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“ Reaching this realization allows us to dream beyond the next horizon to the next, meaning transforming the city of Pucallpa to flipping the entire Amazon through its eight countries and the rest of South America for Jesus Christ through a medical mission. ”

- Peter A. Cole, MD

CASCADING MIRACLES

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



Mismi is a mountain located in the Andes chain of Peru and is the most distant source of the earth's largest river, the Amazon, which floods its tributaries coursing like vasculature through eight countries and spilling into the Atlantic Ocean.

It is one of the highest points near Colca Canyon which has a vertical drop of 1,800 meters, nearly 20 football fields of freefall, twice the depth of the Grand Canyon. Having the privilege of eye witness to this majestic real estate helps me imagine that even my imagination can't comprehend that God is able to accomplish infinitely more than we could ask, think, or imagine, says Ephesians 3:20.



In this twentieth year of our ministry I kept finding myself using the term cascading miracles to describe what we've experienced, which brings to mind the ubiquity and power of water to make its way from the snowcapped Mismi spire to our beloved jungle mission. I hope you have had a chance this year to read about the sequences of miracles, often simultaneous sequences providing propulsion to the work of building, staffing, and funding our labor of love. It is breathtaking to be on this end of such a divine catapult. It is ever important to acknowledge it as such.

Consider that the Miracle Campus, our Security House, the Junglartment and storage, our OP&OR building are no longer concepts on architectural draft pages, but functioning facilities by year's end. The most vivid way I have experienced these cascading miracles in Scalpel is through the exceptional frontline workers who

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CASCADING MIRACLES

have come to us literally in a blink: Lyndi Porch, Yukiko Centeno, Sammy Rodriguez, Pierre Marie Woolley, Kim Gustafson, Daniel Mueller, Timoteo Hidalgo, Juan Gonzales, Christian Vasquez and their dear families, now members of the larger Scalpel family, pouring their hearts into the ministry. I wish you could get to know these stellar individuals who happen to be interfacing with our dedicated veteran staff whose hands and faces make hearts smile: Isaac, Michael & Tiffany, Lianes, Maru, Kara, Pete, our U.S. board, our Peruvian board, and a thousand Scalpel At The Cross volunteers giving ten thousand hours, I kid you not. The beauty of experiencing harmony in these colliding circumstances and scads of special people whom have nothing to do with anything I've done intentionally, even despite me, is that the hand of God becomes more palpable and His purpose more vivid.



I believe my helplessness in the midst of this magnificent harmony manifests in the feeling of fearing God. Such fear is exactly the endpoint of our purpose clearly stated in the familiar benediction of Psalm 67, to know and enjoy God, so that His ways will be known to the ends of the earth, so that His salvation will be realized among all nations, so that all people will fear Him; that's the healthy fear that overwhelms the senses and beckons our beckoning God for an eternity.

to dream beyond the next horizon to the next, meaning transforming the city of Pucallpa to flipping the entire Amazon through its eight countries and the rest of South America for Jesus Christ through a medical mission. This Thanksgiving season I pray you will pray for exactly this result, and in so doing, that our own United States of America would also transform from the inside out with the help of lives redirected by our Scalpel At The Cross surgical campaigns, Milagros en Cascada. Oh Lord, hear our prayers. ■

Reaching this realization allows us



Miracle Campus construction October 2024

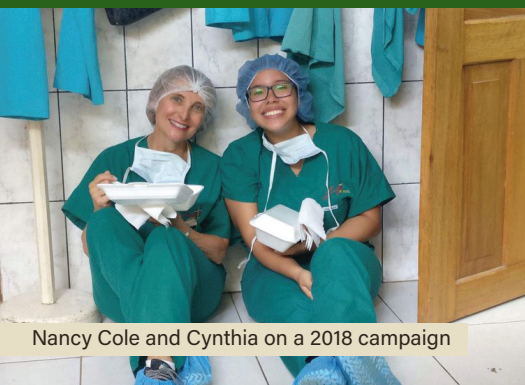


Storage expansion construction October 2024

FINDING GOD'S PURPOSE

MY JOURNEY WITH SCALPEL AT THE CROSS

by Cynthia Colchado, Peruvian volunteer with SATC since 2018



Nancy Cole and Cynthia on a 2018 campaign



Cynthia on a 2023 campaign

“ But despite my doubts, I sensed the Lord’s gentle push and decided to be obedient. I trusted that He would make a way, even if I couldn’t see it yet. ”

