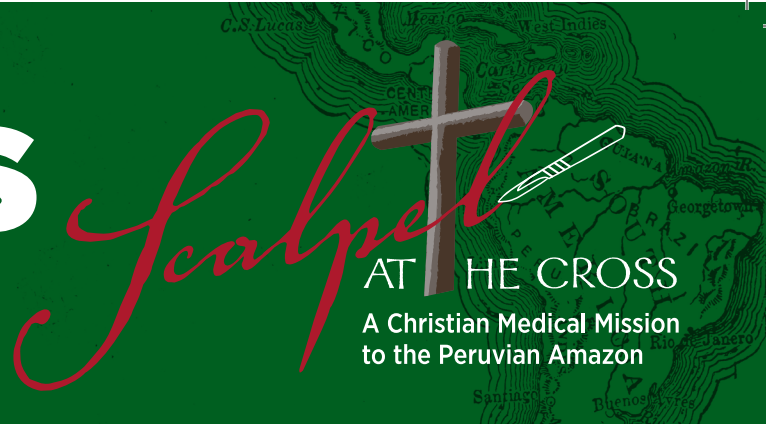


SCALPEL'S EDGE



A GIFT OF LIGHT, HOPE AND SURGERY TO PERU

FALL 2021 | ISSUE 35

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“Whether time, talent or coin, “Give and ye shall receive,” says Luke 6:38, summing up this prominent exhortation to humanity (to you) from our Lord.”

—Peter A. Cole, MD

GIVING IS A GIFT TO THE GIVER

by Peter A. Cole, M.D. - President,
Scalpel At The Cross

No, COME BACK reader!

I can only imagine you turning the page faster than you can read that title. Who wants another appeal for a hard-earned wage?! For those still reading, LOL, you can only be overwhelmed by the blessing of giving -seek it, do it, be it, because a true giver lives with joy and abundance- every one of you, every time. That's a fact, but why do I say this? Whether time, talent or coin, “Give and ye shall receive,” says Luke 6:38, summing up this prominent exhortation to humanity (to you) from our Lord. This claim underscores the entire purpose of God almighty, who is, always was, and always will be, the ultimate giver. Our maker is our example; think about that. It is God's desire for us to be more like his son who gave his own life in the face of mockery and contempt. You can never out-give the Father, the God of all creation. This reality is a mind-stretcher if you are willing to get into it.

But it's even better! The promise for us to receive in return for giving is only the starting point. Consider the rest of Luke 6:38, “Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Woah folks! This statement should boggle your mind. I'm downright giddy contemplating this reality, literally laughing as I wonder how this lands on you, “... return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together, to

make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap....” Oh my, six sequential phrases pile on the point that your giving multiplies the gifts which will return to you.

The response to giving should be as automatic as the response of Pavlov's pups, it seems. If it is true giving is multiplied in return to the giver, then why don't we see giving in abundance by everyone? On the contrary, it seems in the United States of America, so many pursue the opposite of giving, which is to amass wealth for one's own security. In other words, as a generalization, people in our richest of all countries do the very opposite of what the bible says we ought, despite the greater blessing we could experience by giving rather than amassing. It is not my primary point to come down on America here, which is also the most generous country in history, in dollar terms; but it is entirely possible we like our cakes while devouring them too. Meaning, perhaps it is true we live in such abundance that giving in material terms is easier, but less sacrificial. I do love our country and its people, and that is why I am writing now on the topic. Let me state plainly, we could be far richer if we became a people of givers rather than amassers.

“Give, and it will be given to you—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, overflowing, be given into your lap. For whatever measure you measure out will be measured back to you”

Luke 6:38, TLV

Continues on page 2

GIVING IS A GIFT TO THE GIVER

The point is, real giving is far more of a purpose than an action. Giving is a condition rather than a transaction. The giver seeks blessing over receipts for tax benefits. Giving is all for love and none for recognition. In fact, ultimate giving, which yields God's full blessing, is absolute surrender explains Andrew Murray (1828-1917), the historic, South African pastor and author who writes in *Absolute Surrender*, "God expects it, accomplishes it, accepts it and maintains it." Claim this truth for yourself, dear reader. The greatest gift of humankind, indeed the pinnacle of the history of eternity, was Jesus rising from the dead and ascending to heaven for union in

holy trinity, having sacrificed his life on the cross, where he was nailed and foisted vertical with spikes of thorn into his scalp and rancid wine for his dying thirst—for you.

