



Scalpel's Edge

Hope Springs Eternal With Our New Mission Director

by Peter A. Cole, MD, Co-Founder & President, Scalpel At The Cross

I wish for you to encounter the New Year with a sense of great hope and courage despite your challenges. It is our desire that *Scalpel At The Cross* be a lighthouse beaming hope to the searching, wanting, and hurting. Our source of hope as God's children are His promises, which are revealed to us time and again in many ways through the Bible.

"Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease."

- Lamentations 3:21-22

But I confess my faith is not always so strong when I need to be reminded that even if God doesn't reveal his remedy to me here on earth, I can still have the hope which comes from knowing an eternity with the Lord of creation. One can feel this assurance displayed by Paul, an assurance which is free for us all, "No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." (Philippians 3: 13-14).

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

- Hebrews 11:1

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The songwriter Horatio Spafford captures this eternal hope in his warming 1873 Hymn, *It is Well With My Soul*, in which a refrain sings:

**But Lord, 'tis for Thee,
for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel!
Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.**

There should be plenty of hope for us all, hope to be delivered from the storm and to eternity, if we only exercise true faith.

It is in this same context of hope that I find great excitement for fresh beginnings at *Scalpel At The Cross* through newfound leadership in our next Mission Director. I believe the source of my excitement is twofold: first, it stems from the challenge of change, which I must confess I enjoy; but the second comes from the hope which springs from faith in our God to provide us with answers that we could never imagine ourselves. That's exciting!

It is my great pleasure to announce an official addition to the *Scalpel At The Cross* family, Mrs. Peggy Gasior. In this issue, we introduce to you a talented young lady with credentials which could only have been God ordained. She is someone with a heart after His and with a spirit that is gentle and appropriately both playful and reverent. After six months of searching for a "called" and uniquely qualified individual for the position of Mission Director, God blessed us mightily.

For the past nine years, Peggy has served as the Director of College Ministry at Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida. She led a multi-campus ministry reaching undergraduate and graduate students from several campuses in metropolitan Miami. I was



New Mission Director Peggy Gasior

"introduced" to Peggy when I went into the church office a mile off the University of Miami campus, to inquire as to whether there was an active college outreach, since we were helping our son, Peter, move to start his freshman year. The people in the office proceeded with an effusive riff on an amazing young dynamo with limitless energy, boundless passion, and a heart for young people, which has drawn multitudes of kids to the church. That evening, Peggy agreed to meet with Nancy, Peter, and I late at a dessert shop, and we were amazed at the instant connection, her warmth and youthfulness, her ability to understand and communicate with all types of people, her passion for Hurricane football (instant score!), and her affection for Christ. Our son Peter attested to her unusual impact, when he called Peggy "the most influential figure in his life this past year" at the U of M. We were grateful, and the rest was history!

To help you get to know Peggy and her end of the decision to join our staff, I would like to quote some lines, which

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2013 In Review!

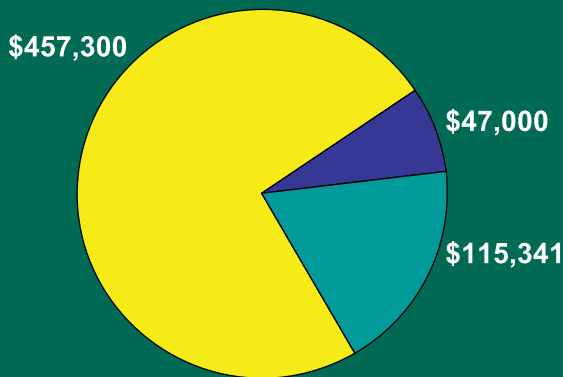
by Peggy Gasiar, Mission Director, Scalpel At The Cross

Thank you for being part of *Scalpel At The Cross* through your prayers, time, and financial support! As we reflect on the past year, we are amazed by the work God is doing and humbled by the opportunity to join in that work. We are grateful to share these highlights:

Scalpel completed 2 Mission Trips in 2013 with the help of 32 team members, including 9 medical doctors. The total estimated value of the donated team member time was \$47,000 U.S. dollars!