During my third year of medical school, the excitement that had once fueled my passion for medicine began to fade. I felt the weight of endless textbooks, late-night study sessions, and the constant pressure to perform. Despite my commitment, I found myself questioning my purpose. I embarked on this journey believing with all my heart that God had called me to serve others through medicine. But as the daily grind wore me down, I became uncertain about how I could truly live out this calling while also being a witness to the gospel.

One Sunday after church, Isaac Mendoza approached me with an unexpected opportunity. He asked if I could help a medical team from the United States that was coming to provide patient care in Pucallpa. At first, I was unsure. My school schedule was chaotic, and I struggled to see how I could balance my studies while volunteering with the team. But despite my doubts, I sensed the Lord’s gentle push and decided to be obedient. I trusted that He would make a way, even if I couldn’t see it yet.

In 2018, my journey with Scalpel At The Cross began when I volunteered as a Spanish interpreter. What I thought would be a small role grew into something far greater. Over the years of serving, God has revealed glimpses of the incredible plans He has prepared for me.

Through Scalpel, I’ve witnessed lives being transformed—children taking their first steps after surgery, adults returning to the lives they thought they had lost. But the most profound transformations are not just physical. The Lord continually uses this mission to touch people’s hearts, drawing them closer to His love and truth.

This past April, after spending years abroad, I had the opportunity to join the team once again in Pucallpa. I returned with an open heart, praying that the Lord would use me to bless others, though I struggled with feelings of inadequacy. I thought my role would be limited to interpreting for the team, and I questioned whether I could truly make a difference. Yet, as always, the Lord met me in my doubt. One day during the campaign, He answered me through His Word: “Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:5) In that moment, I understood that my strength, my abilities, and even my small role in the mission were all part of His greater plan. God was preparing me for something far beyond my own understanding.

The very next day, I met Geraldine.



Geraldine was in the operating room, visibly shaking with fear, waiting for surgery. She was overwhelmed with anxiety, and I was asked to help calm her down. As I approached her, she looked up at me with tears in her eyes and pleaded, “I need to walk again. Please save my leg.”

Her words pierced my heart. Geraldine, the eldest child in her family, bore the weight of responsibility. Her parents are local farmers, and she is the first in her family to attend

college. However, she had been unable to walk for over a year due to a severe femur fracture, which had robbed her of mobility and hope. She had come to two previous campaigns, both times being told that surgery wasn’t possible due to us not having the necessary implant for the procedure required. When she presented to us this third time, she was nearly hopeless and battling depression. A day before the clinic, in her despair, she cried out to God. She repented of her sins and begged the Lord for mercy, asking for just one more chance to have her leg fixed. She was prepared to hear another “no.” But little did she know, it was the Lord’s “yes.”

Her story deeply resonated with me. As the eldest child in my family, I too felt the weight of responsibility. Moved by her vulnerability, the Holy Spirit gave me the courage to share my own testimony. I told her how the Lord had worked in my life, how He had carried me through my own doubts and fears, and how He continued to shape me for His glory the same way the Lord was working on her. Geraldine came to us seeking physical healing for her leg, but what she gave me was so much more. The Lord used her story to reveal His grace and perfect timing in my life. Her faith in God’s mercy changed the entire course of this trip for me—and I believe for many others.

This encounter solidified my understanding of what it means to serve in the kingdom of God.

It’s not just about physical healing but about being vessels through which His love and grace can flow. Serving is my calling, and I am committed to using every talent the Lord has given me to continue participating in mission trips with Scalpel At The Cross. It is my prayer that through this ministry we will not only heal bodies, but also draw people closer to Jesus. We are called to be salt and light, to carry the message of salvation to the ends of the earth, and I am blessed to be part of this mission that does just that. ■

WHY DO WE SUPPORT SCALPEL AT THE CROSS?

