



Scalpel's Edge

What Does the Name Scalpel At The Cross Mean?

By Peter A. Cole, M.D.

The name *Scalpel at the Cross* provides powerful imagery. These four words capture the essence of a medical ministry which began as an expression of one surgeon's call to service.

The scalpel is the main tool of a surgeon, distinguishing the surgeon with certain capabilities specific to his training and interest. *The scalpel therefore symbolizes one's career and talent, as well as one's most vital tools and resources.* A surgeon's livelihood has demanded inordinate preparation, and a consuming commitment to the care of patients; so much so that surgery is not simply what a surgeon does, but rather what he lives and what he is. Surgeons are passionate.

All of this: our tools, resources, talents, experiences, livelihood, commitments, passion, in fact who we are and what we live, should rest right at the foot of the cross to represent not simply a donation, but a sacrifice of our entire life to God.

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Learning To Serve the Lord

By Lisa Korljan, 2005 Mission Team Member

When I traveled to Pucallpa in 2005, I was in the middle of nursing school. At that point I was not well versed in medical jargon, possessed a very basic repertoire of skills and had very limited insight to what medical missions really consisted of. Everything about what I had to offer the team was relatively unremarkable at the time, but what I brought out from the trip was deeply remarkable, deeply convicting and fueled a passion that I hope continues throughout my entire life. This is not meant to be an overview of the trip, but rather a highlight of one of the insights that impacted me the most.

First off, the trip to the city was just fascinating for me. I didn't think I had specific expectations before we got there, however when we arrived, reality set in and I was deeply surprised and fascinated. Here was a bustling and perhaps growing community of 300,000+ which seemed to have many of the amenities we would expect in a city of that size: shopping centers, gas stations, churches, hospitals, restaurants etc. However, in Pucallpa, everything was somewhat devastated. I thought I had personally seen horrendous poverty before, but I was aghast at the depths and profoundness of this type of poverty; bamboo

homes with no ceilings that had to be rebuilt every year because of storms, shoeless children wandering the marketplace alone, elderly Indian women swarming our car in groups of eight trying to sell twenty-five cent beaded bracelets. Forget refrigeration or clean water.

After seeing all this I really didn't know what to think about what the hospital was going to be like. What kind of technology would they have, what would the patients think about their care? At first glance I noticed the patient rooms where I counted up to six people in one. Then I saw the torn screens in the patient windows that leaked with disease because of the flies that were able to travel in and out. On the surface I saw so much potential for our medical team to "help" these people, arrogantly thinking that we had all the wisdom and ability they lacked. In my pride I thought about all the good we could provide and give the hospital, the staff and the patients.

To so many people in America, including myself, it is so easy to elevate our technology and provisions as if they had anything to do with our personal greatness. Yet, God personally handcrafted every one of

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Through the Eyes of Children: Anacondas

By Danielle, Peter Jr. and Channing Cole

In researching the topic of Anacondas we had hoped to find out information that might help us, practically, in our dealings with this population of snakes around our guest home in Peru (i.e., how to safely remove them from their dwelling in our Jungle Bunk's gutters). Though we came away with very little in the way of Anaconda removal "protocols," we DID manage to learn some interesting things in our studies:

- This snake is also referred to as a water boa, because its preference is water even though it oftentimes sunbaths on land along the water's edge or in shallow caves. It prefers swamps to swift-moving rivers due to the calmer nature of the water. This would explain why our Jungle Bunk gutters provide the ideal habitat for the anaconda, as our house is situated in a tropical rainforest over the wet and marshy bog of the Ucayalli River! Ut-oh!
- Savannas, grasslands, and scrub/deciduous forests are also attractive settings for the anaconda, so apparently we "share" these intriguing creatures with friends from other environs.
- Anacondas can stay submerged under water for at least 10 minutes, and thankfully, move more quickly through this medium than on dry land. This comes as good news for our beloved friend and board member, Chad Robran, as he should have just enough time to run away from these slithering snakes which he finds so anxiety provoking:):)
- Considered the biggest snake in the world (reaching lengths of 29 ft.+ and weighing 330-550 lbs. with a girth of 12 in.), anacondas can swallow prey of practically any size due to their ability to unhinge their jaws. A typical diet might include: aquatic reptiles, fish, frogs, turtles, peccaries, mice, chicks, birds, capybaras, dogs, sheep, and deer. We'll try to keep them "happy" by providing enough of these aforementioned delicacies that these snakes won't have to do what has been reported on a few occasions, namely, attack humans.
- Anacondas may not eat for weeks or months following a meal because of their slow digestive system. There is an anaconda in captivity on record as having not eaten for over 2 years due to



