



FALL 2006 • ISSUE 1

Scalpel's Edge

Introducing Scalpel's Edge

We are so excited to bring you this first edition of the Scalpel At The Cross Newsletter, *Scalpel's Edge*. We want to use this tool to begin to introduce you to this orthopaedic medical ministry and the many wonderful individuals who are involved and impacted by its work.

Scalpel's Edge will keep you informed of the ways our gracious Lord is working through this Christian mission. We plan to publish an edition two to three times per year and we know that you will enjoy exploring and learning how your spiritual support uplifts and strengthens this important work for Christ.

In each publication, we will provide you with glimpses from recent trips, personal messages from the missionaries and important prayer requests for the future of the ministry. Through this, we want to be able to share Scalpel At The Cross and Peru with you and express to you how important your support and involvement is to us. For it is through all of us together giving gifts of time, expertise and prayerful support that this ministry continues to be blessed with growth and opportunities.

To find out more about Scalpel At The Cross, visit us at www.scalpelatthecross.org.

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God's Power of Transformation

By Lisa K. Schroder, Mission Director

²²“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there... ²⁴However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace. Acts 20:22,24

What a year it has been! There is not another year in my life that I can recall knowing so vividly and distinctly that God was working aggressively on me.

The highlights begin at home in Rochester, Indiana, where my husband, Kyle, and I are raising our two wonderful sons, Jacob (13) and Justin (9). My 12-year career in the orthopaedic implant industry was going strong and I enjoyed my role and responsibilities very much. Yet at the same time, I was experiencing an unexplainable sense of dissatisfaction and restlessness. Our family’s involvement in and commitment to our local church was growing and this was increasing my awareness of God’s nudges in my life.

During the summer of 2005, I was about to begin a work-study MBA program when I was strongly encouraged (again) by my parents to read Rick Warren’s book, *A Purpose Driven Life*, and I finally did. I was definitely impacted by God through the book. Purpose #5, “You Were Made for a Mission,” stuck in my mind with special intensity! Mr. Warren points out, “who better to use a creation properly to fulfill its intended purpose than the Creator Himself!”

With all of this and the many dear friendships I had developed through church and work, I began to realize that God was nudging me to use my talents for His purposes. Paul’s words “compelled by the Holy Spirit” really describe how I have felt with each step of change this year.

In October 2005, I resigned from my full-time job and quickly following that, Dr. Peter Cole asked if I would consider organizing and operating Scalpel At The Cross. He and his wife, Nancy, had founded this medical ministry in 2004

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A Gift of Light, Hope and Surgery to Peru

Thru the Eyes of a Child

by Peter A. Cole, Jr. (written in 2000 at the age of 6)

"My First Trip to Peru"

I remember our first trip to Peru,
when we flew over the ocean blue.

We arrived in the jungle,
with many a bundle,
and determined what we were to do...
We brought Christ's gospel to tribes,
in the process risking our lives.

But a small price to pay,
for the Lord to this day,
is central in making us thrive!!



Seeking to Serve

by Ken Boje, R.N., May '06 Mission Team

When I heard from Peter and Nancy this spring that they would need another team member, I knew the need was significant, as I know Peter and Nancy have a strong desire to reach out to the Peruvian people, and the request was not taken lightly. My work schedule as a full-time RN, and father of four children is not accommodating to lengthy time off from either, however, I immediately felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, which was stirring my desire to serve. Within one day, I was able to confirm that my work schedule could be shifted. I knew only God could make this work, as I have never in five years had this amount of time off at such a short notice. It was a true blessing to be able to share the time with my youngest son, Philip, and the news of the trip was wholeheartedly supported by the rest of our family with excitement.

This trip was my first experience out of the United States, and I have never had the opportunity to spend time with missionaries and a foreign people. To see and be a part of a society that is underdeveloped, and yet so close to the United States left me with both a desire to help in the future, and yet a disappointment in understanding how a

people can be at the mercy of what appears to be Godless or misdirected leadership, as was apparent in our conversations with the friends we have come to know in Peru.