During our clinics on these trips, 300 patients were evaluated, 51 patients received operative care, and an additional 47 patients were cared for through non-operative treatments. In addition to on-site care, *Scalpel* responded to 22 electronic consultation requests through x-rays and case detail evaluation, followed by medical and surgical recommendations. The total value of medical care provided in 2013 is estimated at more than \$457,000 U.S. dollars! This medical and surgical care would not be possible without products and supplies continuously donated by many wonderful supporters. In 2013, *Scalpel At The Cross* received over \$115,000 worth of medical supplies.

We give special thanks for our Peruvian Medical Director, Dra. Rosa Escudero, who works with the teams when they are on-site and runs the Surgical Follow-up Program between trips. In 2013, Dra. Rosa made 5 additional trips to Pucallpa to provide 127 follow-up visits. She gave clinical care and consultation to 55 of our patients at 2-week, 6-week, 4-month, and 12-month intervals post-surgical care.



■ Value of Medical Care Provided ■ Donated Team Member Time ■ Donated Supplies



A Tribute to Lisa Schroder

Recollections of team members who have served alongside Lisa

I will never forget an adventure Lisa and I had riding a mototaxi through the streets of Pucallpa as we searched for a hopeful patient. He could not leave his house because of his broken femur, and his brother came to the hospital hoping we could help. Without hesitation Lisa empowered her team at the hospital before quickly and faithfully following a stranger through the city. The adventurous taxi ride, climb up the dark and thin stair case into their home, followed by the heartfelt, loving, and hopeful conversation with him and his family, is something I will never forget. One unique twist was, halfway through the conversation, we gathered that the family believed I was the surgeon. This came full circle in a way, as only God can, as I scrubbed in the next day to support Peter and the team and realized he was the same patient. **-Joel Molitor**



Lisa is such an easy-going, calm-amidst-chaos, woman of God that I was grateful to have as our fearless leader on the November trip. I always knew I could ask Lisa any question at any time, and she never turned me down or said she was too busy (and she usually was!). I can't imagine the trip without her! I'm glad to know her and glad to have known her for several years now. A warm thank you and appreciation for how God has used her time and time again.

-Ginger Korljan

The first thing that comes to mind is the passport ordeal the first time I went on the mission! But seriously, when I think of Lisa, as my husband Mark said, "She is just a rock." Her love and trust in the Lord is evident in her attitude and her actions. Nothing seems to ruffle her feathers too much because of her faith. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

-Amy Lelwica

"We give thanks to God always for you, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father." (I Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Our beloved Lisa has been a fearless leader. She brings to mind a *kaleidoscope* whose colors take on varied brilliance and form dependent on the movement of Him who holds her (and twisted her on occasion) in the palm of His hand. Lisa has responded to God's calling by diligently serving Him and our *Scalpel* ministry out of the **fullness** of the Spirit He deposited in her heart long ago. She has been selfless and yielding, and she has chosen to trust the Lord with things that haven't always made sense to the natural mind. Witnessing Lisa as she moves relatively seamlessly from one professional pursuit to another almost defies comprehension at times; she is as adept at figuring out how to get anacondas to stop breeding in our Jungle Bunk's gutters or how to maneuver through treacherous, water-covered boardwalks and dirt roads during the Peruvian rainy season, as she is at navigating her computer, engineering, orthopaedic, business, and research grant worlds. Nothing seems outside of Lisa's realm of ability (thus the endearing reference to her as "machine")... though with humility, she would likely beg to differ.