This baby anaconda was found in a rain gutter at the Scalpel At The Cross mission camp during a recent missions trip.

the lethargy of its digestive track. Perhaps we humans could improve our consumption habits by taking some tips from the anaconda! Interestingly, the female generally outweighs the male in this population. Watch out men; don't mess with her!!!

- The typical life span of the anaconda is around 30 years. Giving birth to live offspring, the anaconda generally has a litter consisting of 20-40 babies that are approximately 2 ft. in length, but have been known to birth up to 100 neonates at a time on occasion. Yikes! That's a lot of "little guys" floating around in the mire...
- Being constrictors, the anaconda is not a poisonous snake. We should all be relieved about this fact as we do not have to worry about a venomous bite. It's just the slow acting squeeze and tendency of the anaconda to pull its prey under water to drown it that sort of sends chills up our spines. Would Houdini have any tricks up his sleeve to assist if/when in a vice grip by an anaconda? We'd best keep researching!



Inspiring Mission Trip Inspires a Whole Family to Serve on Next Mission

In 2006, I embarked on my second mission trip with the Scalpel at the Cross team. Going back for my second trip was an easy decision after the incredible experience I had on the first trip in 2005. In fact, after the visit's to Peru, the experience has had so much impact on my life and the way I view the world now, that I am signed up for a third visit in July and this time I am taken my wife Melonie and my 3 year old daughter Aliyah. I am hoping that this next trip will show my family what I have learned and experienced. The Peruvian Natives who we work with are some of the most amazing people I have ever met. To me it is amazing that a society who lives without any of the amenities that we see as necessities is so content with their lives. I remember coming back from the first trip and spending the following week here in the U.S. adjusting to a society which seems to take a lot for granted. After the first trip I remember thinking how every young child in the U.S. should experience a mission trip and how it would help them truly appreciate all that life has to offer. I guess that's why I am starting with one child at a time and taking my daughter on this next trip. I am looking forward for Aliyah to meet the Peruvian children from the tribes and learn about their lifestyles. I also can't wait to help the medical team provide medical care to the people in need. It is an incredible feeling to give to people who need your help.

Chad Robran
U.S. Field Director, Scalpel at the Cross



Chad Robran poses with a group of Peruvian children during his 2005 Scalpel at the Cross missions trip.

Piranha Bites

- *Our July mission team is packed and ready to go!* (Well...Almost!) A 21 person team of medical and support personnel, youth and adults, are preparing to depart for Lima , Cuzco and Pucallpa on July 13, 2007.
- *Our missionary friends and medical staff from Peru* are already contacting us to line up several patients to be seen by the team in July.
- *Doctora Rosa Escudero Figueroa* and her husband, *Miguel* have become important liaisons for Scalpel At The Cross in Lima . They have already been a blessing and a great resource helping to organize many aspects of the up-coming trip.
- We celebrate with May '06 team member, *Dr. Diego Herrera* originally from Venezuela, who landed a spot in a U.S. orthopaedic residency program in Alabama . He will be missed in St. Paul as he leaves his post on Dr. Cole's clinical research team to begin his career in Orthopaedic Surgery.
- *The Scalpel Board Members* held a successful and productive meeting in St. Paul this past February. Many foundational items were addressed as well as future goals set for the organization over the coming year. The Q2 '07 meeting was held in a few short weeks ago in Chicago.

