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“ The Scalpel leadership team harnessed up and jumped over the cliff in faith, prayerfully purchased land and built structures. Wouldn't you know that in God's perfect timing He has provided us with what I call our Mission Angels, seemingly out of nowhere...”

”

- Peter A. Cole, MD

## BUNGEE JUMPING FAITH

BY PETER A. COLE, M.D. - *President, Scalpel At The Cross*



Have you ever struggled with an inability to commit to a decision, stifled with cross-wiring thoughts, options continually invading your mind, and worse case scenarios dangling into your conscience? Perhaps you have been attempting to acquire more information as if to prop up your courage, posing as an informed decision-maker, trying to control variables which are in the future and at face value out of your control.

I am either witnessing this phenomenon more frequently today, or I have reached a point in life where I am more aware of it because of a growing context as a counselor, recruiter, negotiator, and mentor. For whatever reason I am simply acutely aware of this recurrent theme and it disturbs me when I sense that it relates to either risk aversion or lack of faith, Christian faith. If you are trying to plan a contingency for every contingency, life is passing you by and you are depriving yourself of God's goodness and His purpose. There is an obsessive end to this side of the spectrum which is unhealthy because it flies in the face of logic. Specifically, we do not have the ability to predict a future which is impacted itself by many unpredictable events.

Now of course I am not suggesting that proper plans are not prudent. As a fracture surgeon it is ingrained in my training and discipline of three decades since the beginning of residency to work out a pre-operative plan and surgical tactic before entering an operation. A surgeon who plans will have better results. In orthopaedic surgery we teach our trainees, “Measure twice, cut once.” I frequently tell my residents, “Don't be a get-away-with-it surgeon.” Proverbs 21:5 says, *Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.* The wisdom in this Proverb is speaking to those who are immature and lack discipline, not to those who lack faith and are risk averse. I grew up playing chess and training my mind for contingencies, so neither am I posing that Plan B, C and D are not worthwhile. Rather, I am saying, size up the pros and cons, understand the risks and benefits, and make your choice. This way of thinking is also akin to what we do in the trauma bay when patients arrive to the hospital with many broken bones, perhaps head and chest injuries, and hypothermia from massive hemorrhage. We have algorithmic ways of addressing many priorities and making quick decisions based

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## BUNGEE JUMPING FAITH

on evidence-based medicine; we are trained to be readily decisive.

Proverbs 16:3 says, *Commit to the Lord, whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.* This verse is where I am focusing the subject of my essay. This wisdom communicates something even greater than evidence-based, medical, algorithmic decision-making. The point here is to pray before and after a decision and have faith; that's how we commit to the Lord whatever we will do. Better yet, if we make decisions this way, the verse says that the plans will succeed—guaranteed! The Word of God doesn't lie and does not mislead; your plans are secure, you cannot lose.

Proverbs 16:9 says, *The heart of a man (and woman) plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.* There are many messages in this verse, including the encouragement to pursue your heart's desire. What better thing could we

Miracle Campus land in 2022



be asked by God to do than to pursue our heart's desire! I believe our heart's desire fuels our passions, which informs our callings in life. It is good to be this in-tune with God for it yields peace and better mental and physical health. The verse also suggests that it takes more than a heart's desire...it takes diligence, which comes with making plans. So indeed, work hard and plan (back to Proverbs 21:5 again). However, I believe the punchline of Proverbs 16:9 is that God takes it from there. You recognize a heart desire, you make plans based on that, and God determines the steps. The outcomes are done, already known, and they're His! This reality is amazing and that's where faith comes in; to believe



Miracle Campus building in 2025

those words, *God determines the steps*, is to have faith. Don't persevereate, rather trust; make a decision and wait with great anticipation to see what God decides to do for your sake. Guess who else's sake it is for God to make a plan? Let's look at Proverbs 19:21 which reads, *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose which prevails.* The outcomes are God's; they are for His sake. The chief end of man is to glorify God so that others will come to know Him, worship Him, and fear Him (Psalm 67).

To understand the profundity of these Proverbs is to be a faith-filled decision-maker, one who understands that God is not just your Bungee Cord, but your harness and the clips which hitch you to the cord and anchor the cord to the mainstay atop the cliff. AMAZING—just amazing, that we can dive off the cliff and know that the ride will be exhilarating. In our divine journey as a bungee jumper, we fly past the ledges of the cliff's edges, perhaps sail a bit with a draft blowing down the ravine, while taking the cool mist from the river to our faces. We can always be assured that as we descend at 32 feet/second that deceleration will occur in time and we will reverse course before crashing to the waters below. Even at this level of thrill, it pales in comparison to the miracle-realities that God gives us when

in faith we take risk, leap into His will, guided by the plans which stem from our prodding hearts.