What is perhaps most extraordinary is that Lisa's earnest, competent work ethic and commitment to excellence by no means overshadows her facility in relating to others. Lisa listens intently, is sensitive to the unspoken word, shows deep unconditional compassion, welcomes directives, wrestles with issues in an open and transparent way, entertains possibilities, yearns to develop as a person/believer/leader, and possesses the often juxtaposed giftings of global visionary and attentive-to-detail implementer.

Thank you precious friend and mentor, for allowing us to be the recipients of your labors of love over these infancy years of our ministry. Thank you, too, for allowing God to live fully in you, and for displaying a childlike trust in His sovereign ways so that His name is magnified and the reality of the Christian



faith is revealed. May our Lord be continually gracious unto you and give you strength for the steps awaiting you!

-Nancy Cole

I remember Lisa finally getting a moment of quiet while the team was in the beautiful Colca Canyon valley for a visit. She was trying to get work done on her computer and an alpaca kept coming up behind her, sniffing her and her briefcase. All in a day's work for a *Scalpel At The Cross* Mission Director!

We can't even begin to count the tireless hours that Lisa has spent organizing, planning, and executing to make the teams function well here in Peru. Considering we're here in the jungle and only have seen that one side, we can't even imagine how she had time to do the other 99/100th's of the work we

know she had on her plate. What stands out about Lisa is her servant spirit and smile. Although the Peru teams now often seem like a well-oiled machine, those early days of fighting many



cultural and circumstantial battles and disappointments that can be so common in Peru were always eventually told with a smile on her face, in a soft voice, and radiating that sweet spirit that is Lisa.

Lisa is amazing in her ability to communicate in Spanish, especially for someone who did not speak the language. We'd venture to say that she speaks better Spanish from just visiting here a few weeks a year than some missionaries do who live here full-time! She willed herself to better her vocabulary and had no fear in communicating with people. She continues to amaze us with the level of coordinating she does in Spanish.

-Craig & Heather

Gahagen

I was drug, kicking and screaming, on the *Scalpel* mission in November of 2012. I love missions trips, been on plenty in Central America, and I knew how much work they are. Wonderful work. Happy work. Good people. But I've had back surgery and, while I'm grateful for the mobility I've gained, I felt I would not be much help. I'm a too-proud, independent person, and I like to carry my own weight. Because my husband (who loves me too well) had been on the trip the year before, he was eager to share the adventure and the people with me.

We were doing some sightseeing on the first day, and I simply could not keep up. Lisa, in her kind way, lingered back with us, and I furiously muttered to Joe, "I told you I shouldn't come. I'm slowing everybody down, and it just isn't fair." Deciding to opt out of the tour of a museum, we sought a nearby cafe. Lisa, before hurrying off to interpret and arrange the tour, said I was not to think that way, that she had learned through the years that God brought each individual on these teams, and we each had a gift to bring. We were here for a purpose.

I don't know how much I fulfilled that purpose, but hers was the voice of God to me--He does have a plan and a purpose for each one of us. I'm sure she had a word for each person on that trip--her love, her tireless devotion to the mission and each individual in the group, inspired us all. Thanks, Lisa, and God bless!

-Charlotte Snead

Dear Lisa,

On both of my two trips to Peru with *Scalpel At The Cross*, was impressed with your focus, organization and ability to handle all aspects of the trips with grace and maturity, as well as always being able to perceive what needed to be done.

During my second trip there, after our first night in Pucallpa and the difficulty we had driving to Jungle Bunks (J.B.) -- not knowing if the truck would make it through the muddy and full-of-lakes road, wading through almost knee-high water to get into J.B. -- the decision was made that for the duration of the trip, we would remain at the hotel in town. Your priority in every circumstance was always the safety of the team, the ability to get back and forth from the Bunks in a timely manner, always showing confidence that almighty God was directing and leading the way.

Thank you for all you did during your years as Director at *Scalpel*! May God bless you with many more in the future as a "regular" team member!

Blessings,

- Marla Cole

Encouraging, thoughtful, trusting, compassionate, motivating, humble, inspiring. I am so thankful for our friendship and the incredible work you have accomplished as Mission Director. Look forward to our next coffee conversation in Minneapolis!!!

