



# SPRING 2008 • ISSUE 4

## Scalpel's Edge

### Be Steadfast In Prayer

by Nancy E. Cole,  
Prayer Posse Director

Some time ago, as I was pouring over the passage in the Bible of Daniel 10, I was struck by its relevance to an experience that one of our past mission teams encountered 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" or spirits which work in specific areas to bring darkness and destruction to the 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 his prayer vigil. Verse 12 reads, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you

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### March 2008 Team Prepares for a Journey in Faith

by Lisa K. Schroder, Mission Director

Once again a team of volunteers prepared to travel for orthopaedic medical ministry has been masterfully assembled in a fashion only God could imagine. On March 15, 2008, individual team members and family "clans" will set out from 5 different US cities, as well as from the capital city of Lima, Peru, to land ultimately in the impoverished, yet bustling, jungle town of Pucallpa.

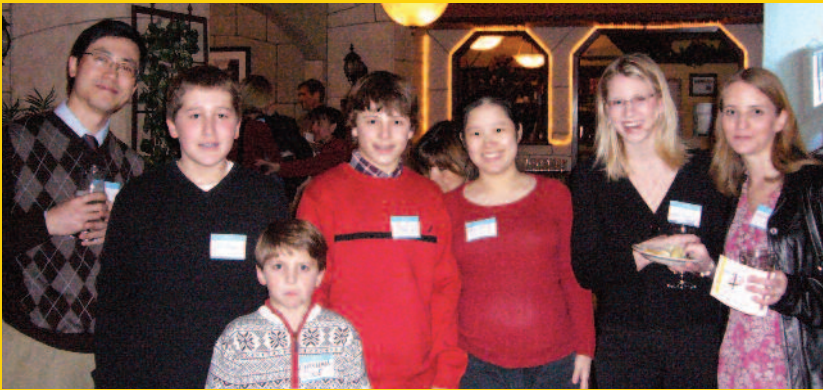
Our team includes first time US members: Dr. Kydee Sheetz, Adlai Cole, Kyle Schroder, and Justin Schroder and "repeaters": Chad Robran (3 prior trips), the Cole family (too many to count!), and Lisa and Jacob Schroder (2 prior trips). In addition, we will again be joined by our Peruvian friends and healthcare associates, Dra. Rosita Escudero and Dr. Jose Paredes.

Of note, Dr. Kydee Sheetz, an orthopaedic surgeon practicing in Duluth, Minnesota, contacted us as recently as January in what seemed to be yet another connection which could only have been divinely orchestrated. You see, every March for the last several years Dr. Sheetz has volunteered with World Medical Mission in Kenya, Africa. Due to the political unrest there, this year's trip had to be cancelled, but Kydee's heart for volunteering in orthopaedic medical missions was not deterred. She began to seek other opportunities for March 2008. Amazingly, our trip was planned at the exact time which overlapped with her original volunteer plans!

Experience has taught some of our team members to expect the unexpected. Individual assignments are often unknown. The twists and turns of the trip that lie ahead are hidden to us now. The magnificent ways in which God may mold us as individuals and use us as His instruments can only be imagined with youthful excitement. Yet, by packing our bags with strong faith in our Sovereign Lord, a loving heart for sharing the Gospel of Christ, and willing hands for performing any task which is asked of us, we know that God will provide purpose and protection throughout the successes and the challenges encountered on the trip.

## A Gift of Light, Hope and Surgery to Peru





## Fundraising Highlights:

The new year has started with a bang! 2007 brought various fundraising ideas to the Scalpel Board as we were challenged with an awareness that the Lord is leading us to the construction of a clinic in Pucallpa to better serve and minister to the Peruvian people. After discussion, prayer and information gathering, we settled on two ideas which have come to fruition in the recent months.

The first idea was the creation of a *Scalpel At The Cross*, 2008 Mission Calendar. We have so many beautifully descriptive photographs of Peru, the people, the country, the culture and the opportunity in Christ. We felt it would be a fantastic pathway to share more of these images through the creation of a calendar. (If you didn't get one, but would still like to have one...contact us today!)