Board Member Bio: Nancy Elaine Hodge Cole Through the



“Fancy Nancy” as she is commonly known, was born in West Lafayette, Indiana where her dad was a Purdue faculty member in the school of agriculture, before he was transferred to Bakersfield, California with The Ralston Purina Company as a specialist in ruminant nutrition. However, Nancy truly hails from the great city of Saint Louis where she was raised from the time she was three through high school. She took all the best qualities of a Midwestern girl to college, including a few strong virtues passed along from dad who ran the Hodge family, Rushville, Indiana corn and soy farm since the time he was twelve (when Dean’s dad passed away), until he matriculated to Purdue.

In other words, Nancy is a worker; and she is exacting, modest, and conservative.....but she is also kindhearted, very loving, very loyal, and perhaps most of all empathic! Her type of Love is the kind any husband and family could hope for....the Love distinguished by day-in-&-day-out sacrifice. These are the strengths she brings to her marriage of twenty-four years, and to motherhood—now fifteen!

Vignettes from her childhood are best told by her mom, Freda, who if Nancy had a little devil in her (fortunately she does **J**), it most certainly came from Freda aka “Mimi”, along with traits of hospitality, curiosity, and a dedicated sense of motherhood. Oh yes—and one other major trait...she is a talker...very social, and she certainly gets that one from Freda. The kids like to kid that she (and her mom) can come out of the public restroom (when everyone thinks they have been lost) emerging with a new friend. “Nancy was the one daughter (the middle of three), who had to learn for herself, never wanting me to show her what to do or how to do it.....she always needed to do it her way” recounts Freda with amusement. I am reminded of hearing Mimi

recall how Nancy insisted on playing the Bass in the orchestra, and hauling the thing to the bus stop and on the bus, despite her 4’9” frame (she is now almost 5’ 1”!). The Hodges were an avid equestrian family (all equestrian families are avid!), and Nancy was an accomplished rider in the American Saddle breed Class.....her room chuck full of ribbons, chalices and trophies from many a triumph. Nancy is a natural leader, not because she wants or needs the spotlight, but because she is a mission driven individual. She suffers from the twin saintly curses of, “okay, if no one else will do it.....” and “it’s just easier if I take care of it.”

Nancy Elaine strayed far from home to go to college in Atlanta, where she would meet the love with whom she would spend her life, but she went with the intention of preparing for a career in medicine, when she aspired to being a psychiatrist, a field which captured her interest and which drew her heart toward those who were afflicted by disorders of emotion, personality and mind. Despite being accepted to Emory’s Early Acceptance Program for medical school as a junior, she and Peter knew by the time they were seniors that a 2-MD household was not compatible with the standards they wanted for family and marriage. Perhaps unusual by today’s norms, but also a product of meeting your spouse early in college, and their own upbringing in traditional homes. Nancy’s resultant career choice landed her on stage with a diploma from Emory in 1983—Magna Cum Laude (Phi beta Kappa) and with the distinction of Highest Honors in Psychology. These academic circumstances would begin to paint a colorful mural of career and family choices which have directly and indirectly influenced countless souls in any and every season of life. But there were growing times at Emory for Peter and Nancy, and I do recall her distinctly sharing her favorite verse with me during certain troubled times, *“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”* Matt 11:28-30 This remains Nancy’s favorite verse!

During a couple of pivotal years in St. Louis, Nancy and Peter got married, and became Christians at Old Orchard Presbyterian Church in the quaint and humble, heavily wooded town of Webster Groves. Though Nancy grew up with the strong influence of a church, it was pastor Ron Lutjens who challenged the young couple during a weekly book study (*Knowing God*, J. I. Packer), “Did you ever look at Jesus as having come to the earth to die specifically for the sins of Nancy (and Peter).” Up until that moment in Ron’s candlelit study, the concept of Jesus dying for the sins of mankind was somewhat of an abstract and historically recorded phenomenon with no personal connection. From this point forward, Nancy’s outlook changed to one of living life as an expression of her gratitude for God’s saving grace, seeking to emulate the example He gave to us in His Son Jesus. She will

The Eyes of Her Husband, Dr. Peter Cole

also explain that it was the strong encouragement from father-in-law Papi (after his conversion by missionaries while in South America), and her sister, Elizabeth, who independently helped set the table for her conversion by sharing their own faith-journeys as they came to similar realizations in their own life. The Lord, in His mercy, saw fit that Peter's conversion occur from a similar church background, and with the same pastoral guidance from Pastor Lutjens. Nancy and Peter would spend twenty-four months being closely discipled by the Old Orchard family before jumping out of that spiritual nest for their own faith flight.