A STORY OF HOPE, RESTORATION AND GENEROSITY

by Deb Burke, long-time supporter of SATC

PERSONAL

It was a beautiful sunny Friday afternoon in North Dakota, August 1, 2014; we were anticipating a call from our daughter Tera. Our grandson was due any day. But we got a call that no parent ever wants: "Cody was hit by a car while driving his motorcycle." Cody, our 27-year-old son, was hit by a driver who ran a stop sign. He was seconds from bleeding out. His foot was mostly severed except for his Achilles tendon and broken bones in his lower leg. One of the breaks acted as a tourniquet.

After a few calls to the local police, we learned where the ambulance was taking him. He was only minutes from the hospital, as was I. His leg was mangled, his foot was pure white. The plan was to amputate his left leg below the knee but since he is young, not a smoker and the E.R. Surgeon on call happened to be a vascular surgeon, the decision was made to try to save his leg and foot.

Due to his injuries, Cody had to lay flat on his back for recovery for 5 months with his leg elevated. He got very little sleep during this time due to pain and discomfort. He had 8 surgeries. He was admitted to the hospital for about 50 days over the course

of 4 months. Due to his severe pain, he was on countless pain medications and had to go through withdrawal from his addiction to these pain medications twice during his recovery. Cody had a very long road to recovery. He had two external fixators, which are large metal rods that screw into the leg and into the bones. He was unable to work for 6 months, and then endured months of rehabilitation and hard work to walk and be mobile. Many times, he felt hopeless. All but one of the eight surgeries was performed by Dr. Peter Cole and related specialists of his amazing medical team.

BODY, SOUL, AND SPIRIT

We are 3 in 1. God is amazing and often beyond our comprehension. 1Thessalonians 5:23 and John 3:5-6.

WHY DO WE SUPPORT SCALPEL AT THE CROSS?

Our first and foremost reason we began donating to Scalpel At The Cross was a small way to show our deep appreciation and our gratefulness for what Dr. Cole and his team did for our son. And as we grew to learn more about the gifted surgeon, Dr. Peter Cole, we quickly learned of his faith, love of God, love and care of people, and then his ministry.

Then as we learned more about the ministry, we saw hope for those who feel hopeless, we saw people with immobility become mobile, we saw severe situations and pain improve because of this mission, we saw people who were not able to make a living due to their situation that could be improved with medical care to be able to make a living.

Most importantly, we saw the medical teams who volunteer their time and money care first and foremost about the people's spirit. If one more can be added to God's kingdom it is invaluable! If the earthly body is saved and improved and helped but the spirit isn't – our works are for not.

God's plans were at work long before this accident. It prepared us for this accident and for our future giving. This biblical foundation to giving set us up to be able to choose and donate funds to Scalpel At The Cross that also included our tax planning.

Craig and I donate to other organizations but through prayer and our personal experiences, we feel God wants us to focus more with this ministry who serves God through a scalpel to impact the whole person – Spirit, Soul, and Body.



AND THE REST OF THE STORY

In 2016, Cody married Jessica who was at his side through this challenging time.

Their 6-year-old son, Cruz and 4-year-old daughter Miura, have a daddy that can walk with a limp, play with them, and share his story about his foot and leg scars. ■

TO BE HIS HANDS AND FEET

A STORY OF ANSWERED PRAYERS

by Yukiko Centeno, Creative Director at SATC



Akemi (13) Franco Yuki Lucca (15)



Franco getting surgical instruments ready to be sterilized with Shane.

