



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.