-Kevin Mannion



Team members after climbing Machu Picchu at 4am in the morning.

Though my first thought is to launch into a Biographical Epoch on *The Force of LK Schroder*, I will simply try to capture two great memories from the beginning.

The first memory was a phone call I received in 2005 from Lisa when she described a literal calling from God to work with Chad Robran and me on "something significant." She was an engineer returning to America from Winterthur, Switzerland, where she was part of a global orthopaedic implant design team. We had worked on such orthopaedic product designs as an element of my own professional interest. Through that process we came to learn of our shared values and passion for Christ. On the phone, Lisa said she read Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* while on her trip, and had an immediate sense of restlessness about her former position as an engineer with Zimmer Inc., and wanted to work somehow, and in some significant way, with Chad and me. I had developed an enormous respect for her talents, passion, and work ethic. I was thrilled and intent on making that happen.

The second memory was within six months of that phone call, at a breakfast shop in Ottawa, Canada, at the Annual Orthopaedic Trauma Association. Over coffee, I proposed to Lisa that she could help us develop a new orthopaedic ministry in the Amazon jungle, if she just quit her secure, high end, respected, corporate career. The *Scalpel At The Cross* position had no funding or definition; and the only thing the ministry could call its own was its mission and vision statement. The rest was history. This story underscores Lisa's appetite for risk, her self-confidence, and her great faith. It has been one of my greatest personal and professional privileges to work with Lisa now for ten years in some capacity, and words cannot capture the gratitude I have for this privilege.

-Peter Cole

Thanks for all the years of walking with Faith in this endeavor of God's work. I will miss your leadership, your work ethic, and commitment.

-Chad Robran

p.s. I can't feel my nose.

Lisa has not only been my mentor and boss these past few years, but she has been a friend that is always there for me. She has taught me more than I can ever express, and I will forever love the gifts of her inspiration, guidance, and love!

-Kelli Hooks

Long before I met Peter, Nancy, Chad, the Cole kids and countless other team members, I knew Lisa. Her enthusiasm for the Scalpel At The Cross ministry oozed out of every pore of her being! Lisa, you have been a great friend and encourager through the years. I can still hear you thinking in Spanish before you speak! It has been a privilege to work with you!

- Kevin Emerson

God had a perfect plan in place for Lisa and me. I “met” Lisa in 2006 when she asked for prayer for an upcoming *Scalpel* trip at a church in Rochester, Indiana. My sister learned of her through the pastor of that church, and my sister contacted Lisa so she could connect her with me, a doctor living in

Lima, Peru. My sister knew that although my days in Lima were busy because I was working at *Clinica Internacional*, God would give me free days to work with Lisa when she was in Peru.

On Lisa’s first trip to Lima, Peru, in 2006, she traveled with my mother, who had been visiting the States, and she stayed in my home. She did not speak Spanish, and I did not speak English. God, in His miraculous ways, enabled us to communicate, and we formed a bond that will forever be in our hearts! Since then, my family and I have shared many experiences with Lisa. Our relationship is beyond work; we shared devotionals every day, prayed together, and coordinated campaigns for the families of *Scalpel* and for our own families.

Over the past eight years, Lisa and I have always found ways to communicate with each other from afar via Hotmail, Skype, Nextel, and FaceTime. When together in Pucallpa, we always talked late into the night, knowing we would be tired



the next day, but knowing our work was for God. We were always filled with the excitement and pleasure of serving our God during campaigns.

The testimony of Lisa’s faith and hope in God is wonderful. She has taught me much and prayed with me when I couldn’t see the light in the midst of my own problems. In Lisa, God gave me a sister in Christ forever!

Thank you, God, for giving me the opportunity to learn from and enjoy Lisa Schroder, a wonderful woman and sister! I love you, Lisa. God bless you!