What a perfect time of year to refresh perspectives on giving as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, which are simple holiday recognitions of the very topic of this essay. We at Scalpel At The Cross understand how many directions you are pulled to donate your money, and we know there are many worthy causes to which many of you are committed. As you have learned in these last few issues of Scalpel's Edge, we are hard at work to

present one of these causes, The Miracle Campus, to you. We seek to spread the love of God through medicine and surgery and rehabilitation in the Amazon jungle where these services are not otherwise available. Perhaps the spirit will lead you to a more profound sense of giving to support our new Miracle Campus and the ministry at large. I used to feel much more uncomfortable, if not guilty, asking someone to give to Scalpel At The Cross, but as I understand better that giving is a gift to the giver, it is my hope and prayer that I am providing blessing to you with this appeal. †

MIRACLE CAMPUS MISSION

To further the impact of Scalpel At The Cross through the development of a campus that supports the spiritual, orthopaedic, and socioeconomic needs of our patient population and those who serve them.

Local Leadership Development



Spiritual



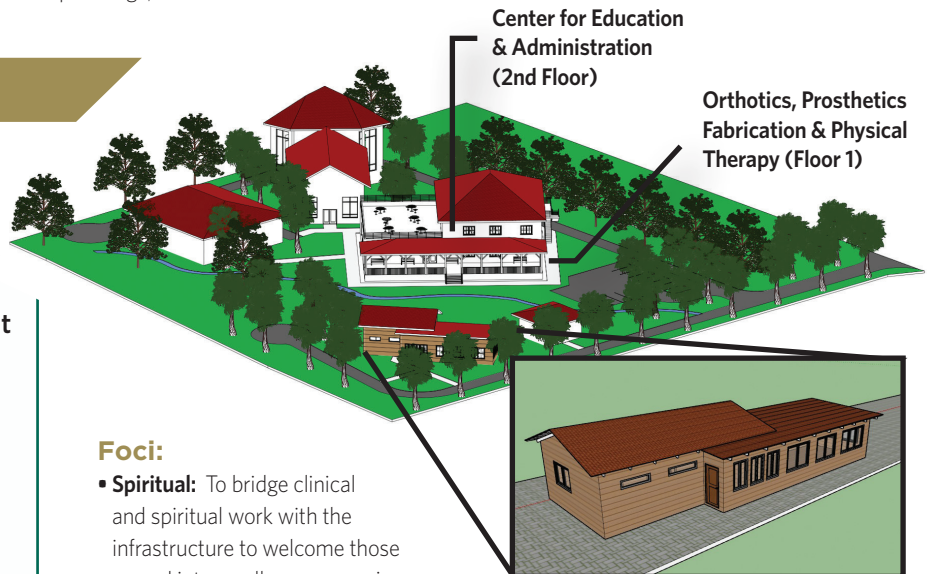
Orthopaedic



Strategic



Miracle Campus - Aerial



Foci:

- **Spiritual:** To bridge clinical and spiritual work with the infrastructure to welcome those served into an all-encompassing campus home, where people feel safe and encounter the love of Christ, experiencing both physical and spiritual restoration.
- **Orthopaedic:** To elevate the level of care provided in the Ucayali region by supplying local clinicians with a broader continuum of facilities, resources, and training to offer patients the best possible experience and outcome.
- **Strategic:** To work collaboratively with local leaders to identify community assets and support sustainable development through educational exchange and job development in areas of physical therapy, orthopaedics, and orthotics and prosthetics.

