer Buck of Berean Baptist Church, Kay, and, Pat cut the ribbon. Right: Tim Rickel of World Gospel Mission, Kay and Michael, and Pat and Neil Pitts at the unveiling of the clinic on August 30, 2014.

It was worth the wait. Among our first visitors was a man too busy to follow up with a doctor for his hypertension or diabetes. His wife made the diagnosis. She said she pricked his finger with a needle while he was asleep. (Don't try this at your home). She had already spoken with him about his blood pressure elevation, and now both of them were here visiting us at Miriam Clinic. We were able to confirm both diagnoses and make provision for follow-up and management. It was good that Miriam was open to care.

This is our typical case scenario as we begin to sort through the multiple layers of why people are uninsured, underinsured, and lost in the mysterious maze of not having healthcare. This requires us to ask many details about their personal lives and households. These are not easy questions to ask or answer, as it can be seen as prying rather than caring.

We have the advantage of a partnership with Berean Baptist Church, the owners of the building that houses the clinic in the North Philadelphia community. We have been given a very generous lease agreement of \$500 per month. Together with our two volunteer doctors and host of volunteer nurses, a social worker, and visiting dentists and podiatrist, we will be able to provide the community with essential services.

Our plan is to include teaching about healthy lifestyles for body and soul. Miriam will provide information and instruction on healthful food and life choices, counseling services for individuals and families, education on common illnesses and how to prevent them, and smoking cessation.

Dear Michael and Kay,

By faith, I want to become a partner in ministry with you.

☐ I will pray for you.

☐ I want to invest \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ☐ month, ☐ quarter, ☐ year, beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (date), for as long as the Lord enables me.

☐ Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Miriam Medical Clinics (Acct. #35262).

☐ Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Out of Nazareth.

If you prefer to give online, please visit [www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson](http://www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson).

Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms./Rev./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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Make checks payable to World Gospel Mission or complete back of coupon to pay by credit or debit card.

Please fill out this coupon and mail it to World Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 948, Marion, IN 46952.

We are working with Temple University and the Christian Medical and Dental Association to offer opportunities for the students and fully trained professionals to serve on this frontline of medicine. This will enhance Miriam's ability to provide services at a cost that is affordable for practically anyone and everyone.

As a partner in this ministry, Berean Baptist Church will serve as a source for spiritual advice and counseling as well as ministering to some of the material needs in the community. In addition, Berean Church's ministry to the returning citizens from incarceration and their families will be enhanced as we are designated as their healthcare provider.

This is a very needy community. Some households are without running water and many without adequate food. It reminds us of some days in Kenya as one boy shared that he gets water to wash up from a bucket that is filled from his neighbor's faucet. We very much need your support in this work. A breakdown of expenses is below.

\$6,000..... yearly for rent  
 \$12,000..... yearly for building liability, utilities, maintenance  
 \$20,000..yearly for malpractice insurance for the doctors and nurses  
 \$24,000..... yearly for administrative and clerical staff  
 \$10,000.....for equipment and supplies

Right: Volunteers at the block party clinic opening.

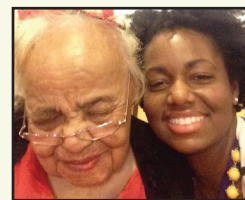
Become a partner. You will find, as we did, it was worth the wait.

### On a more personal note

September 13 was an especially great day to celebrate the 101st birthday of the matriarch of the family. Edna Odessa Harris, affectionately known as Nannie, was surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She blessed each one personally, praying for them, laying on of her hands, and presenting a special medallion to each one. Nannie sang songs of praise and even preached a little.

Right: Nannie with Keturah and Natalie, two of her grand-nieces.

Below: Nannie with her family in celebration. The two faces of the medallion she used to bless her family.



Out of Nazareth has been challenged to help those men and women recently released from incarceration and are looking for employment, housing, and healthcare. Please consider helping them with the resources you have to provide for their needs.

**Write and Invite:** We want to come your way. Please invite us to share the vision of these ministries with you. Write to us at michael.johnson@wgm.org.

Your financial support can be sent online by accessing this URL: **www.wgm.org/michaeljohnson**, or World Gospel Mission, P.O. Box 948, Marion, IN 46952-0948, Michael and Kay Johnson ministries.

For more frequent updates on the ministries you support, visit us on the web at: **thosepeculiarjohnsons.org**.

In Christ,  
 Michael,  
 for all of those Peculiar Johnsons



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