We are exactly in that place at this moment as ministry members of Scalpel At The Cross. Our hearts nudged us to make plans for a new campus just a few years ago which would become home to a major facility for a prosthetics fabrication site and orthopaedic rehabilitation center. The Scalpel leadership team harnessed up and jumped over the cliff in faith, prayerfully purchased land, and built structures. Wouldn't you know that in God's perfect timing He has provided us with what I call our Mission Angels, seemingly out of nowhere. We didn't seek them; it seems they sought us. Impossible to explain without supernatural causes, we have encountered: a God-fearing, builder, Civil Engineer; a Christ-loving, Medical Director; a Prosthetics Director; and a Director of Physical Therapy now all residing in Peru! It has been a wild jump and we're still descending fast as we approach the Grand Opening of our new campus on May 3rd, oh wow—our first patient! I appeal to you to pray for our Lord's continued blessing and protection, as our hearts race along with our spirits toward this exciting new Mission Milestone—The Miracle Campus. ■



# HEALING HEARTS & BONES GALA 2025

by Lyndi Porch | SATC Program Manager – Operations & Development



*"...we are filled with gratitude for the Lord's restorative work through Scalpel At The Cross -through its team, volunteers, patients, and partners."*

In reflecting on how to summarize this year's Gala, the story of the leper immediately came to mind - one that has left a lasting impact on me throughout my life. I vividly remember a childhood Bible picture book, its pages filled with character illustrations and big, print letters summarizing the stories. One image stands out: ten lepers standing by the roadside, calling out to Jesus for help - for healing, for hope. And Jesus, full of compassion, stepped into their suffering and healed them all.

Overjoyed and overwhelmed by their transformation, the group ran back toward the city, their lives forever changed. But one paused, retraced His steps to Jesus, and fell at His feet in gratitude. Though we don't know the hearts of the other nine, this one leper demonstrated something profound - a heart postured in deep thankfulness, for he recognized his need not just for healing, but for the Healer Himself. What a powerful reminder to fix our eyes on Jesus, to continuously thank Him for restoring us, and to marvel at how He willingly steps into our brokenness to bring wholeness.

As I reflect on the Minnesota Gala 2025, this theme of gratitude has been at the forefront of my heart. While we strive for excellence, perfection is never the goal: our calling is to reflect the heart of Christ, who has already gone before us and transformed our lives. The Lord has graciously provided opportunities for Scalpel to do His work, reflected in the title of this year's Gala: Healing Hearts & Bones. Scalpel is not the one doing the healing - it is the Lord's hand at work through this organization, a beautiful instrument in the hands of the Great Healer.

With our Gala mission focused on growing the people, the project, and the place, it was incredible to see the evening unfold in a way that embodied these goals while ultimately glorifying the Lord. The vibrant artistry of dancers, musicians, and tapestry-weaver filled the rooms with the colors of Peru. Partnering with SIGN Nail allowed us to delve deeper into the intricacies of complex surgeries and medical advancements. And through the power of storytelling, we illuminated the "why" behind our teams, the importance of follow-

up care, and the lives we are privileged to walk alongside. All the pieces set in place to tell the story of the work Scalpel has been given to do.

Like the leper, we are filled with gratitude for the Lord's restorative work through Scalpel At The Cross -through its team, volunteers, patients, and partners. Like the leper, we stand in awe of a Creator who walks before, behind, and beside us. And like the leper, we are humbled that the Lord chooses to work through His people to accomplish His purposes, bringing glory to His name and shining His light into the world. ■



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR [CLICK HERE](#)  
TO GET A GLIMPSE INTO AN  
UNFORGETTABLE EVENING!