Phase 1:

*Scalpel Staff Home

*Orthotics, Prosthetics & Physical Therapy Center

-Orthotics, Prosthetics Fabrication & Physical Therapy (Floor 1)

-Center for Education & Administration (Floor 2)

FAITH LESSON

by Dawn Beyer

My mom was very sick and frail for most of my life, dying when I was a teenager. When I got married years later, I didn't know basic cooking techniques. Sew? What's that? Mother/daughter pedicures weren't something we experienced together. But the lessons my mom did teach me were much bigger and deeper – she taught me about faith. Even through constant, extreme pain and disappointments, she never swayed in her love and devotion to Jesus Christ. She followed God's call for her life in impossible circumstances. Only a life in Christ could possibly bring that outcome.

Now that I am a mom myself to three kids, it's easy to forget the lessons she taught me. It's easy to get caught up in daily things that don't really matter. Any parent can tell you kids are going to teach you a thing or two about both your sanity and sanctification. Being a mom to three kids has exposed weaknesses in my character like nothing else has. I also know as a mom that it is part of my privilege to pass my faith on, including lessons on fruits of the spirit, generosity, forgiveness and study of God's word. Honestly, the list goes on, and you just pray some of it will stick in their small, formidable hearts as their faith begins to form, that I can be an example of faith working itself out right in front of them. I had the ultimate example of that myself. This has been my prayer for our 10-year-old, Caleb. Little did we realize that, so early on, he would be teaching us so many of these faith lessons.

Caleb would have been my mom's first grandchild (if she were alive today, she would have 12, with one more on the way). It is ironic that he is teaching me some of the same lessons my mom taught me so long ago. He has a heart sensitive to the Holy Spirit and to God's word unlike any I have seen in a child. When Caleb feels God calling him to something, he doesn't see limitations like we do. He just starts the work of doing what he has been called to do, an example of childlike faith. There is no embarrassment or second-guessing for him. How I wish I was more like that! When he told us he wanted



to start raising money for Peru, we said "Great." Then he told us he wanted to raise A LOT of money for Peru - \$100,000! We said in our hearts, "Not possible." Thankfully, we didn't say that out loud. Caleb started by selling his toys. For his birthday, he asked for cash and started doing extra chores to put his allowance toward this fund. As his passion grew, so did ours, and we knew we wanted to come alongside and rally our troops to help raise money for the amazing Scalpel mission. God used Caleb's faith to do a very big thing. Perhaps, even bigger than raising \$100,000 - he showed us what can happen when we follow through on God's calling, big or small. We are humbled by family, friends and people all over the country that gave generously.

This could not have been accomplished without the support of so many others who believe in Scalpel At The Cross and the Scalpel team.

Caleb, I want to be more like you when I grow up! You remind me what is most important - more important than a clean house or home-cooked meal. It's faith in our creator God - that he will carry out in us what he calls us to do - as we are faithful to that call. My heart needs that reminder. ✝

**You can listen to Caleb's podcast, "A Kid On A Mission", on Spotify!*



SCALPEL: A LIGHTHOUSE FOR CHRIST

By Tim and Timmy Lindquist



Tim: Our introduction to Scalpel At The Cross in July of 2018 was unforgettable. My son Timmy, a soon-to-be college freshman, and I traveled to Pucallpa, Peru with a Scalpel medical team. Scalpel surgeons evaluated patients and performed 25 orthopaedic surgeries for Peruvians with crippling injuries, some heartbreakingly long-term. With each surgery we saw hope restored to patient and family. More than that, we told them about Jesus, the only source of real hope.

Given the high pace and focused goals of our trip, our understanding of Scalpel's spiritual impact was limited to the immediate work God placed in our team's path, including providing Bibles to and praying for families, sharing testimonies of God's goodness to local university students, and of course, physically treating broken bodies. We saw a glimpse of how God was using Scalpel to be a lighthouse for Christ.