Another idea, which the Scalpel Board put into action with the help of many, was a Peruvian dinner and silent auction fundraising event. February 21<sup>st</sup> brought together a unique cross-section of friends of the mission including co-workers, neighbors, church friends and many others, all together in one venue, the Machu Picchu Restaurant in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The evening was simply *FANTASTICO!* Everyone involved shared from the heart and from the feedback we've been given, it would appear that it moved the spirits of many who were in attendance with us that evening.

We just praise the Lord for planting seeds of ideas, providing the resources to bring them to completion and blessing the results with the perfect outcomes. As one of my favorite songs says, "Thank you, Lord, for making our garden grow!" We know that the harvest is plenty and there is much to come as we press forward in service to Him.





# Through the Eyes of a Child

## David & Alfredo

**(Pronounced Daveed and Alfraydo)**

**By Channing Evan Cole (with the help of big Bro Peter)**

David, age 16, and Alfredo, age 15, are two Shipibo boys that my brother and I befriended about four years ago. We first met them when they were fishing in the Ucayali River where we became as fascinated by the brothers and their fishing methods as we were by the piranha they caught. The friendship was solidified following a few matches of futbol (the equivalent of American soccer). It's humbling, but BOY can they really play that game!!!



Channing Cole

Across time it has become amazingly clear to us that despite language and cultural differences between the Indians and ourselves, we're actually more alike than one would think possible, particularly as it relates to common sporting interests. Boys must simply be boys, wherever they happen to grow up!! Our mothers probably could have told us that now, couldn't they?

While David and Alfredo have to live in town (the city of "Pucallpa") away from family during the school week due to their inability to afford daily transportation back to their jungle abode ("Cashibo"), the way they spend their weekend leisure/recreational time at home looks strikingly similar to the way we spend ours...fishing, competitive sports, doing odd jobs, and simply "hanging out."

Perhaps we derive most enjoyment from our Indian friends in anticipation of the exchanges we make at the beginning and ending of each of our trips to Peru.

The boys give us jewelry made by their sisters, beads, fish teeth, alligator scales, monkey bones, and in return, we give them interesting foods, clothing, and athletic gear that they're otherwise unable to obtain. At age 7, it seems like a bargain to me...at age 13 it seems like a deal to my brother...whatever your age, we bet you'd like to get in on the action as well! Consider yourself invited to come on down.

We'll introduce you to these beloved friends in person!!!



David and Alfredo



## Prayer Points:

Please pray for:

- Peace and protection to surround the team while traveling to and working in Pucallpa, March 15<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Lord's continued leading to the right opportunities in fundraising, achieving His goals for 2008 initiatives, which we feel includes constructing a clinic facility in Cashibo Cocha, establishing a medical liaison in Peru, and identifying willing sponsors for "critical case care" of Peruvians whose injuries are too complex to be addressed in Pucallpa.
- Thanksgiving for God's provision of friends who are presenting our ministry to their churches and organizations for support, for doors which are opening in Peruvian customs (Aduana) for the shipment of medical equipment into the country for mission use, and for connections which are made bringing new team members to bear in joining our efforts in Peru.

### Psalm 25:4

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**



## Be Steadfast In Prayer

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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 2 Cor.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 Peru 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 by a friend on behalf of our team during one mission 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 “evil spirits, dark principalities, or powers in the heavenly places” as I was last May. In view of the realization that such supernatural influence may exist in the Peruvian culture, and that the Devil may be in the business of creating corruption and blindness such as is described in Daniel, 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 covet to pray in the manner that Daniel did.



## Board Member Bio: Peter A. Cole, M.D.

By Nancy E. Cole



Whether wielding a scalpel in the O.R. during a long and complicated polytraumatic injury case, counseling a family over their loved one's instantaneous and dramatic life change following an unexpected accident, lecturing trainees in the newest state of the art technological surgical advances, interacting with the best minds in orthopaedic trauma as part of an international think-tank, spearheading team unity on a mission trip to his beloved second home--Peru, cheering on his children in their varying academic/musical/athletic pursuits, hosting a University of Miami Hurricanes National Championship/Boston Red Sox World Series/New England Patriot's Super Bowl party, or returning home with a unique and highly personalized selection of gifts for his beloved family after having been away for a season...one overarching theme colors the life of Peter A. Cole...that of reckless abandonment to his Lord and Savior in his varied relationships and spheres of influence.

