



Knowing the Heart of Scalpel At The Cross

by Bob Korljan, CFO & Board Member

Scalpel At The Cross is a small mission by most standards. In a day when many fine and very large, non-profit organizations exist in the world to do their part of Kingdom Building, Scalpel serves as a reminder that God does often use the small things of this world to accomplish large things for His glory. I don't want to be presumptuous in making that statement; I am just grateful that Jesus considers even a cup of water given in His name to be significant in His eyes.

When I say small, I am speaking in context of our resources of people and money. In 2007, our revenue and expenditures were right at \$100,000 for the first time in our short existence. In 2008, due to some real faithfulness by friends of the ministry, our

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How Many Ways Can You Cook A Peruvian Banana?

by Dr. Kydee Sheetz, Spring 2008 Mission Team Member

You would be amazed at the versatility of the lowly banana. Happily, I enjoyed all of the cooking methods including baked, fried, deep fried, and mashed. Many thanks to those of you who prayed regarding this medical trip. As a member of the Scalpel At The Cross team, I was blessed to travel to Pucallpa, Peru in March. It was a great experience.

I left Duluth early the morning of March 14th, after completing my morning chores on the farm, and flew to Newark, where I had an overnight layover and then met up with the rest of the team for the flight to Lima. Upon our arrival in Peru, Customs was concerned with two of our members and their luggage, but thankfully we were all eventually approved and released without excessive customs' fees. This was all completed well after midnight, so we were grateful to find our hotel in the dark. On Palm Sunday we drove through Lima to visit a church. We made the "mistake" of arriving over an hour early. It's amazing how God uses human error for His glory. Since there wasn't much of anything to do at the church that early, one of the coffee fans in our group talked us all into going to a Lima Starbucks. After buying our beverages, we sat around chatting. A Peruvian lady, Janet, who was sitting in the coffee shop, overheard our conversation

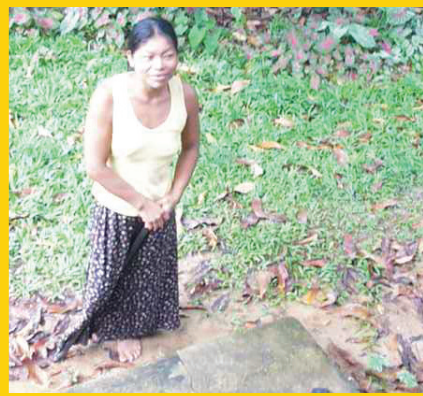
and came over to say hello. She is not a Christian (yet!), but had a family member with some orthopaedic issues and had just been praying for a sign regarding what to do. Needless to say, running into two orthopaedic surgeons and a full surgery team minutes after this prayer stunned her! We chatted about what to do (she had the x-rays with her) and also invited her to church. While she initially refused our invitation, we were thrilled to see her at the back of the sanctuary a couple of hours later. Apparently, God's answer to her prayer was too compelling to ignore! After church we enjoyed a traditional Peruvian meal which consisted of a mixture of potatoes, meat, bananas, yucca, corn, etc. all put in a clay pot and baked under coals in a fire – deeeelicious.

On Monday morning, part of our team visited the primary trauma hospital in Peru

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A Gift of Light, Hope and Surgery to Peru



Alejandra's Amazing Amputation

by Danielle Cole, Spring 2008 Mission Team Member

Another day that had started early at our Jungle Bunks had brought me here, to the small yet tidy Swiss Mission clinic. I found myself crammed in a tiny room with a few missionaries, doctors, and Peruvians, all looking on with curiosity and anticipation. She sat on the table warily, yet inquisitively, staring back at us as her amputated leg was being measured as accurately as possible. We only had crude tools available with which to make these fine measurements. The accuracy of these numbers was important as they would be brought back to the United States and be used to make a successful prosthesis for this twenty-one year old amputee, Alejandra.