-Dra. Rosa Escudero

Getting to Know Our New Director - Peggy Gasior

by Peggy Gasior, Mission Director, Scalpel At The Cross

In times of reflection, I often recall the words of a top soccer player and friend from college, “Sometimes to go forward, you have to first go backwards.” For me personally, this has meant going backwards to mark the things God has done to help me move forward with confidence and courage.

Markers are important to me, as they are to God’s people, to remember His power and faithfulness in our lives. After God parted the waters of the Jordan River so His people could pass, they set up 12 stones, “*When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.*” (Joshua 3:6b-7)

When I look back on the markers in my life, they are as stepping stones that guided me forward in His calling; and when asked how I came to be where I am, I think about those markers and how I never could have planned them for myself. Admittedly, I desperately need

those markers in my life when I doubt He is there, grow anxious, or become complacent or short-sighted.

In this issue’s feature, Peter references a portion of the letter I wrote during discussion of the position with Scalpel, in which I describe having studied biology/pre-med in my undergraduate work, followed by a master’s degree in business administration with a certification in healthcare. God kept me in quite a bit of motion over the years until I began serving as director of college ministry at Granada Presbyterian Church (GPC) where I have been for nine years. This is the same Granada Presbyterian Church where Peter and Nancy grew in friendship with Craig and Heather Gahagen, SAMAIR missionaries in Pucallpa. And it was on the basketball court of Granada that the idea for Scalpel At The Cross was first born. The Gahagens are quite beloved missionaries of Granada, and mission teams from our church regularly travel to Pucallpa to serve the missionaries and community there.

What is there to mark if we are not in motion? After ministering to college

students for the past nine years and feeling pretty settled in my calling, God put things in motion once again with this opportunity to serve with Scalpel At The Cross. God surprised me once again and challenged me to see His kingdom work in a new and unexpected way. Needless to say, my husband, Jim, and I went through an extensive period of reflection, soul-searching, and uncertainty with much prayer. But it is just such a time that I am reminded of the many, many markers God has placed in my life. “*Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.*” (Psalm 36:5)

And so, I look backwards at those markers, which remind and strengthen me so I may move forward with assurance. Jim and I are humbled by the wide open, warm welcome to the Scalpel family, and we know this is the newest marker of God’s faithfulness and blessing.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

- Joshua 1:9

November 2013 Trip Report *by Kelli A. Hooks, Mission Coordinator*

The November 2013 Scalpel At The Cross mission team included 3 Orthopaedic Surgeons, 1 Medical Doctor, 1 Physician Assistant, and 13 Support team members. They evaluated 113 patients in clinic, performed clinic procedures on 12 patients, and completed 12 surgeries!

Patient	Diagnosis	Procedure
1	Elbow Varus Deformity	Valgus Supracondylar Osteotomy with Pinning & Casting
2	Ulna Nonunion	Irrigation & Debridement
3	Equinus Contracture Achilles Insufficiency	Contracture Release & Lengthening
4	Brachial Plexus Palsey	Rotational Osteotomy
5	Distal Femur Nonunion	Open Reduction w/Internal Fixation & Illiac Crest Graft
6	Tibia Osteomyelitis Post SIGN Nail	Hardware Removal of SIGN Nail, Irrigation & Debridement, Antibiotic Nail Placement
7	Humerus Nonunion	Hardware Removal & Illiac Crest Bone Grafting
8	Congenital Tibia Deformity	Hardware Removal, Antibiotic Nail Placement (left), Removal Ex-Fix Right, Antibiotic Nail Placement
9	Radius - Atrophic Nonunion	Open Reduction Internal Fixation
10	Femur Nonunion Comminuted Metadiaphyseal	Ex-Fix Removal & Reconstruction of Illiac Crest Bone Graft
11	Femur Nonunion	Removal of Antibiotic Beads & SIGN Nail
12	Hip Dislocation with Hematoma	Open Relocation, Irrigation & Debridement



Hope *by Nancy E. Cole, Founder, Halo Ministries*

In Psalm 33:22, the Psalmist penned this petition, “*May your unfailing love rest upon us, Oh Lord, even as we put our hope in you!*” Hope...the universal longing. Hope...something we all find ourselves seeking at one level or another. Hope...that which comes easier for some, all the while alluding others.