Adventurous, tenacious, passionate, bold, creative, faithful...all describe Peter and the abundant joy he finds in laboring with God in his diverse roles as doctor, minister, professor, visionary, administrator, director, father, friend, and cherished spouse. God's design of Peter's life is, for all intents and purposes, unparalleled, and makes for what could be referred to as robust and abundant living. Unwilling to live a predictable, risk free, unremarkable life, Peter follows closely after His Lord who chose the "better" (self-sacrificing) way for the greater good. He seems to recognize that any life that is protected and clung to is of little use to anyone and particularly so as it relates to building the kingdom of Christ.

Rather, Peter has sensed his calling to Christian healthcare as one which privileges him in standing at a crossroads with those who are often seeking both physical relief and reconciliation with their Maker. In the grand scheme, Peter uses medicine, as God graciously permits, to defeat disease and the consequences of sinful man and ultimately sees this healing as part of God's bigger redemptive plan. The ability to use healing as a means of touching lives and introducing those who are unbelieving to faith in the One true God is both an incredible blessing and charge. It takes someone who has that special blend of humility, self-sacrifice, confidence, compassion, and interpersonal artistry.

The framework of Peter's noble character was formed early on in his life with cross-cultural exposure, multiple moves/adjustments between Latin America and the States, a strong family unit, eclectic academic venues, influential professional mentors, hard knocks and challenges, and a persevering God whose hand was steadily guiding and salting each experience with a grace and mercy that only He can deliver. To God be the Glory for having gifted Peter as He has, and from whom much He expects in the utilization of those talents!

### ***Psalm 90:17***

***"May the favor of the Lord our  
God rest upon us; establish the  
work of our hands for us-  
yes, establish the work  
of our hands!"***



# Letters to Share



Dear Friends of the Mission,

I thought you would be interested to hear that I recently travelled back to Lima. A whirlwind 10-lecture/48-hour tour to their orthopaedic academy meeting....and out! But, I had a great time. The people were fabulous and so grateful. Peru is so dear and was wonderful. I stayed across from "Larco Mar," a beautiful shopping and dining plaza overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Lima, but I only had one brief dinner there on the cliffs during my stay.

There were 500 doctors from all around Peru (making up most of the orthopaedists in the country!), and, wouldn't you know, Dr. Paredes, our close orthopaedic surgeon-friend and co-laborer from Pucallpa, was in the front row for every talk. He was so proud, I think, to be associated with the mission and all of us... particularly as I incorporated *Scalpel At The Cross* into a number of my talks, including the Presidential Guest Lecture in which I gave a brief talk on the ministry and the meaning of the name, *Scalpel At The Cross*. Many, many interested doctors!

There is a tight knit group of traumatologists in Lima that offered everything from staffing support at Hospital de Pucallpa to joining us for trips when we go. This is a wonderful and extraordinary core of people. Some of them are very talented and are good references in the case that we or our missionary friends have orthopaedic trouble while in Peru.

One night in Lima, Dr. Paredes took me on a tour of his hospital in Lima, where he now works, Hospital de Emergencias, which was full of earthquake victims. His boss, the Jefe (Chief of Surgery), Dr. Juan Cangalya, is an exceptional human being, very interested and helpful.

Dr. Paredes and I got to share some Chifa (a Peruvian-Chinese Cuisine) after the hospital tour, and I was able to share the gospel with him. He is starting to recognize the difference between religion and a personal relationship with Christ. He wants to go to Pastor Brian VanderKodde's church when he is in Lima and to the mil Palmeras church when he is in Pucallpa. I thought that was great. Jose has moved to Lima temporarily, but seems unsettled as to how long he will stay based on the health of his daughter. He stated and restated that he would travel to Pucallpa with us whenever we go.