# A 20 YEAR MIRACLE IN THE MAKING

## THE MIRACLE CAMPUS

by Peter Cole, MHA - SATC Executive Director, Growth & Strategy

### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In the realm of healthcare innovation, we understand that a well-characterized need is the foundation of any effective solution. In orthopaedics, we know that musculoskeletal injury accounts for higher rates of mortality and morbidity than any other global health culprit. In low-income settings, over 90% of injuries occur where healthcare resources are already strained. In Pucallpa and its surrounding regions, rapid urbanization, increased motor vehicle use without adequate safety measures, and a population boom have outpaced healthcare infrastructure that has failed to adapt to these changes. At Scalpel At The Cross, we recognize that while our model has delivered over \$11 million in healthcare to those who would otherwise go without, it still falls short of meeting the local need. When the land protecting our mission and those of our partners faced the credible threat of being overtaken by squatters, we, along with our local partners, made the decisive choice to build a Miracle Campus to extend our reach and address the orthopaedic, socioeconomic, and spiritual needs of our patient population.

### SICK CARE VS. HEALTHCARE

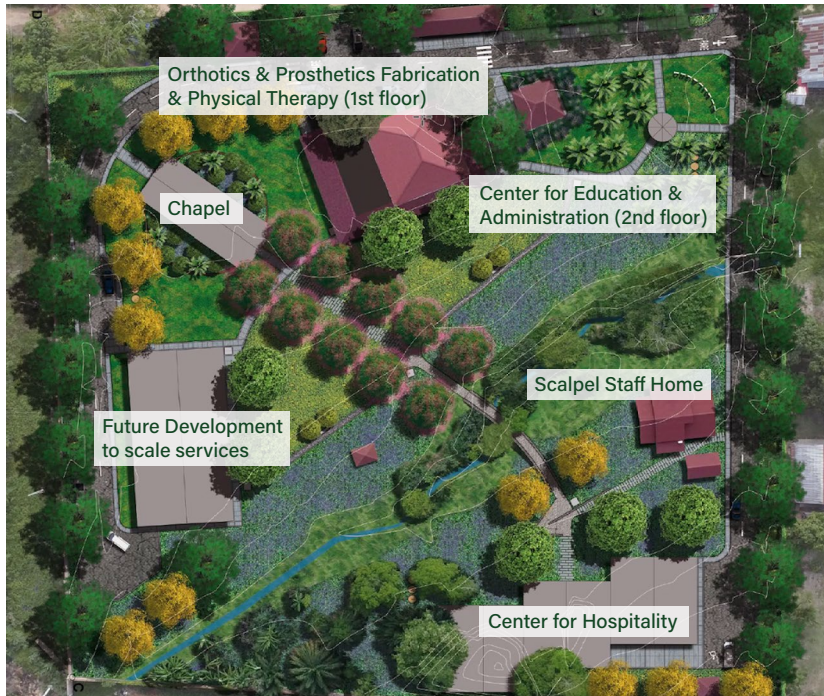
The prevailing perception of healthcare facilities often reduces them to mere wards instead of nurturing environments for healing. Many hospitals exhibit architectural designs that resemble prisons more closely than places for hospitality and comfort. This perspective became particularly pronounced during Peru's experience with the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw some of the highest mortality rates globally; in Pucallpa, the overwhelmed mortuary capacity highlighted the grim reality. Consequently, many people now equate healthcare facilities with places of death rather than recovery. For a patient population that largely mistrusts medicine, this presents an opportunity to challenge prevailing skepticism and transform perceptions by creating a sanctuary of hope and healing.

### A DIGNIFIED SANCTUARY FOR HOPE AND HEALING

It is by intent that our Miracle Campus is a place of beauty and dignity, where patients — many of whom have been neglected by the local healthcare system and society at large — can anticipate care that reflects the love of our Creator. It will serve as a beacon of hope and healing in the Amazon, restoring faith in the healing process. By focusing on the physical, socioeconomic, and spiritual well-being of our patients, we will redefine what healthcare can be in Pucallpa — a sanctuary for eternal hope and healing.







## OUR DONOR COMMUNITY OF MIRACLE WORKERS

Only by God's sovereign hand could we transform severe threats of squatting into a grand solution for a clinical campus poised to revolutionize orthopaedic care. In our region, where physical therapy, orthotics, and prosthetics are not standard offerings, their importance for comprehensive and successful orthopaedic treatment cannot be overstated. This construction milestone, along with our incoming equipment and the initial launch of the care delivery model, will complete Phase I of our Miracle Campus vision. Subsequent phases II and III will include a chapel, a center for hospitality, and surgical facilities as funding permits. Thanks to your unwavering support, our \$2M fundraising effort has culminated in the creation of a beautiful and holistic campus designed to merge the treatment and rehabilitation of life, limb, heart, and soul. With the Grand Opening just two months away, we invite you, our donor community, to celebrate this achievement with us. Together, we are shining the light of Christ ever brighter through our cherished medical mission, bringing hope and healing to the people of Peru. Thank you for being an essential part of this incredible journey! ■



**MIRACLE  
WORKERS**

**RESTORING HEARTS & BONES  
IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON**



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ONE OF OUR PATIENT'S STORIES.