During the St. Louis years, Nancy completed her Master's training in Clinical Psychology from Saint Louis University, emphasizing child development and completing her thesis on a related topic of language acquisition. Peter and Nancy then moved to South Florida where Peter would pursue his training, while Nancy helped to build and run a child counseling practice using a Family Systems approach to diagnosis and treatment, melding nouthetic counseling techniques (most influenced by Larry Crabb) which were independently learned through self study and course work. By the time Peter completed his medical training at the University of Miami in 1990, Nancy's practice was bursting with kids, mostly adolescents with the myriad of psychopathology reflective of the fast-paced, culturally mixed, transient and ostentatious lifestyles of South Florida. But many of their homes had found promise in Nancy's uniquely empathetic and Christ-infused methods of family counseling. Another particularly significant event in the Miami life of Peter and Nancy which would profoundly influence their life mission, was when they met a young couple, Craig and Heather Gahagen from Peru. The significance of this story can be found at the *History of the Mission* prompt of the home page at www.scalpelatthecross.com.

Prestigious Butler Hospital, on a beautiful tree lined campus overlooking the Seekonk River on the East Side of Providence, Rhode Island, keeps quite (and quiet) an illustrious list of famous residents who have spent countless nights of affliction in the darkest moments of their lives, battling bipolar terror, personality nightmare, and schizophrenic confusion. It was here where Nancy joined the staff as a Brown University faculty member in the chemical dependency unit, where she labored with the profoundest of human psychopathology—thought and behavior which often seemed to mingle with satanic influence. At Butler, where her professional growth reached new thresholds of insight and understanding, she would spend three years before branching off again into private practice. Her Lighthouse Family Counseling practice literally overlooked Narragansett Lighthouse in the postcard setting of Narragansett Terrace, where they lived on the great Bay for four years. The Lighthouse metaphor was reflective of a clear new dimension in Nancy's counseling, recognizing the sophisticated interplay of spiritual

sickness and psychological illness. It was time however, for Nancy and husband to make their next move in 1997, after Peter's graduation from the Brown University Orthopaedic Residency program. But something mildly life changing for Nancy occurred in 1993 and 1995—the birth of Danielle Christine and Peter Alexander Jr. respectively. These beautiful little chippers stole significant heart, mind and soul from Nancy's bank of resources, so that by the time we moved to Seattle in 1997, she was eager to set work aside for a while to focus on these new loves of her life.

Peter and Nancy have often said that Seattle was the best year of their lives...and for many reasons, not the least of which for Nancy related to the quality time she now had to grow from fresh friendships and new family members. A wonderful new church with time to enjoy some inspiring life mentors was certainly one of the Lord's most timely gifts. In fact it would be Covenant Presbyterian who would become the first church sponsors of Scalpel at the Cross nine years later. Indeed our Seattle year was like a refueling stop, supplementing Nancy's resources with these people elements, in the setting of the awe-inspiring beauty of the Pacific Northwest, and the context of a mindset akin to frontier people. Seattle was awesome!

Peter's calling to academic medicine was strong, and this influenced his choice of first jobs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson which was a career-making experience of its own. The next 3 ½ years in Jackson would provide life-changing growth for Nancy and Peter. At times the southern cadence of life seemed to challenge some of those personality traits Nancy was blessed with, and indeed it was a common lesson to be learned by transplants, that Type A kinetics can be driven to challenging thresholds in the Deep South....and they were in the “deepest part of the deep,” they enjoy recalling. But there were also God chosen friends and gracious neighbors, a fantastic church pastor (and his wife Jeanie!), and a load of fond memories in the Tavern Hill neighborhood on the sunny Pearl River Reservoir. Those smiling memories were the first to include Nancy's third little baby, Channing Evan.....another life changing event in Nancy's life, and one she is convinced will also change the course of American history.

