

# 2009 - It's Time!

## Why We Need National Health Care Reform Now



**Bekah Long of Jackson, TN has no dental insurance and needs oral surgery she can't afford. Private insurance companies will not offer an affordable plan.**

Christian education. The couple is insured through his work for regular doctor visits, but they don't get dental or eye care, which is what they need. Bekah and Ronald also do not have any emergency care coverage. They both feel that they could take better care of the children in their ministry if they were not afraid of getting injured.

Because they are not eligible for CoverTN or AccessTN, Bekah and Ronald shopped around to private insurance companies in the past year and were offered a plan for both of them with everything they need for \$700 a month. They understand that Ronald's church cannot afford to pay that much. This price exceeds their mortgage and their grocery bills. With the \$18,000 they pay per year for tuition and student loans from their undergraduate schooling looming, Bekah and Ronald certainly cannot afford private health insurance. "We're just trying to care of people," Bekah says, "**Private health insurance companies are not trying to take care of us. They just want to know how much money can they make.**"

Bekah Long is earning her masters in social work from Union University as well as volunteering with the youth in her husband's ministry and she cannot afford needed dental care. The 23-year-old's wisdom teeth are growing in wrong and damaging her other teeth, causing her to have painful severe migraines 4 or 5 times per week. **The oral surgery Bekah needs would cost \$3000-5000 out-of-pocket.** Bekah can't afford that. "It's rather awful," she says because constant pain keeps her from sleeping. She just takes ibuprofen and grinds her teeth to endure it the pain.

Bekah's husband Ronald is a full-time youth minister and a part-time masters student in



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