Hope is not something sought by individuals alone, but society and culture at large seem to mirror the individual’s desire to be hope-bathed, hope-saturated, hope-clothed, hope-filled. From all evidences, though, it is a concept that is lost upon the masses at large. It doesn’t take much looking around to surmise this as so. We are a desperate people. We repeatedly find ourselves in desperate circumstances and desperate conditions. We yearn for hope eternal, yet it seems so out of our reach and possession. Is it any wonder that so many are living as though they have stepped through the gate to hell depicted in Dante’s “Inferno?” It is

inscribed as follows: “*I am the way into the city of woe. I am the way to a forsaken people. I am the way into eternal sorrow... Abandon all hope ye who enter here.*”

Stop to imagine the reality of having entered through that gate...having abandoned all hope. What would be one’s motivation to press on? What would be the sustaining force for someone with such a mindset? What would cause one to keep on keeping on as it were? As believers, we have the privilege of knowing, relationally, the Hope-Giver and the Hope-Sustainer. It is the central element of our testimony of faith without which we ourselves fall prey to hopeless thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Thanks be to God, though, that we can juxtapose hope granted to us through Jesus Christ upon our desperate (circumstantial) plight now because we understand and have come to terms with the fact that our hope is not found in the

offerings of our world. Rather, our hope is actualized, in part, as we live out of the abundance of our joy in Christ now, with the anticipation of it coming to fullest fruition when we find eternal rest in Him the other side of Glory. Just imagine the inscription to heaven...it is found all over the pages of Holy Scripture. It is found in the person of Jesus Christ...our Savior, our Lord! We have a foretaste now...but oh the thought of what it will truly be like at an experiential level when we meet our Maker and embrace Him in His full radiance. The mere consideration sends a warm glow through the courses of my veins. Ah...the reminder of the deepest thirst this world can and never will be able to satisfy!

The time is upon us. May we be open to the promptings of the Spirit of God to overflow into the lives of those hurting in our midst. We cherish your prayers, as always, for *Scalpel At The Cross*, that we might exude the hope within to the lost

January 2014 Trip Report *by Kelli A. Hooks, Mission Coordinator*

The January 2014 Scalpel At The Cross mission team included 4 Orthopaedic Surgeons, 1 Medical Doctor, 2 Nurses, and 1 Physical Therapist. We were also blessed with a Halo Ministry group of 3 Adults and 8 Children! The team evaluated 60 patients in clinic, as well as saw 29 patients for Physical Therapy; 17 patients received cortizone injections, and 6 children were seen for clubfoot casting! The team completed 23 surgeries on 22 patients!

Patient Diagnosis

- 1 Femur Shaft Fracture
- 2 Ankle Fracture
- 3 Humerus Supracondylar Fracture
- 4 Tibia Nonunion
- 5 Femur Painful Hardware
- 6 Distal Radius Fracture
- 7 Distal Tibia Infected Nonunion, Equinas Contracture
- 8 Tibia Osteomyelitis

- 9 Radius & Ulna Nonunion
- 10 Radius Fracture

- 11 Femur Nonunion
- 12 Tibia Painful Hardware
- 13 Distal Radius & Ulna Fracture

- 14a Femur Fracture
- 14b Tibia Fracture Open

- 15 Distal Radius Malunion

- 16 Shoulder Dislocation
- 17 Femur Painful Hardware
- 18 Tibia Infection Open Wound
- 19 Tibia Infection Nonunion
- 20 Ankle Infected Hardware
- 21 Distal Radius Painful Hardware
- 22 Knee Sarcoma