My view of the world and of God's creation and people has been altered forever since we returned. To be honest, I am still in wonder of God's mercy and protection he afforded the 2006 team. As for Phil, he continues to quietly receive the message of what the world of missions means, and what a commitment this means, such as he saw at SAMAIR, and the families involved. I know he deeply wants to serve God, and this opportunity hopefully will have some lasting impressions on him; as for me it certainly has.

I look forward to hearing about future plans for Scalpel At The Cross, and will continue to pray and encourage all involved in this wonderful missionary outreach.

Sincerely in Christ,
Ken and Phil Boje





God's Power of Transformation ***(continued from page 1)***

and needed someone to help them in this way. I felt confident that this was the Lord's plan for me.

I am continuing to learn lessons from God thru these experiences. I am learning that by seeking out and following God's nudge, He is able to reveal His plan. The more you open yourself to Him and the more you set aside your own will for His will, then, the more He can do with you. He will begin to form you and use you for His purposes. Through many small steps of listening and following, I can already look back over the past year and see the leap that He has carried me through.

In reflecting on all this, I can tell you, my own life is being transformed. During my MBA classes, they are teaching about Transformational Leadership. In my life and my walk with the Lord, I am learning about Transformational Following.

I know that it does not end here, the race is not finished and the task is not complete. (What an exciting challenge!) It is my hope that you too may become His Transformed Follower. I hope you will be excited for God's plan in your life, and collectively, in the life of His Church Body. Who knows, you may be next to experience God's wonders in the Amazon!



In Sympathy

We are saddened by the loss of one of our dearest supporters, Mrs. Carol Schutte. Carol was a passionate friend and supporter of the mission. She is most assuredly now in heaven.



A Journey Through Time: Scalpel



1990 Coles' 1st Trip to Peru

The Coles' first journey to the Peruvian interior was characterized by saucer-eyed fascination and wild-minded imagination. Together with the Gahagens, the couples ran primary care medical clinics for three different Indian villages along Amazon tributaries.



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1988 Meeting in Miami, FL

By providence, God landed a young missionary couple from Peru by the names of Craig and Heather Gahagen, into an adjacent apartment to Peter and Nancy Cole just off the University of Miami campus. Nearly immediately, a special bond and lifelong friendship was born!



1998 Combined Opportunities

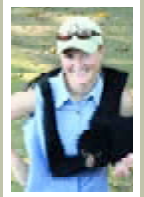
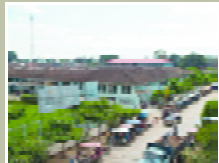
By 1998, educational teaching opportunities sprung up miraculously throughout South America for Dr. Cole, including three consecutive annual conferences in Lima, Peru, where Peter was invited to lecture on the treatment of different types of broken bones. Each time, the trips were extended a week to visit the Gahagens in "La Selva," the lush Amazon basin east of the Andes, mostly unknown even to the majority of Peruvian natives.



Scalpel At The Cross

2001 Pucallpa Hospital Introductions

On one of those jaunts to Pucallpa in 2001, Peter meandered into the fledgling Hospital de Pucallpa in the middle of this town of about 250,000 inhabitants, and within minutes befriended several surgeons including two orthopaedic surgeons, and the Jefe de Ciurujia, Dr. Ernest Renjifo.



2006 Mission Director and 2nd Team Trip

In God's spectacular fashion, an enthusiastic and capable servant, Mrs. Lisa Schroder, appeared from thin air and as of January 1, 2006, assumed the duties of running the mission. In addition, in May 2006, a second team trip to Pucallpa was accomplished.

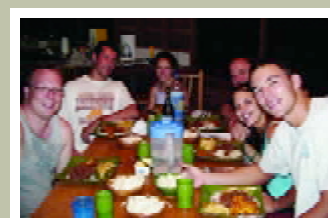


2004 Scalpel At The Cross becomes Official

By Christmas of 2004, the 2,600 square foot Scalpel At The Cross Guest Lodge was completed and a Board of Directors was formed.

2003 Land Purchase

In 2003, the opportunity for the Coles to buy a plot of rainforest availed itself. It was just adjacent to the home of the Gahagens on the SAM aviation compound at the end of a long, winding, dusty, dirt road, and wrapped around a beautiful lagoon. Peter and Nancy snapped it up!