We all stood slightly amazed, as the Swiss missionary couple that had helped bring Alejandra to us, recounted her story. As a 4 year old child in a Shipibo Indian tribe, she had been bitten by a snake and the route taken for treatment was amputation directly below her knee. Therefore, she had grown up basically her whole life without the use of her right leg, but had compensated for it with the use of a stout wooden stick that she used as a crutch. Her creative mobility and ability to function so normally astounded us all. However, the trials and tribulations she had experienced because of her stump were quite overwhelming. Being labeled as an outcast socially, she was rejected by her tribe and even marked as a witch. Such things as marriage also alluded her, as no man saw her fit to be a wife or mother. Alejandra was basically left to fend for herself with her baby boy in the unprotected mountains and jungle. Her life took an unprecedented turn, however, when a Swiss missionary couple took her and her son into their own home. They nurtured and cared for her, showing the love of Christ through their willingness to take her in, just as Christ did "for the least of these." Through fellow missionaries, they became aware of this God-sent possibility for Alejandra to be able to obtain a prosthesis, an option that could change the course of her life. Seeing this opportunity as unsurpassable, Alejandra, with the help of other missionaries traveled the long and strenuous terrain that separated this Shipibo girl from a new direction in life. All that is what had brought all these people into the tightly-packed examination room.

The hardest part of it all was the fact that it would probably be another year before the prosthesis could actually be brought back to Pucallpa for her to have. I found myself quite disappointed about this news, and I wasn't even the one who had lived almost the entirety of my life without a leg. As the Swiss mission couple gently told her this, I closely watched her face, waiting to see some profound sense of disappointment. I was rather surprised at the accepting nod she gave as she was told that she would have to wait another year for her leg. She felt at least slight disappointment, I'm sure; but she walked out of that examination room with a "can do," "keep living life" attitude. She had lived without a leg for seventeen years already. I guess she figured she could wait for one more. So to conclude, I can't wait to see how God completes this journey and to be able to write Part II of this Amazing Amazon Amputation story...

Through the Eyes of a Child

Similarities and Differences

By Adlai Cole, Spring 2008 Team Member, Niece of Dr. Cole

I have gone down previously with my church in Boston on mission trips to the capital of Peru -- Lima. When I've been on these trips, I have done mostly construction. The Calvary Chapel pastor in Lima, with whom we partnered, Brian VenderKodde, is building a church and school for children in Puente Piedra. This is the only time in my life that I have laid and painted bricks as well as mix cement. I've also helped with doing mimes for the purpose of evangelizing.



Adlai Cole

On the most recent trip I made to Peru with Scalpel at the Cross, I took note of similarities and differences both, between the mission projects in the city of Lima with Calvary and those in the more remote area of Pucallpa where Scalpel is based. Spanish is the predominant language in both areas, although the jungle also has its share of tribal languages which are spoken by the Indians along the Amazon. In the Hospital de Pucallpa, I noticed that very little, if any, English was spoken. Yet, while in Lima, it is not uncommon to hear English being used. Also the Lima skies were generally overcast, but the Pucallpa skies were blue with a billowy white clouds. With the guest lodge in Pucallpa being situated above the Ucayali River, the jungle activities revolved around water recreation (swimming, fishing), unlike in the city of Lima which is much less village-like and more similar to a big U.S. city.

Allow me to share with you what I believe God's plan was for my day at Hospital de Pucallpa. During one morning, I went on rounds with the medical team. There was a small surgery for a girl named Juliana that I had decided not to watch. So, I sat down on a stool outside of her room. While I was sitting there, a girl came up to me and asked me what my name was and how old I was (and of course other things that I didn't understand due to language differences). She kept wincing and looking like she was using all of



her energy just walking around. She then opened her hospital frock and showed me a very large bandage (which I'm guessing was from surgery). I felt so bad for her. I took her hand and told her (in broken Span-

ish) that she should sit down. I wanted her to smile so much. I wanted so badly to give her a present or a piece of candy to simply make her smile. At that point, I was called to carry on with the medical team, but somehow felt as if in saying "good-bye" I was leaving her to die.