Procedure

- 1 SIGN Nail
- 2 Open Reduction Internal Fixation
- 3 Open Reduction & Percutaneous Pinning
- 4 Hardware Removal & SIGN Nail
- 5 Hardware Removal with Irrigation & Debridement
- 6 Open Reduction Internal Fixation
- 7 External Fixation Removal, Antibiotic Nail & Percutaneous Lengthening
- 8 External Fixation Removal, Irrigation & Debridement & Antibiotic Nail with Cement
- 9 Hardware Removal, Open Reduction Internal Fixation
- 10 Open Reduction Internal Fixation, DRUJ with Percutaneous Pinning
- 11 Hardware Removal & SIGN Nail
- 12 Hardware Removal with Irrigation & Debridement
- 13 Irrigation & Debridement, Open Reduction Internal Fixation of Radius
- 14a SIGN Nail
- 14b Irrigation & Debridement, Open Reduction & Internal Fixation & SIGN Nail
- 15 Osteotomy Open Reduction & Internal Fixation with External Fixation
- 16 Closed Reduction
- 17 Hardware Removal, Irrigation & Debridement
- 18 Hardware Removal, Below Knee Amputation
- 19 Exchange Antibiotic Nail
- 20 Hardware Removal, Irrigation & Debridement
- 21 Hardware Removal
- 22 Excision Biopsy, Irrigation & Debridement



Hope *(continued from page 6)*

and perishing people groups of Peru. We pray that we might be the sweet aroma of Christ to patients and missionaries alike who need encouragement and healing of both physical and emotional wounds of sorts.

Help us in fulfilling our mission of being a "lighthouse to the lost" so that His name will resound well beyond our borders to the uttermost parts...

Be well, friends, and be of good cheer. Christ dwells within, our gift for the asking... Emmanuel!

Warmly,
Nancy E. Cole, Prayer Posse



Hope Springs Eternal *continued from page 1*

Peggy expressed in a letter during our recruitment. *“When you reached out to me, I sensed God answering my prayers in a very specific way by opening the door to serving with Scalpel At The Cross. My undergraduate work was biology/pre-med, and my graduate work in business administration carried a certification in healthcare. I had hoped to remain in healthcare out of college and graduate school, but God took me in another direction. The more I learned about this mission and the team members, the more humbling it was to think that He would allow me to participate in healthcare in a way I never could have imagined. It has been nothing short of amazing to see all the pieces God has been putting together perfectly, over many years’ time. This deeper glimpse into the story He is writing allows us to know Him in a different and deeper way, and allows us to move forward in faith,*

with confidence. My husband, Jim, and I are so grateful...”

Indeed, in this moment, I was witness to the conversion of **hope** to God’s provision. It is these times, when in God’s mercy He gives us tangible answers, when our faith grows ever stronger; and this result is the greatest of all gifts, because it confirms our relationship with the creator and hastens and emboldens **hope** eternal.

As an aside, Nancy and I have been blessed to get to know Peggy’s husband, Jim Gasior. Jim is an accomplished musician, still performing live on a regular basis, serving local churches on worship teams, directing the New World School of the Arts Jazz Program, and advocating for jazz education in the community in various ways. In addition to spending time

with her husband, Peggy loves nothing more than to share a cup of coffee with a friend. However, you really wouldn’t know this girl entirely until you see her “other side” on College Game Day in the stands of a Hurricane Football game—oh my! Please do help me welcome Peggy Gasior to our humble ministry, and do keep her in your prayers as she begins her new position as Mission Director for *Scalpel At The Cross!* Words are insufficient to express how pleased we are to work with Peggy, and through this work, to reach more lives by *living the love of Christ through our medical mission in the Peruvian Amazon.*

“It is well with my soul.”

By Peter A. Cole
President, *Scalpel At The Cross*

Mission Trip Highlights