Returning to Pucallpa this summer, we gained a more complete understanding of the powerful spiritual impact Scalpel has made over 17 years serving in the jungle. Timmy, now a college senior, spent six weeks living with local missionaries, working in the hospital and with Scalpel's Isaac Mendoza. I joined Timmy at the end of his stay. Living in the routines of missionary families and local Peruvians, we heard personal testimonies of Scalpel's gospel-mission in these additional ways:



1. Support for Local Missionaries:

Pucallpa is uniquely located as the gateway into the Amazon jungle, ripe for gospel-centered missions. Scalpel works side-by-side with several mission organizations, including Pioneers (sends missionaries to unreached tribal groups), Swiss Mission (trains local pastors and lay leaders), FAIENAP (plants churches) and SAM/SAMAIR (operates a missionary school and provides jungle air transportation). Repeatedly we heard of incredible stress and instability missionaries experience with ever-evolving circumstances. Amidst storms of unfamiliar obstacles, Scalpel's presence allows access to quick, reliable consultation, providing answers to questions, performing procedures, and connecting missionaries with excellent local doctors. Local missionary families explained the monumental blessing this has been and how it enables them to focus on their mission to reach people for Jesus Christ. Through years of Scalpel's ministry, key missionary connections have been formed through intentional listening, praying and sharing of stories to mutually encourage and motivate one another.

2. Gospel and Medical Collaboration with Hospital Staff:

Timmy: About 12 hours each week, I worked at Hospital Amazonico where Scalpel has operated in recent years. On breaks or over meals, Amazonico staff routinely shared fond memories of partnering with Scalpel and how Scalpel's boldness to share good news of Jesus, while caring for patients, has impacted them to do the same. The Peruvian surgeons consistently commented on the education and insights they have gleaned from observing Scalpel's operations and interacting with Scalpel's surgeons. Clearly, both spiritually and medically, Scalpel's impact extends far beyond the nine days a team is physically present.

3. The Ongoing Ministry of Isaac Mendoza:

Some most cherished moments were witnessing the immense faithfulness of Isaac Mendoza, a local Scalpel team member who makes prosthetics and performs follow-up physical therapy for patients. In addition to diligently caring for their physical needs, Isaac wholeheartedly loves Jesus. At his clinic, it is easy to see his heart for being a gospel witness: allowing people to give whatever they can afford and taking time to share salvation's hope with suffering individuals. Scalpel provides tools, training and funding for Isaac to effectively provide physical and spiritual care. The gospel goes forth to the people of Pucallpa through the ministry of Isaac and his family. ✝

We praise God for how He is using Scalpel as a lighthouse to advance God's Kingdom and bring Him glory, and look forward with excitement for the ways God will use the new Miracle Campus to multiply those efforts.