Thankfully, though, I was told to pass out toys and lollipops with my cousin, Peter, a bit later in the day. The first place I went was to Juliana's hallway; she was sleeping after having had her surgery, so I left there and went to the room where the little girl was that I had befriended earlier. She was lying on her bed looking somewhat bored and stressed. I gave her a lollipop and let her pick which toy she wanted most; she seemed pleased and then smiled. It felt so good to know that I had made her smile and that she had a glimmer of happiness. I took a picture with her and her mother who jumped up and gave me a little hug. I left that room with a smile on my own face, knowing I was able to bless this young girl.

God works everything for good. If I had watched the surgery of Juliana, I would have never met this girl nor would I have realized how much I've been blessed by God with a home, family, and very good hospitals in the Boston area. I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to be included in Scalpel's latest mission trip. Being involved with the medical side of evangelism has opened up my desire to possibly follow a medical career.



Peter, Adlai and a young Peruvian patient in the Hospital de Pucallpa.

Psalm 115:15

**May you be blessed by the Lord,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Knowing the Heart...

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budget will be over \$200,000. Much of this extra money will be used to build a medical clinic next to the Scalpel guest lodge in Pucallpa, Peru.

When giving to a non-profit it is important to know the “heart” of the ministry and those who lead it. Clearly, in the case of

Scalpel, the heart of the ministry is the heart of the founders, Dr. Peter and Nancy Cole. Their desire to seek and serve the people of the Peruvian Amazon has been evident to me for two decades. Because we are a small ministry, the task of fundraising is also a special challenge. We need to rely on friends, family, acquaintances, and readers of this newsletter to respond to the call of God for this mission. I suspect that Scalpel will always be “small” by most

standards, but we believe it will be significant for those whom, by God’s grace, we help. To quote our founder, Dr. Cole, our vision is, “To fill a healthcare chasm with the combined resources of the church, academic medicine, and industry, by propagating the love of Christ to physically and spiritually needy lives.”

As such, Scalpel is a unique ministry. There are few people willing and able to accomplish our goals. However, this is our calling, and, by God’s grace and help, we do seek to fulfill this vision. So, it is with great enthusiasm that we ask you to consider donating to this cause. We have many important initiatives that we will undertake as people and financial resources become available. We look forward to keeping you abreast of our progress and look with you with anticipation in our goal of building a medical mission camp which serves the orthopaedic needs of Pucallpan Peruvians and tribal populations served by Christian missionaries in the Peruvian Amazon basin.



A rendering of the new Scalpel building.

Prayer & Praise Points:

- We are basking in God’s goodness to us and His tangible confirmation of the expansion of our work in Pucallpa as evidenced by two very substantial donations which will allow us to begin construction on the medical clinic we have envisioned for some time now (situated adjacent to the Scalpel Jungle Bunks Guest House)! We have secured 85% of the down payment necessary to begin building, so would appreciate prayer cover for the attainment and security of the supplies and the welfare of the architect and his work crew who will be undertaking to begin this project immediately.
- Join with us, too, in offering thanksgiving for having been selected “Mission of the Month” by one of our area churches. This July, Scalpel will be the recipient of any mission’s gifts (monetary and otherwise) donated to St. Michael’s Church of Bloomington, MN.
- We were also pleased over the outcome of two surgeries of our SAMAIR missionaries, Kara Gahagen & Tom Mitchell, and would ask that you continue lifting up these precious friends of our ministry as they are restored to full health.
- The Coles would ask that you prayerfully partner with them as they travel to Virginia and Washington over the summer to lift up God’s banner of truth as it relates to the gospel of Christ and Scalpel At The Cross, specifically.
- Our Scalpel Board needs wisdom in going forward with the hiring of two additional personnel (one stateside and the other, Peruvian) in terms of formalizing job descriptions and salaries. Growth is welcomed, yet the program development aspects are challenging. Pray that we might bring Glory to God’s name as we increase our staff and ministry capability accordingly.



Bob, Lisa and Scott Korljan with the 2005 mission team.



Dra. Rosita is “checked” by her son Sebastian.