Now three kiddos strong, God hurled Nancy and Peter a line onto which they clenched hard, until they were pulled all the way up the Mississippi River to the banks of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. It is here they have resided since one blustery cold 2/1/2! Nancy may never have felt settled since marrying Peter (“Who wants to be settled?”), but her life and home in the little town of North Oaks has provided perhaps the greatest sense of this since jumping in that roller coaster twenty-five years ago. But she learned long ago, that her constancy comes from her Lord, “*I will be with*

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Be Steadfast in Prayer

By Nancy Cole, Director, Prayer Posse

As I was pouring over a passage in Daniel 10 recently, I was struck by its relevance to an experience our '06 mission team encountered last spring while ministering in Peru. Daniel 10 shares the account of Daniel's dealings (though unbeknown to him at the time) with what are now commonly referred to as "territorial spirits" (spirits which work in specific areas to bring darkness and destruction to people groups occupying those regions).

Daniel is burdened by a vision which is not entirely clear to him. Wrestling steadfastly in prayer and fasting for a three week period to better understand this vision, Daniel is then confronted by a heavenly being who describes himself as having come in answer to Daniel's prayer vigil. Verse 12 reads, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words WERE HEARD, and I have come IN RESPONSE TO THEM." God's messenger goes on to relay to Daniel that he was detained twenty-one days in coming (the exact number of days Daniel had been making appeals to his heavenly Father), due to opposition he faced by another supernatural being who was opposed to the things of God. Two demonic spirits, in fact, are mentioned in this passage as having to be contended with; it appears that Satan has appointed them, this time around, to suppress the truth of God's work in the specific territories of Persia and Greece.

Certainly the New Testament attests to these demons as well, in verses such as I Thess.2:18 where specific missionary activity is thwarted ("For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us.") and 2Cor.4:4 ("The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."), to name a few.

The reality of this behind-the-scene's warfare needs to serve, at the very least, as a prayer catalyst for us, especially in undertaking ministry to lands and people

groups (such as the Peruvians and native Indians therein) who may be just as deeply steeped in spiritual strongholds as those highlighted in the Biblical references above. Towards this end, permit me to share a succinct vignette attesting to God's having HEARD and RESPONDED TO very specific intercession on behalf of our team during last spring's trip to Peru.

Our medical team was six days into our mission, when I sensed, in a very graphic manner, the reality of spiritual darkness working at odds against our efforts to bring hope and healing to the Peruvian people. Little did I know that on the exact day that our team faced some relatively tense moments with the tribal council of one of the villages we were visiting, a beloved friend and prayer warrior in the Lord (some 1500 miles away) had awoken early that particular morning to pray for us. She describes herself as having been moved, the entire day through, to continually lift us before the throne of Grace and call upon the Lord's name that He might enfold us with His "hedge of protective mercy." The riveting of her spirit for a day's time sent her on a prayer trajectory for a very specific 12-15 hour period. I profoundly believe that these pleadings (that we might be surrounded by a bulwark of defense) also served to rescue us that very same evening from a potentially serious explosion with our mission base camp gas stove.

How gracious of our Lord to hear the appeals of his saint in Minnesota in the very moment we needed such specific intercession for safety in the remote parts of Peru. How God moved our friend and stirred her heart keenly to pray fervently for such a time as that is but a marvelous testimony to His sovereignty in and through and over all things. Brushes with harm—yes; evil fingers laid upon us—no! A striving to interrupt our mission focus during that short-term trip and thus keep the book of truth from being known and believed—yes; anxiety that the enemy was stronger than our Jesus—absolutely not!!

Although Eph.6:12 has always been of particular intrigue with its call to believers regarding the necessity of a spiritual warfare mindset, I have never been as personally awakened to the spiritual reality of "demons, evil spirits, principalities, powers, world rulers of this present darkness, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" as I was last May. In view of the realization that Satan is busy immersing himself in the Peruvian culture, and that he and his minions are in the business of creating as much evil and corruption and blindness as possible, I began asking myself how Scalpel at the Cross might do ministry in such a territory as this? Daniel 10 serves to remind and passionately convict me, as never before, of the necessity of fervent prayer cover. Growing up in the states has tended to shape my Biblical world view so that it fits "cleanly" with more natural (rather than supernatural) ways of thinking about the world. Thanks to reflection on Daniel 10, I feel more equipped to interpret incidents through the lens of extraordinary as well as ordinary means.