INTRODUCING BRAD WHITE

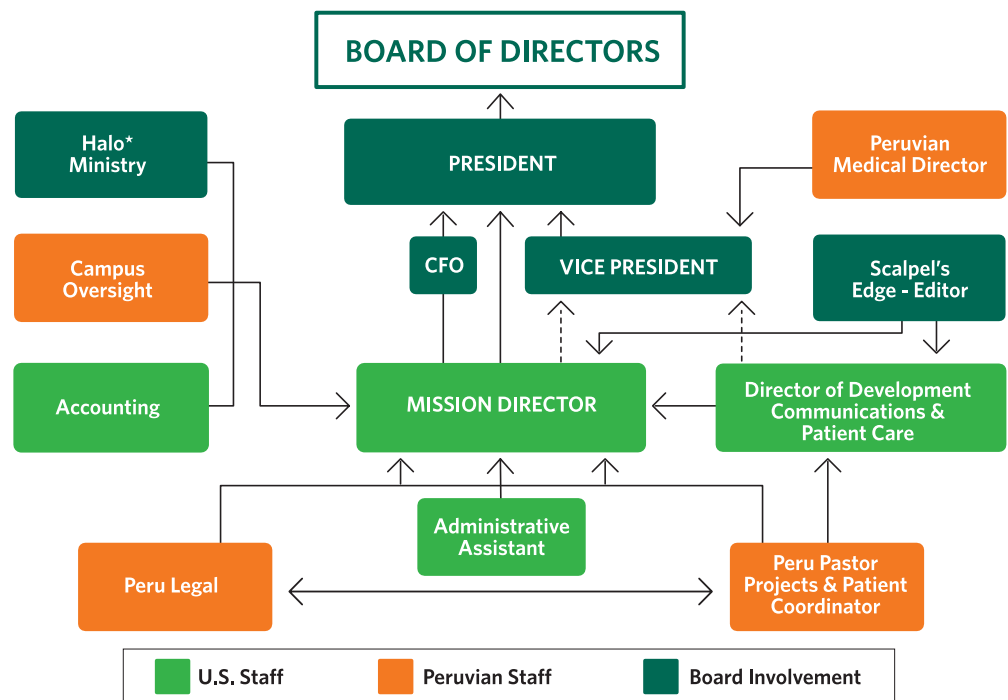
by Margo Brown

Brad White is the faithful husband of Pam for over 40 years, proud father of three adult children, and most recently, grandfather "Popo" to three beautiful grandbabies. Brad has lived and worked in the Monadnock Region of southwestern New Hampshire for over 25 years as an orthopaedic surgeon in private practice. In every New England season, he enjoys early morning hikes up local peaks and playing outside with his toys of choice: chainsaws, tractors, and lawn mowers. His preferred hour for spectating Boston sports is 5:00am, watching reruns of the previous night's game with his morning coffee in hand.

In 2007, Brad participated in his first international medical mission trip to Haiti. In years since, he has performed orthopaedic relief work in Haiti, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Peru. Through Scalpel At The Cross, Brad has not only been able to use his gifts of service and surgery to bless the people of Peru, but has also shared his passion with his Spanish-speaking daughter Margo (yours truly) and her husband Marcel, an orthopaedic surgeon in-training. My dad's favorite exhortation to us kids has always been Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." I know and trust that my dad's Christ-conformed heart will be a blessing to the Scalpel board in the years to come! †



SCALPEL LEADERSHIP MODEL



* Halo Ministry: Ancillary ministries around the core medical-surgical patient care such as prayer posse, missionary counseling, education campaign operations, etc.

PRAISE & PRAYER

by Nancy E. Cole

Praise:

- Riveting Scalpel Board meeting in the Blue Ridge mountains where we challenged ourselves to greater heights upcoming

Prayer:

- Ability to safely resume medical campaigns in 2022, dependent on in-country COVID prevalence
- Peruvian government stability as new leadership with socialist tendencies gains traction
- Health restoration for bush pilots Craig Gahagen & Joy Carrera who are undergoing treatment in the States for vision issues and cancer, respectively

THE BONE-O-METER

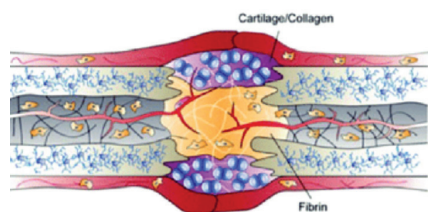
AN APPLICATION OF ABSOLUTE STABILITY

by Cody Sessions, Chief Orthopaedic Resident, University of Minnesota

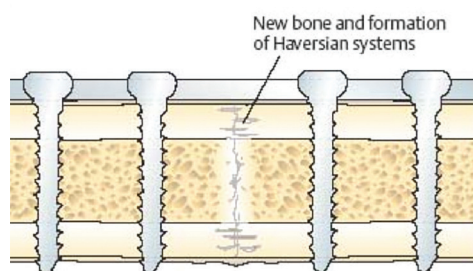
ABSOLUTE STABILITY IS WHAT A PERSON'S HEART DESIRES IN A WORLD OF EVER-INCREASING UNPREDICTABILITY. DAY-TO- DAY EVENTS CAN BE GRAY, BUT GOD PROMISES YOU THAT, LIKE A SPECIAL FRACTURE THAT FITS PERFECTLY TOGETHER, HE GIVES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ABSOLUTE STABILITY IN OUR LIFE, THROUGH ACCEPTING JESUS. THE BONE-O-METER, WITH A PERFECTLY REDUCED BONE FIXED WITH SIX POINTS OF PURCHASE ABOVE AND BELOW THE FRACTURE, IS THE SYMBOL OF ABSOLUTE STABILITY IN ORTHOPAEDICS.

Fracture fixation is often far from black and white, which is evident to any orthopaedic resident, searching a text at 4 a.m., prior to presenting at morning fracture rounds. Even seasoned surgeons faced with a difficult operation will say things like, "fracture healing doesn't always follow the textbook." While my broadly-referenced text does not always provide a solution on how to specifically fix each bone-break, there are governing principals that guide treatment.