I was 18 when I left my beloved Peru, where I was born and raised, to come study Advertising and Graphic Design in the U.S. This was the early 2000s, a time when we were coming out from two decades of terrorist groups spreading fear and havoc in a country already fragile with economic and political instability. After college I got a job in Miami, years later got married and started a family. Throughout the years every time I went back to Peru to visit I felt an increasing sense of responsibility to give back in a more significant way to my fellow Peruvians. But how? So much need, so much to do. Where to start? To be honest, for years I felt a little hopeless. But it wasn't until January of 2022, after one of our trips to Peru visiting family that the four of us (my husband Franco and our two kids, Lucca and Akemi) prayed together asking for God to show us how we could be His hands and feet in Peru. I believe this was the genesis of a series of events that unfolded in the next few months. Fast forward about six months later when I got a text message from Peggy Gasior, who currently sits on the Board of Directors at SATC. As we chatted, she asked me if I would be interested in a possible position with a medical mission organization. I had never heard of Scalpel At The Cross until then. To my surprise the medical work they did was in Peru, my Peru! The more I read about the mission and talked with the team, the louder I sensed God telling me: "This is it, this is what you've been praying for!"

In November of last year, I decided to seize that opportunity God was placing in front of me, and became their Creative Director. This past summer I got to go with my family of four to the Peruvian Amazon, on medical mission with a wonderful team! We as a

family went with the hope to bless others, but instead, we came back transformed by what we got to experience during that week. While our Scalpel surgeons performed complex operations to heal injured bones and bind up their wounds, we got to witness the power of restoration, both physically and spiritually. We talked to almost every patient and family member that brought their loved one; we got to pray with and for them. My husband Franco and my son Lucca worked together to make sure the electronic medical records were working properly every day. I was able to document patient stories in pictures and videos as they unfolded before my eyes. Both Akemi and I helped prepare the patients for surgery as we translated what the surgeons wanted them to know about their procedure. We learned more about orthopaedic and medical terms in a week than in our whole lifetime, and our spirits came out refreshed by the love and gratitude we were shown by the patients and their families.

Even though we were part of the non-medical team, there was always something for us to do and help in unexpected ways. At the end of the week we had all experienced and assisted in several different roles around the operating room. Our team took the time to answer all our questions, made us feel included as part of the medical team, and everyone worked together with a joyful heart. I'm still in awe of what we got to experience together, the healing of hearts and bones in the Peruvian Amazon.

I am so grateful that God answered our prayers. Grateful that I get to work in this amazing organization, able to give back in a way I never even thought was possible for me. **Better than anything I could have ever asked for or imagined. |**

//

Now to Him who is able to do **immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to His power that is at work within us, **to Him be the glory...** //

Ephesians 3:20-21



Akemi helping Dr. Sheffer bandage a patient's leg after surgery.



Akemi setting up a patient's X-ray to input into the EMR.



Lucca working as a scribe with Dr. Hedrick & Dr. Frisch.



Lucca working with Isaac, SATC's Peruvian Medical Coordinator.

PRAISES

BY NANCY COLE

Director, Prayer Posse, Scalpel At The Cross

- Preservation of our Scalpel campus by employing fire breaks amidst very drought ridden conditions which spurred uncontrolled forest fires throughout the whole of Peru and S. America.
- Peruvian Medical Director Dr. Pierre Marie Woolley’s successful onboarding and leadership with the August campaign.
- God’s kindness over the administrative trip to Pucallpa by Dr. Cole & Kara Rodriguez (Aug 16-25) which finalized accounting compliance & legal registration documents, leadership, & board governance regarding non-profit status of Scalpel in Pucallpa. Exploration of future opportunities to expand medical campaign frequency through resuming affiliations with Hospital de Pucallpa Regional met with success as well.
- Training, conference, and dissection course with SIGN Fracture Care International attended by 5 Scalpel surgeons in Richland, WA, in late September.
- Game-changing administrative trip to Peru by Kara Rodriguez & Maru Burguete (Oct 2-9) who joined our ministry partners at a Women’s Conference in Pucallpa & then traveled to Lima with Daniel Mueller to pursue outfitting the Center for Rehabilitation with machinery/supplies/instruments for campus-based operations and working through logistics around the importation of containers of imported supplies with custom officials.



