



Good Samaritan Clinic received a call on a Tuesday afternoon in late September, by a very distraught individual. She expressed her concern for a dear friend who recently had been released from the ICU. Her friend was unable to get continuing medical care due to his lack of insurance. As a recently diagnosed diabetic, he did not have insulin nor did he know how to check his blood sugar. She wanted to be sure he could still come to the clinic, as it had been years since the Clinic saved her life. She was assured that her friend was more than welcome to come for care at the Good Samaritan Clinic. Intrigued by her statement, I asked if she would be willing to share her story with me. She agreed and we made plans to meet the following day at a local restaurant.

Sitting across from Karen, her positive attitude and beaming smile is magnetic. You would never know that her big heart has been battered and torn throughout the years. She grew up in Illinois and at the age of twelve, Karen started her first job with a local newspaper. She was sixteen years old when she first married, and had her first of five kids, at the young age of 19. She has always taught her five children to work for what they get and she is proud of what they have accomplished as they've grown. Karen has lived in various places throughout the United States and has traveled a great deal. But it wasn't until 2014 around Christmas time that she and her youngest daughter passed through the Arkansas River Valley.

Karen fell in love with the area almost immediately. As a Christian woman, she might not always understand, but she feels strongly that relying on God always has a plan for her. She called up a realtor and ended up buying the second property she saw. Relying solely on her faith, she sold everything she had and began her journey to Arkansas.

It has not been an easy transition making Arkansas their home. For the first year or so, they lived on the property without modern conveniences like running water. As the groundwork was laid for her to put a home on the property, it seemed as though it was one road block after another. Both Karen and her daughter have a rare disease (Epidermolysis Bullosa) and it didn't take long before they were in search of medical care. Her insurance from Illinois had not transferred to Arkansas yet, and they were having a hard time finding a doctor that would see them. With her frustration growing from being turned down for medical care again and again she flipped on the radio. Karen loves to listen to southern gospel music. Bruce Park was on the radio promoting an upcoming Gospel Jamboree, featuring southern gospel talents. Needing a break from her search, she thought it would be perfect way to get her mind off of things and decided to attend the event. "Sometimes you've got to go through some stuff to find the reason to why," Karen says as she continues her story. She had no idea the Gospel Jamboree was about to answer her prayers.

The Good Samaritan Clinic was hosting the Gospel Jubilee. During each break between talents, they learned about the clinic, it's services, and heard the stories of patients. "When we first learned about the clinic we found out what we needed to do, completed the application, went to our appointment and were well taken care of. I have never lived anywhere else and received the kind of care like I did from the Good Samaritan Clinic. If it were not for the Good Samaritan Clinic, we would be dead. I didn't have any insurance, I had no way to get the medications needed for my daughter or myself. Sometimes God's timing is not our timing and our impatience can make things more difficult on us. But you can't give up, you must keep trying. He always has a plan. His plan was the Good Samaritan Clinic for us and for that I will always be grateful."