[www.scalpelatthecross.org](http://www.scalpelatthecross.org)



# LIVES TRANSFORMED

BY TIMOTEO HIDALGO

Team Leader of Building and Construction for SATC in Peru

*"For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also."*

*Matthew 6:21*

Getting sidetracked from your goal can be easy; as long as we remain conscious of the reason we exist, we can reduce the chances of straying. During the six years of running my construction company (Grupo Ossana), the fear of straying from our purpose has been central. During this time, we have learned a way to keep the main thing, the main thing.

**1.** Without Christ as Lord of our lives, our existence lacks meaning. Perhaps this phrase may seem very familiar to you, even more so if you are a Christian. It is easy to say with our lips that Christ is our reason for living, but the reality is that it is not so easy to give the Lord Jesus Christ a place above all things. This is a much greater challenge when you have to lead an average of 40 workers every day (as I do), each with their own personal lives and beliefs. That is why every morning on all our construction sites we set time aside to proclaim the gospel.

a growing Christian who is committed to the local church. During all this time we have seen the hand of the Lord working in his life. Now we are praying that Milton's entire family comes to the Lord.

- **Dionisio Jiménez:** A Soil Technician by trade, he became a believer in 2023. He and his wife are faithful Christians and also serve in the local church. The Lord is truly working in this couple, adding reward to their perseverance. The reason I say this is because his wife is failing with a degenerative condition (Alzheimer's). They need our prayers to be able to endure this difficult life test.

- **Marielita Rodríguez:** An Environmental Engineer by profession, she came to know the Lord in 2024 when she came to do her pre-professional internship with our company for just one month. During that short time, the Lord touched her heart, calling her to repentance.

decisions in his life. He currently also serves in our local church and walks with the Lord through the challenges of life.

These are some of the stories from recent years since the construction of the Miracle Campus started. I hope they serve as encouragement to everyone who reads these lines, always remembering that where we invest our time and effort our heart will follow. ■



Part of the team from Grupo Ossana.



Grupo Ossana's workers gathered at the Miracle Campus construction site for morning prayer before starting the work day.

**2.** From a decision to surrender our lives to the Lord each morning before starting work, we have seen lives changed:

- **Milton Monsalve:** He is a Civil Engineer by profession who came to know the Lord in 2023 and is currently

Currently, she is working full-time with us. Truly, Marielita's life is a great blessing to us.

- **Ángel Laurent:** He is a Venezuelan brother who came to Christ in 2023. A young man who, from very early in his faith journey, dared to make firm



Shown in picture (from left to right): Daniel Mueller, Timoteo Hidalgo, and Isaac Mendoza.



The Lord is called upon and invited into each new work day.



# PRAISES & PRAYERS

BY NANCY COLE

*Director, Prayer Posse, Scalpel At The Cross*

## PRAISES

- Two highly successful medical campaigns traveling to Pucallpa in November '24 & January '25, both of which focused on orthopaedic trauma & hand/upper extremity subspecialties; we operated on a total of 45 patients during these trips after evaluating 173 in clinic in addition to doing a number of smaller cortisone injection procedures for those awaiting joint replacements.
- Ease in getting items through Customs upon arrival to Lima from the States, a fully functional autoclave for sterilization of surgical implants, & no issues whatsoever with anesthesia delivery and/or sufficient O.R. space during the campaigns.
- Completion of additional storage space/shelving in Pucallpa for our medical supplies, equipment, & implants, which brings efficiency to organizing the items needed each day for selective surgeries.
- Openness to the gospel by the patients we treated using medicine as a platform for sharing our faith, as the Lord granted a way forward that manifested Him to those in Pucallpa who needed to see God as God.
- A fabulous turnout at our February 8th Healing Hearts & Bones Gala in St. Paul, despite a winter storm delivering 6-8 inches of snowfall the afternoon of. Our 240 guests gave generously to the 3 initiatives of the evening: strengthening our Peruvian-based team through educational enhancement & training, increasing the number of surgical campaigns annually from 4 to 6; completion of phase I of our Miracle Campus. The Lord seemed pleased to have us

gather in His name while giving us the means to establish the work of our hands for His kingdom purposes in the Amazon while vision casting for the future.