2005 Inaugural Team Trip

In June 2005, Peter, daughter Danielle, and a team of five key servants who Nancy and Peter identified as important ministry resources, traveled to Pucallpa. This was the first official medical team trip to treat injured patients at Hospital de Pucallpa, and the inaugural move into the Scalpel Guest Lodge.



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Mission Moments – June '05 and May '06:

Scalpel At The Cross has already completed two official medical team trips. The first was in June 2005 when Dr. Cole and daughter Danielle traveled to Pucallpa with a team of five key servants. This was the first team of medical and non-medical members to join Dr. Cole in the treatment of patients at Hospital de Pucallpa. This trip also included the inaugural move into the Scalpel Guest Lodge. The entire occasion was truly momentous and filled with the Lord's confirmation.

The second team trip occurred in May 2006. This trip was also monumental in that the team grew to eleven, including an amazing mix of dedicated adults and energetic youth, who all served willing in any capacity needed. On both occasions, it was exciting to see how the Lord brought together these groups into temporary families that worked together, fellowshiped and cared for the patients, the missionaries and one another.

Our teams also include a foundation of family and friends who act as prayer warriors, lifting a shield of protection around the teams as they travel to and work in the exotic conditions of the Amazon Jungle.



June 2005 Team:

Peter Cole with daughter, Danielle
Bob Korljan with daughter, Lisa Korljan, and son, Scott Korljan
Chad Robran
Trent Whitcomb

May 2006 Team:

Peter and Nancy Cole with children,
Danielle, Peter Jr. and Channing
Ken Boje with son, Phillip
Diego Herrera
Chad Robran
Lisa Schroder with son, Jacob



Both trips combined the strain of working hard in third world conditions with the joy of experiencing tremendous gratitude and love from the Peruvian people. We worked in the clinics and operating rooms of Hospital de Pucallpa Regional during the days. Each evening, we joined old friends and made new ones with resident Christian missionaries of South American Missions, SAMAir, and many others over meals, during worship services and through participation in various local cultural treats!

Each team was able to complete two to three days of clinics, where approximately forty to fifty patients received physical examination, x-ray review and consultation. Following this, an additional three days were spent operating side-by-side with the medical team at Hospital de Pucallpa. By working together in this way, the Scalpel At The Cross

mission teams provide patients with surgical care that would not otherwise be accessible to them. In addition, this offers an environment where the joint medical teams share information and training to enhance surgical skills and improve future patient care.

It is of special note that the tribal Indians were flown to town by SAMAir mission flights and accompanied and supported by the local Christian missionaries working in the Shipibo tribes. Also, the visiting medical teams were able to provide surgical care for two of the North American missionaries themselves, who did not feel comfortable receiving care locally but were also not able to travel home for the procedures. This is an important part of our ministry to the area of Pucallpa.



Prayer Points

We ask you to lift in prayer the following...

- PRAISE the Lord for the successful birth of **Van and Vanessa Brock's** little **Clara** in spite of the hardship surrounding her coming into the world.
- Healing of **Craig Gahagen's** lower back which has been strained and is currently being worked up under Peter's guidance.
- Divine counsel on the timing and constitution of team members for the next **Scalpel At The Cross mission trip** as well as the financial means to make the trip successful.
- Understanding God's will regarding the opportunity for interfacing with the aviation mission **Grace On Wings** to possibly alleviate issues surrounding carrying necessary medical supplies into the country without confiscation.
- Protection and enlightenment during **Lisa Schroder's** upcoming trip to Pucallpa with another medical mission as we seek to better understand how to successfully bring teams to the Amazon.



Pirhana Bites

- **Lisa Schroder** will travel to Peru with Dr. Shea's team in October.
- Scalpel team is planning **2007 trips**.
- The mission finds **aviation ally** in Indianapolis.
- The Scalpel At The Cross **Prayer Posse** takes shape.
- **Jacob Schroder**, aka Jacobo, wants to become a mission pilot following May '06 experience.



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A Christian Medical Mission to the Peruvian Amazon