Oh that we as a people greatly loved by the Redeemer might purpose to wrestle in the prayer realm while warfare is waged in the spirit realm. The battle, in essence, is in knowing God and the power of the Holy Spirit and in being armed with promises of Christ's authority about our stature as children of God. May we, at Scalpel at the Cross, covet to pray in the manner that Daniel did.



What Does the Name Scalpel At The Cross Mean?

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The word *at*, signifies “at”...as in, not close by, not a phone call away, or just give me a holler, but rather right there— *immediately present*. The scalpel here is visible *at the foot* of the cross, not lying against it, on it, next to it, on top of it, or anywhere else in the picture. The scalpel is at the foot of the towering cross. The location *at the foot of the cross represents humility, availability, adoration, and sacrifice*.

What more *humble* location than at our Lord’s feet, acknowledging insufficiency and meekness in the shadow of His magnificence. At the foot suggests *availability*, “Here I am Lord right in front of you ready to be used in a way which would please you most.” At the foot conjures a sense of looking upward, or looking up to, as in *adoration*. Though the little drummer boy adored his Lord, he could only march his humble tune and drumsticks to the foot of the cross. That was his life and his life was his *sacrifice*. Those drumsticks are *this scalpel, a living sacrifice at the very foot of the cross*.

Notice the word *the* in the name Scalpel at the Cross. *The* is a huge word in this context. The name of the ministry is not scalpel at a cross since this is not just any cross. As there is only one true God, “*the*” signifies *the greatest cross, the only cross, indeed the way, the truth and the life*.

The cross is strong, sturdy, skyward, and towers above the scalpel. *The Cross symbolizes Father God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit*. These receive the scalpel sacrifice, look over it, use it, protect it, give it expression and great purpose. The cross is in fact the reason the owner of the scalpel exists in the first place, and the reason the scalpel lies where it does.

A scalpel is indeed a great tool of the physician, but only when it is razor sharp. *The scalpel at the cross is far sharper and infinitely more effective in the hands of The Great Physician Himself*.

Learning To Serve The Lord (continued from Page 1.)

us with His exact precision. For whatever reason, God has blessed Americans with resources and opportunities that many in the rest of the world do not have.

Is this because we are more worthy? Definitely not. I was ultimately humbled by what I experienced in the Peruvian hospital. I saw more integrity, honor, kindness and professionalism in the medical staff at this Peruvian hospital than I have ever seen in the hospital where I work at in Chicago. The people in the community, who had next to nothing, lived generously and compassionately in a way I have not witnessed in the states. Did I benefit this community as much as they benefited me? I certainly pray for that. However, in light of this, how do we as Christians use this “wealth” that God has entrusted us for His greater glory? Well for me, I hope to use my education as a RN and my time in the future as ways to be salt and light to the world. I can’t wait to go back to Pucallpa and give freely back what God has so freely given to me. My views of medical missions, serving, and life have forever been altered.