Board Member Bio: Bob Korljan

By Ginger Korljan, Wife of Bob Korljan



Bob & Ginger Korljan

Bob Korljan, a man of God and a sinner saved by grace, loves to point people to the person and work of Jesus Christ, and hates to draw attention to himself. Therefore, when it was time to write a “bio,” for the Scalpel newsletter, he turned to me, his wife, Ginger, and I have the privilege of telling you about the man, whom many consider an “enigma.”

Bob is a financial planner and CPA. He is also a teaching pastor of Roosevelt Community Church in downtown Phoenix, a newly formed independent church whose mission is to engage all people with all of Jesus. “How does one become a financial planner and pastor?” you might ask!

Bob and his sister, Bonnie, grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, where their parents, Bob and Jeanne Gale Korljan, were both chiropractors. Before the age of 19, Bob had no background in the Bible or things of God. Then, as a student at Arizona State University, he was invited by a friend to attend a church retreat. Bob still recalls one of his first questions to the leader, “What is the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament?” From that point, the Lord continued to work in Bob and, after some intense Biblical teaching and genuine soul searching, Bob became a Christian by giving his life to Christ while sitting on a beach sidewalk. After this turning point, he became involved in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at ASU and kept learning about the Gospel and its relevance to all of life.

By 1976, a whirlwind of milestones and changes were occurring in the life of this young man. First, he married Jayne Jernberg, a beautiful young woman who had captured his heart while they were both in college at ASU. Bob also successfully completed his licensure to become a CPA and he began an accounting practice in Phoenix. During this busy time of significant life changes, the Lord continued His work and Bob felt the calling to return to the classroom, but this time to Seminary. In 1977, Bob began his studies at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, while continuing his professional work as an accountant and financial planner.

After achieving a Master of Divinity degree,

Bob and Jayne were led to Rhode Island to plant a church called Berea which was part of the Presbyterian Church. During this time, Jayne, a talented writer, was busy with family responsibilities and supporting Bob in his pastoral duties. Also, she was actively publishing articles on many Christian topics. She wrote and taught on pro-life issues, home-schooling, and Christian contentment, and she was very involved in a prison letter-writing ministry and counseling for crisis pregnancy centers. It was during this time in Rhode Island, that the Coles and the Korljans came into fellowship and developed an enduring friendship.

Jayne suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and lupus much of their marriage, and was severely ill the last few years before her death in early 2004. Bob and Jayne returned to Phoenix in 1992, in an effort to help Jayne’s medical condition due to climate. Bob decided to return to the financial business, allowing for greater focus on the needs of Jayne and the kids. Yet, he remained very active in church ministry then and now. Bob and Jayne were married for 27 years.

Together, Bob and Jayne have four beautiful children who are now grown and firmly rooted in the foundations of God’s love. Scott, 28, is currently completing his Coast Guard commitment and plans to move this summer with his wife, Lindsay, to San Diego to attend Westminster Seminary. Lisa, 24, is a recent graduate of nursing school and is currently living in Phoenix with her husband, Sean Codier. Dawn, 23, is a high school physical education teacher. She and her husband, Adam Beyer, are also living in the Phoenix area. Kristine, 20, is a student at Phoenix College and is studying deaf sign language interpretation.

Bob “met” Ginger through their shared affiliation with Covenant Seminary. Ginger’s first husband, Doug Madi, was a pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian church in St. Louis, Missouri, at the time of his sudden death. He taught homiletics classes at Covenant Seminary and kept in close touch with former professors for spiritual guidance and encouragement. When he died the same month as Jayne, their deaths were both included in the quarterly alumni magazine published by the seminary. When Bob read of Doug’s

death, he wrote a letter of encouragement and support to Ginger and her three children, Jim, Melody and Christy. Ginger responded with her thanks, and she and Bob became “grief buddies” for the next many months (and now years). After further meetings, family involvement, prayer, and time, Bob and Ginger were married in November 2005 with all seven children participating. Their blended family now boasts 12 in all!