I'll anxiously wait to see how the Lord might use these willing hands and hearts to expand the reach of the mission in Peru!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Cole'.

Peter Cole

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\*\*\* Send us your letters! We'd love to hear your thoughts & share them with our readers.\*\*\*



## Creative Origins of a Gift

### With Gratitude to the Matanky Family

Scalpel At The Cross received a donation from a most unlikely source—a party.....a Halloween party at that—Yikes! The story of how it came about highlights the many unusual ways the Lord works, and we can only presume in this case with a sense of great humor. For while this wonderful family's household party may have emanated in a remote sense from ghoulish origins, this was a western style blow-out at the Matanky Eco-Mansion on Cochina Drive in the dusty desert foothills of the Phoenix burbs. Soooo....what does that have to do with the Scalpel mission? I am getting to that!

Dr. Bryan Matanky and Mrs. Carla Matanky from Phoenix, Arizona, are close friends of Peter and Nancy Cole, founders of Scalpel At The Cross. Bryan & Carla and their wonderful children Joey, Jonah, Jacob, and Jasmine took the Cole's up on an adventure-challenge to visit the *Scalpel At The Cross* mission camp in the Peruvian Amazon back in July 2007. Amazingly, the relationship dates back 25 years to college at Emory University in Atlanta where Bryan introduced Peter to Nancy, beginning the love affair from which many things spawned, including of course, *Scalpel At The Cross*. So in one providential sense, Dr. Matanky is responsible for the ministry around which we rally today! Bryan was Peter's roommate for three years, and the best man at the big wedding on July 28, 1984. Soooo... what does that have to do with a gift? I am getting to that!

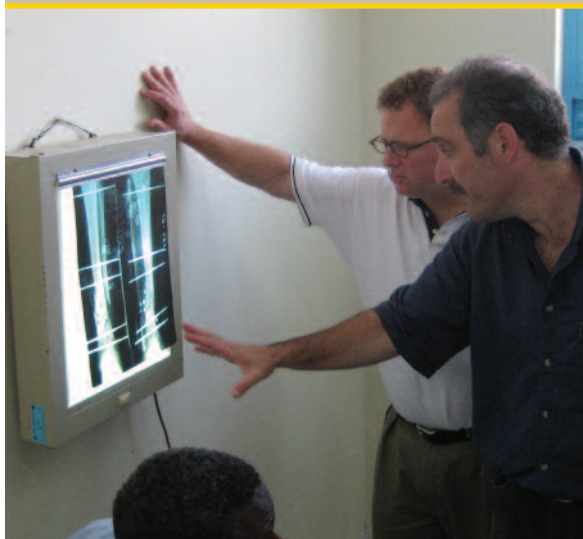


*Carla and Bryan Matanky decked out in western gear.*

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Last summer, the whole Matanky family was instrumental to the success of the Scalpel tour with their servant hearts, sense of adventure, and zest for a great time. They brought much cheer to the team amidst the hard work of that week, and were so moved by the cause of 3<sup>rd</sup> world medical ministry, that they abruptly extended their trip by a day to get twenty-four more hours of work in at the hospital. Bryan, an orthopaedic surgeon, and Carla, a registered nurse, were themselves an unbeatable team at Hospital de Pucallpa last summer. They returned to the United States with a nagging feeling of wanting to do something more to help the mission. They sent a letter to the mission in September stating that they were converting their annual Halloween party to a Scalpel At The Cross fundraiser, and with those plans in mind set up a booth inside their home for the evening in front of a life sized electronic screen flashing images from their "summer family vacation." The task of the Matanky kiddos, Joey, Jacob, Jonah and Jasmine, was to solicit gifts from party participants—and did they do a job fleecing their parents' guests! They netted a sensational \$1,100, which was forwarded to the mission as a Christmas gift for 2007.

Dear Matanky's, from the bottom of our hearts,  
Thank you.....for your creative and wonderful donation!  
With warm gratitude,  
Scalpel At The Cross





**Scalpel At The Cross, Inc.**  
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**A Christian Medical Mission to the Peruvian Amazon**