Prayer Points

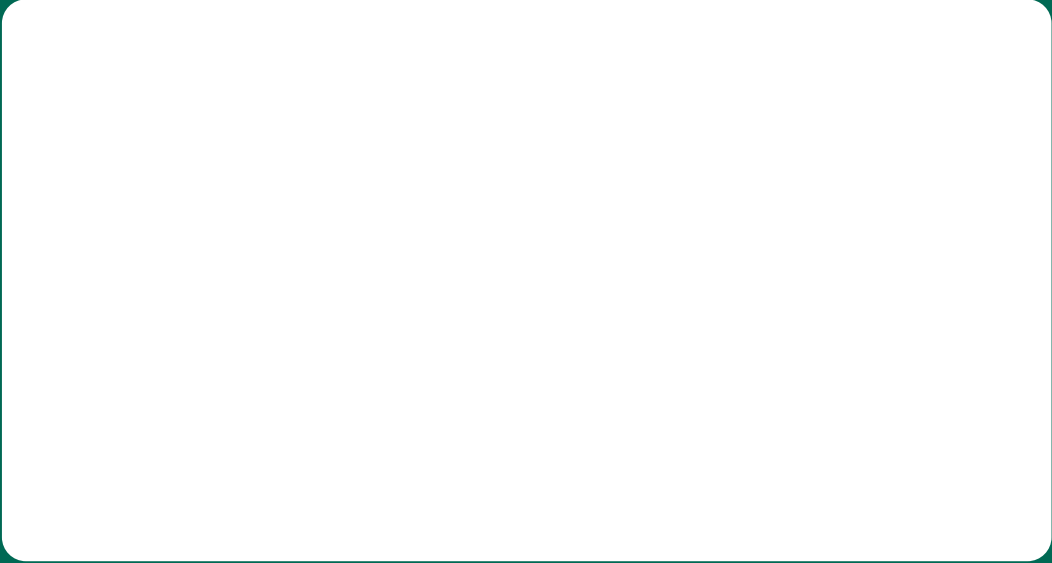
We ask you to lift in prayer the following...

- Please join us in giving thanks that from God’s glorious riches He has seen fit to offer us our first ongoing ministry support from *Christ Presbyterian Church of Issaquah, WA*. We pray enablement in consideration of other God ordained means of generating support. Towards this end, approximately half of our July ‘07 mission team members are fervently trusting God and making appeals for His financial provision for trip expenses to Peru.
- We exhort you to bend the knee, as well, for the *Julio Chiang Family of Pucallpa*, as various family members are in need of Jehovah Rapha’s healing touch. Specifically, *Oracio* is recovering from orthopaedic injuries sustained in an accident and *Rossy* is gaining strength after general surgery for a blood clot and intestinal issues.
- The *Scalpel Board convenes in Chicago May 5-7* with great hopes/expectations for strategic planning initiative development and implementation for the remaining three quarters of this year.

Thanks be to God for His continual mercies towards the soul care of His people!



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you all the days of your life....”, and her peace from His promises, “those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.” Though she may kid about the roller-coaster deal, she has loved that she lived in each and every place, and even more the people she has met on the journey, who she acknowledges have shaped her life so markedly, that she may be unrecognizable to a peer from high-school! In Minnesota, Nancy has ventured into some new career territory, proving she has a bit of risk-taking in her own blood. Though a curiosity since the Providence years, she now can claim the title of Home school Mom. She has successfully home-schooled Dani, Peter and Channing since 2002 (Danielle has now mainstreamed to high-school), in which she has incorporated a very broad-based approach to education, and one which stretches everyone involved. This has been a tremendous experience for the family, a result of customizing education beyond textbook and classroom, while integrating unique opportunities of family life. This approach for example has been instrumental in developing the Peru Amazon mission as a family project. Soccer moms in Minnesota are easily trumped by Hockey moms.....and this is true for Nancy who sports three skaters in the “State of Hockey.” But she makes sure that no sport reigns above the importance of her family’s spiritual life, fed tri-weekly by events at their beloved Bethlehem church and its spiritual leader, John Piper.

Nancy Elaine Cole is a beautiful lady inside and out, and she is at her best when challenged by someone’s heavy heart or groping soul. She loves her family, stands firm by her husband, and fights for her children—every time! She is mission-minded, and is truly invigorated by Scalpel At The Cross...what it stands for and what God may be pleased to do with it. She is motivated by listening to moms in the mission field, because no one else understands what they go through, nor how their children react. She skillfully draws from her background, to understand and unwind this dynamic about which nothing is written...yet for which God truly gives answers. And she is His helper in this regard, supporting our short term mission teams in similar fashion. She is a lady reflected in many of the beatitudes, either because of her own heart and spirit, or for those to whom she reaches out. If you have not had the privilege to know this sage and lovely wildflower, do make it a point to do so, and you will be blessed.