## PRAYERS

- Massive flooding after the Amazon rose a historic 32 feet, causing many to lose their homes, washing out our dirt roads, and impacting us and our property logistically.
- Opportunities to expand medical campaign frequency through affiliations with Hospital Amazonico (currently in need of O.R. space due to deteriorating building conditions), in addition to a second hospital with whom we formerly worked in our early years.
- Our second go around with Hospital Regional de Pucallpa which is planned for this summer, July 23-August 4.
- Continuous issues with legal registration documents regarding non-profit status of Scalpel in Pucallpa.
- Completion of Phase I of our Miracle Campus Rehabilitation Center including necessary outfitting with supplies and instruments for campus-based operations, & the hiring of Peruvian personnel to fulfill our care delivery model.
- Discernment for prosthetic fabrication materials and supplies coming from Germany which will outfit our Miracle Campus's orthotic/prosthetic/rehab center and it's projected opening in May 2025. The machines were successfully imported and delivered to our Miracle Campus, PTL. The challenge has been navigating customs and while acquiring the










specific exonerations & resolutions to be able to receive & import donations as a non-profit entity. It's a never-ending process of paperwork, signatures, notarizations, & then some to get through red tape in the developing world.

- April, June, and July medical campaigns, in addition to a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by many of our high capacity donors at the Miracle Campus Grand Opening May 1-7 and our first physical therapy campaign just following. ■

# JAN - DEC 2024 MISSION VITALS

# JANUARY 2025 MISSION VITALS

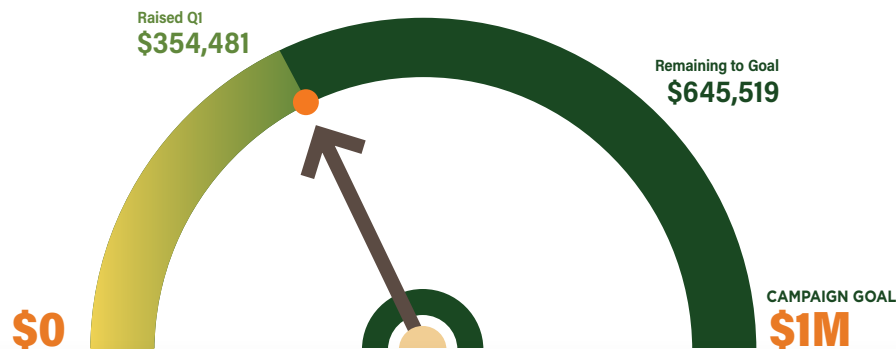
<b>4</b>	Number of Trips		Number of Trips	<b>1</b>
<b>98</b>	Surgical Patients		Surgical Patients	<b>25</b>
<b>68</b>	Team Members		Team Members	<b>18</b>
<b>\$1,139,700</b>	Estimated Value of Care (1)		Estimated Value of Care (1)	<b>\$346,100</b>
<b>\$234,541</b>	Estimated Value of Volunteer's Time (2)		Estimated Value of Volunteer's Time (2)	<b>\$79,904</b>
<b>\$135,660</b>	Estimated Value of Medical Supplies Donated (3)		Estimated Value of Medical Supplies Donated (3)	<b>\$17,786</b>
<b>306</b>	Number of patients evaluated in clinic		Number of patients evaluated in clinic	<b>96</b>

Mission Vitals are reported to demonstrate objective estimates of contribution to patient care. This tool is only one measure of ministry vitality.

**Scalpel At The Cross acknowledges and believes in the immeasurability of the Spiritual Impact of our teams' efforts in this domain.**

We hope, rather, that the focus is appreciated in the reflections, anecdotes, and expression in the Scalpel's Edge editions which point to the incalculability of the Lord's hand at work. Spiritual Impact reports from each trip are available upon request.

## 2025 GENERAL FUND GIVING CAMPAIGN



### (1) Estimated Value of Care:

Value of Patient Care = Assigning dollar value to each surgical/clinical procedure performed, categorized by procedure type. These values, though approximations, are conservative by U.S. standards.

### (2) Estimated Value of Volunteer's Time:

Opportunity Cost of Medical Professionals = (Daily Mean Income of Medical Professionals) x (Number of Days Spent on Campaigns)

### (3) Estimated Value of Medical Supplies Donated:

Value of Medical Supplies = Valuation Assessments provided by (Contributing Medical Device) + (Surgical Supply Company)



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