Our marriage has not been a traditional one, given the fact that we were both very happily married to our former spouses and each raised a family with them. Yet, God has been faithful in bringing us and our completely different lives together. Today, we have established our home in Phoenix with Christy and Melody, now age 13 and 15. Meanwhile Jim, age 19, attends the University of Missouri as a business student. We are grateful to see him during summer and holiday breaks.

Bob’s desire to be involved in the Scalpel At The Cross ministry began with an appeal from Peter and the Cole family in 2004 when they requested that he assist in both spiritual and financial guidance for the creation of the non-profit organization. Bob quickly realized the need for such a ministry in Pucallpa, Peru, when he, Scott and Lisa joined the Coles on a trip in 2005. They experienced, first-hand, the poignant need of the people. Lisa actually assisted as a nursing student in some of the surgical procedures and was impressed by the quality of care they were able to provide. Bob and Scott helped with the finishing of the newly built mission guest lodge as well as got a general feel for the ministry in this impoverished Amazon jungle region.

Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” (Matthew 25:40) We as human beings made in God’s image need to care for people who do not have the advantages that we do in the United States. This ministry allows us to participate as a partner in Jesus’ continuing work, and Bob is grateful to be a small part of that. Scalpel At The Cross is our small effort to strive to follow the commands of the Gospel, to care for the least of our brothers.

How Many Ways Can You Cook A Peruvian Banana?

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and chatted with the administrators while seeing on some of their patients. We then met the rest of our team at the airport and flew to Pucallpa, which contrasted sharply from modern Lima. Pucallpa has about 300,000 people spread out over a large area with all one story buildings and shacks. Due to the climate (hot, humid, buggy) the “real” buildings are mostly made of concrete with tin roofs but the squatter-type houses are made out of anything that you can think of. The river was near it’s annual crest, which meant that many of the squatter houses along the river were only accessible by canoe.

The rest of our time in Peru was devoted to clinics, seeing patients on rounds and doing surgeries. The types of trauma were quite different than what I’ve seen in Kenya, where I’ve served previously. Unlike Kenya, where people hunt with spears and bows and have limited firearms access, most of the worst injuries were from gunshots. In the jungle, hunters set traps, which consist of a trip wire connected to the trigger of a gun. While this is an effective way of catching dinner, it also results in many tragic injuries to children and adults, who accidentally encounter the traps and are shot at close range in the ankles and legs. The most memorable patient for me was a young man, who caught a blast in the hand and blew off everything but a portion of his thumb. I did a reconstruction in which I moved several bones around, and then I assisted one of the Peruvian doctors in creating a flap of skin from his leg to close the wound. The patient has quite a series of challenges ahead of him. He is an Indian, who lives in the jungle, and he found the busy, noisy, traffic-filled, Pucallpa a bit overwhelming.

The operating room ran quite smoothly as my Spanish speaking nurses did their best to understand this non-Spanish speaking surgeon. One particularly dedicated nurse worked with me to learn the names for the instruments in Spanish. Asking for them in Spanish was certainly more efficient than my rather entertaining gestures and sound effects! Another patient with a challenging problem was a young man who caught a machete across the wrist

resulting in the laceration of virtually every tendon and two major nerves. I felt right at home as I put him back together. Thankfully, my hospital in Duluth had donated just the right sutures to do the work.

The limited resources of the hos-

pital were dramatically demonstrated in this patient, two days later when I went to change his dressing. The hospital has virtually no supplies. When anything from anesthetic to plaster is needed, the patient’s family member has to cross the street to one of the local pharmacies to buy it and bring it back. This patient’s family was obviously well prepared as the patient had a grocery bag with two rolls of plaster, cast padding, and a pair of gloves for the surgeon (me) to use. Tragically, patients without the ability to buy such items usually receive virtually no care. While our team was there, we did our best to provide everything from our stock supply, but at other times patients can really struggle with the lack of basic medical supplies.



A typical home in Pucallpa on the Ucayali River.

Psalm 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth”

Once again, many thanks for your prayers. Your petitions for safety, medical wisdom, appropriate medical supplies, and being used to witness of God’s love were fully answered. While I don’t know if or when God will call me back to Peru, it was a time of learning and blessing both for me and my colleagues.

