



Health Care



Faith healing

I have two grandsons, three and seven years old, who still want to sit on my lap and engage me in chasing them around a pole. I can tell you, I get tired and dizzy way before they do. I have given them much love and they love and trust me unconditionally. I often play a game with them called Free Fall. It goes like this: I tell them, one at a time, to stand about four feet in front of me with their backs to me. Then, they are told to fall backward into my hands without bending their legs.

At first, inevitably they will break the fall by bending their legs. That is because they have not gained the full faith and

confidence in me that I will catch them. Finally, as they gain more faith in my supporting and caring hands, they will fall freely and I will catch them. Once they gain this confidence and faith in me, they want to repeat it over and over again and I can see in their faces that they know Grandpa is at their back and they feel safe.

When you can gain that same feeling of faith in God and show that He backs you up with His unconditional love, anything is possible – including recovering from whatever health malady you may have. Christ often said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also

in me.”

It is hard to choose a physician who can gain your confidence



House Calls

By Gerald W. Deas, M.D.

and trust. Often in my practice, I would gain new patients through the recommendation of another patient who had faith in me. I would have to do and say things to the new patients that would establish and sustain their confidence in me.

I recall that I had a patient who had uncontrolled diabetes and had experienced gangrene in a leg due to poor blood supply. The patient was unable to sleep or function daily due to severe pain. It was concluded by the surgeon that the leg had to be amputated. The hardest job I had was to convince the patient to have this surgery. Finally, after prayer and giving the patient the sense that her life would not be terminated by this surgery and that she would have many more years of life to enjoy her friends and family, she consented.

The patient had to have faith in my judgment to undergo this

drastic change. Yes, she had to gain faith in God and me, similar to my grandsons, and could feel secure to fall back knowing that God would catch her.

As it is stated in the Bible, “Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

My patient not only underwent the surgery successfully, she gained a new life and continues to do well. She was fitted with an artificial leg and now joins her family in many activities.

Finally, remember: When you have faith in God, He will back you up and you will be able to fall freely into His arms and gain life!

New website gives uninsured information

By DAMASO REYES

Special to the AmNews

The information people need to change their lives is often just beyond their reach. A recently launched website, www.hitesite.org, strives to give the more than one million uninsured New Yorkers the information they need to find free, low cost and affordable health care. In addition, the website offers hundreds of resources and an easy means of finding health care providers in local communities.

HITE, which stands for Health Information Tool for

Empowerment, is a project of the Greater New York Hospital Foundation, one of whose goals is to help uninsured New Yorkers find access to health care. One of the great ongoing tragedies of our city is that every day tens of thousands of our citizens don't seek treatment for illnesses because they have no health insurance coverage. Many of those people are eligible for Medicare or Medicaid or for low cost insurance through state programs like Family Health Plus. Additionally, there are hundreds of health providers who offer

sliding scale billing for those facing economic hardship. There are also dozens of specialized programs just for specific ethnic and immigrant groups with particular medical problems.

Up until now the question has been how to find these resources in a sea of information. The HITE website offers a clearinghouse of all this information and more in an easily searchable database which is open to the public. For those not yet online there is also a hotline that can be called toll free at (866) 370-HITE (4483) which

provides the same information that is available online.

“The idea behind HITE is to put all of these resources, some of which are very local [in one place],” said Rima Cohen, a vice president at the New York Hospital Foundation and one of the driving forces behind the new website. During a visit with social workers in Harlem several years ago Cohen noticed the stacks of binders they had to wade through and numerous phone calls needed in order to find the information their clients asked for. The information was out there but it wasn't organized in a way that made it accessible to social workers and health care professionals or the clients they serve. At that moment the idea for an online database was born.

Currently the site, which is still being added to, covers Brooklyn and most of Manhattan and will have resources for the entire city within six months. The easy-to-use website offers free registration, after which users can search for resources by location, ailment and even language spoken. It also features an easy to use and confidential eligibility calculator, which helps users quickly determine what local, state and federal assistance they are eligible for and how to apply.

“There are a lot of resources out there but they're all scat-

tered in many different forms, and if you're one person and you want to know what's available to you, you have to do many searches, make many phone calls and in-person visits, and now HITE has taken all those resources and consolidated them all into one place,” said Tali Shmulovich, a program director at the Medical and Health Insurance Research Association of New York City, which has been assisting with the development of HITE. “If you have internet access, you have access to all these different resources through one search,” she added.

While many people without health insurance lack internet access, the site is geared towards helping those who act as a clearing house for information, namely social service providers. To help bridge the digital divide, HITE is also planning to distribute a multi-lingual booklet incorporating many of the resources available on the website in addition to the toll free hotline. There are also plans to translate the website into Spanish in the coming months.

To learn more about what healthcare resources are near you, log onto www.hitesite.org or call toll free at (866) 370-HITE (4483). You can also call the Medical and Health Insurance Research Association of New York City at 212-748-0400, ext. 209.

The wisdom of African healing

By JIMMIE BRIGGS

Special to the AmNews

Last weekend in Washington, D.C., over 400 people from around the world descended onto the Capitol Hill Hyatt-Regency Hotel. Over four days, from July 6-9, doctors, researchers, advocates and “healers” discussed traditional approaches to health care, spiritual and physical, as part of the “African Healing Wisdom” conference. While afflictions such as AIDS and malaria continue to stalk millions on the African continent, other ailments have been

dealt with successfully, and without pharmaceutical assistance.

There were definitely some unlikely sights for curious guests at the Hyatt, as D.C.-based healers affiliated with the Temple of Nyam poured libations and prayed with counterparts from Africa. The African Diaspora Ancestral Commemoration Institute built a shrine to add blessings and success to the international conference, which was largely organized by Anna Souza, a native of Mexico and Westchester County resident who directs

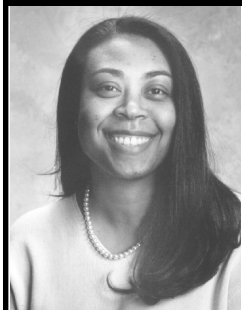
Pro-Cultura, Inc., a nonprofit focused on traditional cultures and practices.

Seminars at the conference went beyond a health focus, with discussions of topics such as the use of healing to eradicate war and its legacies, African aid, and dancing.

“Health leads to economic impacts within Africa,” noted Kristine Krapf, of George Washington University's Africa Center for Health and Security. “It also leads to human capital impacts.

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