At the most basic level, bones heal through one of two primary pathways: endochondral or intramembranous healing. Endochondral healing occurs when there is less fixation stability, allowing for motion at a fracture site. Injured tissue first deposits cartilage which then gets replaced by bone cells within weeks. Casting is an example of an "unstable" fixation method which allows for this indirect type of healing.



Intramembranous healing is the situation in which a broken bone is perfectly aligned and compressed across the fracture site. Rigid plate fixation is an example of absolute stability which does not allow motion,



Absolute stability is what a person's heart desires in a world of ever-increasing unpredictability. Day to day events can be gray, but God promises you that, like a special fracture that fits perfectly together, He gives the opportunity for absolute stability in our life, through accepting Jesus. The Bone-O-Meter, with a perfectly reduced bone fixed with six points of purchase above and below the fracture, is the symbol of absolute stability in orthopaedics. It will be used as a graphic representation of progress during the Miracle Campus Capital Campaign. Perhaps, we should be reminded that, as the dollars raised pour into our journey, we can be assured of the absolute stability God offers us as a free gift. †

John 14:1

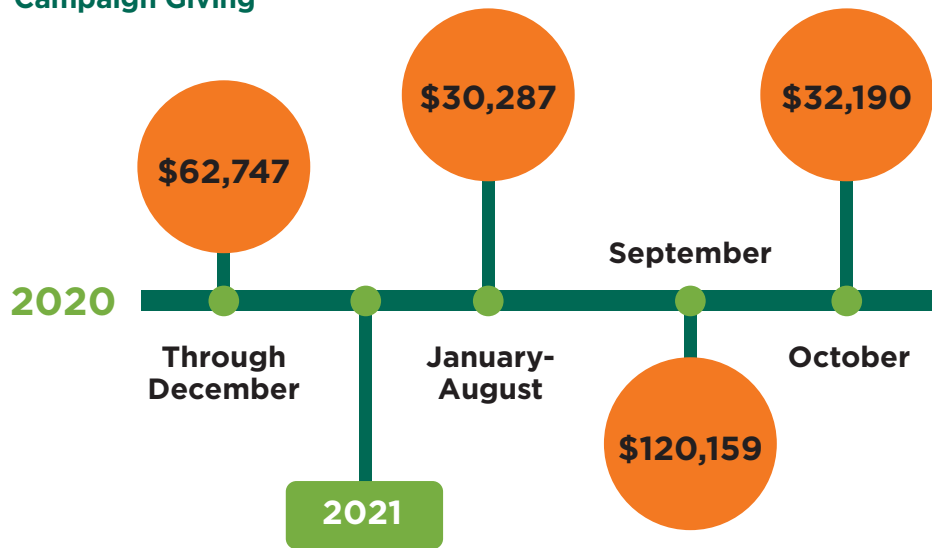
Whatever you ask in my name,
this I will do, that the Father may
be glorified in the Son.

GOAL
\$1 MILLION

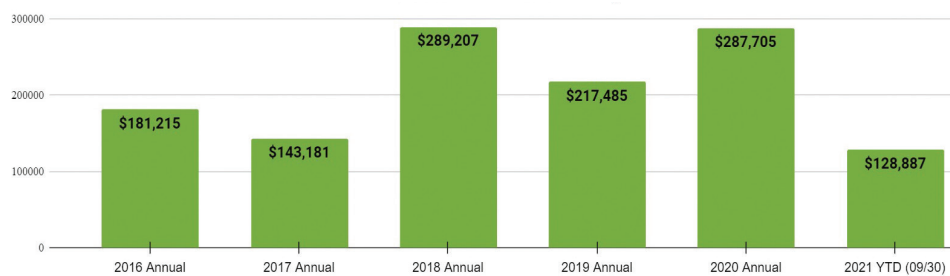


2021 SATC YTD MISSION VITALS

Miracle Campus Capital Campaign Giving



2016-2021 YTD Annual Giving Summary (Totals shown include board giving)



GOAL \$1 MILLION



please support our mission

Online giving is easy and
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www.scalpelatthecross.org/donate

or contact us at:
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www.scalpelatthecross.org / 305-922-4486