Praise The Lord!

It is awesome to see our Lord at work in the hearts of many in such significant ways! We are excited to report that Scalpel At The Cross has recently been gifted monies for the purpose of moving forward on 2 key initiatives. The first is the construction of the clinic in Cashibo Coche and the second is the purchase of the SIGN Nail system. We have been collectively praying over these projects, seeking guidance and working to discern the Lord’s will. We are so grateful for the generosity of each of you and feel a great sense of excitement and responsibility as we embark on this most significant stage of growth.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!, for uniting with us in prayer, travel, and donations of all shapes and sizes! How wonderful it is to be an instrument of the Lord! Many praises will continue to be lifted for your obedience and generosity in sharing!

2 Corinthians 9:13 (NIV)

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.”

Heartfelt Thank You's

Once again, we are thrilled to express our sincere gratitude to so many of you in our growing family of supporters, who have provided significantly, through both material means and prayer cover, for our most recent trip and our on-going ministry as a whole. Specifically, we would like to thank our co-workers, schoolmates, friends, family members, church families, and many other colleagues for providing our March 2008 team with many thoughtful gifts of personal care products, hand sewn satchels, Spanish Bibles, clothing and toys, over-the-counter medications, and medical and surgical supplies, just to name a few! Our bags were bulging with your generous gifts of love for our Peruvian patients and their families. Also, we would like to thank Dr. Kydee Sheetz and the Stryker Corporation for arranging significant donations of surgical supplies and additional power instrumentation necessary to complete the orthopaedic procedures for this and many future trips.



Doctors Escudero, Sheetz and Cole are all smiles as they pose with a happy local missionary patient.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

Remember this: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

First Time But Not The Last...

by Kyle Schroder, Spring 2008 Mission Trip Member

It's hard to pinpoint one special moment for me, I have so many. I have seen video's, pictures, x-rays, emails, and heard stories from my wife Lisa, Mission Director, and my son Jacob, but to actually see Peru first hand is a wonderful experience. It started on our first day in Lima at a small Christian Church of about 50 people. The people sang with so much spirit and loudness that all of Lima must have heard them. What a way to get heart and souls ready for the mission ahead of us.

In Pucallpa, I had some lasting impressions from seeing the jungle for the first time to watching surgery. God has gifted these surgeons, who were performing the surgeries. They reminded me of skilled

carpenters repairing and putting lives back together as our Lord Jesus Christ does.

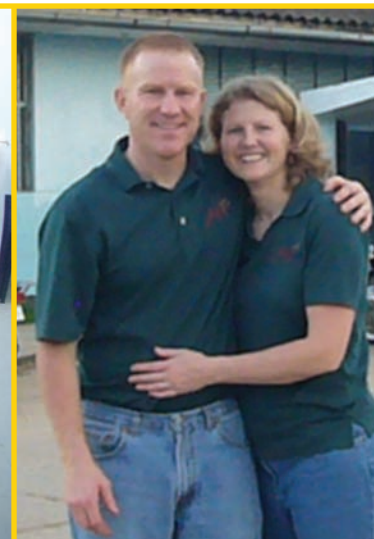
Helping on rounds was wonderful. However, seeing patients lying in beds with horrible injuries and no pain medication was hard. Their eyes seemed to light up as we made our way to their rooms and beds. They seemed to have had hope that these Scalpel At The Cross teams could somehow help them.

My most memorable moment was when I saw a little girl sitting with her mother on a bench waiting for her uncle. It reminded me of the song "I Saw God Today." I was struck by this shy, small-framed girl that was as beautiful as any girl I had ever seen



before. She didn't have much in clothing, so we gave her a sack from my son, Justin's class that had clothes and a few small gifts in it. She seemed to enjoy the gift but still remained shy; I did get a touch and the look of her warm eyes and an appreciative smile.

We are all God's children and after this trip I feel anxious to return with my family and any of you that are willing to help spread God's love.



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A Christian Medical Mission to the Peruvian Amazon