PERUVIAN GOVERNANCE

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

Scalpel At The Cross is now registered as an official non-profit organization in Pucallpa, Peru. Though this transition from our Lima, Peru, registration address took a lot of work and a few lawyers, this change became important for a few reasons. First, the Amazon region of the country has a special tax dispensation to promote the economic and social development of the area. We will be importing materials and new equipment for the mission so receipt of this exemption is critical. Second, registration of the new association allows for smoother tracking and flow of funds from the U.S. into the country since all of our work is concentrated in Pucallpa. Last, the registration as a non-profit in Pucallpa seamlessly aligns with our mission and vision, as we continue to be a lighthouse for Christ through a medical mission in the Peruvian Amazon, and allows for more effective administration of our work.

Sadly, we were not allowed to use Scalpel At The Cross as our official registered name because it was previously named as such on the ledger in Lima. After much discussion and prayer, we will be using Bisturí Ante La Cruz. We will continue to be known by our English name but will take advantage of the Spanish translation in our branding locally and explanation of the origin of our name.

Translation may sound simple and straightforward. However, good translation rarely is. We have become confident in the following:

Bisturí = Scalpel Ante = before La Cruz = The Cross

Kara Rodriguez, our Mission Director, explained it well, “The discussion really ramped up around what the appropriate preposition word was: A, En, Por, A los pies, Ante...were all suggested. Did we want a direct translation? Or a translation that conveyed the meaning behind the chosen words? We opted for the latter...and ultimately concluded the best option was “Bisturí Ante La Cruz.” Scalpel...in reverence or submission to / at the foot of...The Cross.

NEW PERUVIAN BOARD



PRESIDENT
Peter Cole, MD



VICE PRESIDENT
Kara Rodriguez



SECRETARY
Silvia Shapiama



TREASURER
Maria Laura
Ubillus Aspillaga



MEMBER AT LARGE
Richard Hetzel

*Note that our organization will still be led and governed from our US Team, but the local team was established to be our hands and feet for practical reasons where we need people on the ground to be an extension of the larger mission and execute on our behalf.

PRAYERS

BY NANCY COLE

Director, Prayer Posse, Scalpel At The Cross

- Asheville, NC, Scalpel Team whom have served diligently the years through...for grace, peace, and logistical help as they navigate rebuilding of lives/structures in their beloved home town.
- Transportation strikes in Peru which have caused delays in getting construction materials necessary for Miracle Campus progress before the rainy season sets in.
- November 7-17 medical campaign comprised of 18 team members including a photographer/videographer to capture additional footage of our impact in patients' lives across all measures.
- Continued advancement of our plans for completion of Phase 1 of our Miracle Campus build-out projected early 2025, & hiring of Peruvian personnel to fulfill our care delivery model. Investment in the Miracle Campus land via grading & drainage of property, electrical infrastructure, sewer treatment facilities, water storage area for fire suppression, public restrooms, entrance portico, campus pavement, and landscaping.
- Plans for potential physical therapy/orthotics & prosthetics campaigns in 2025.
- Strategic filling of 250 seats at our February 8, 2025 Scalpel Gala in St. Paul, MN, with new donors who catch the Scalpel vision & desire to partner generously alongside.



MIRACLE CAMPUS

BY SAMMY RODRIGUEZ - volunteer with SATC's Miracle Campus construction since June 2023

My background as a civil engineer and my Spanish skills have helped connect SATC leadership with Grupo Ossana, led by Timoteo Hidalgo. This project has deepened my appreciation for the tools and resources we often take for granted in the U.S. From hand-mixing concrete to using tree branches as scaffolding for the future OP&OR, the challenges here are significant, with solutions differing greatly from those in the U.S. A unique aspect of this experience is Grupo Ossana's Christ-centered approach, where the crew starts each day with a devotional to discuss safety and incorporate prayer.

The following comparisons illustrate the materials used in the construction of the OP&OR.

OP&OR CURIOSITIES

CONCRETE - Grupo Ossana has used a total of 1002 cubic yards of concrete. Approximately 200 cubic yards were hand-mixed.

- 1,002 cubic yards of concrete is equivalent to approximately 76,000 gallons. That's enough to fill about 150 standard-sized residential swimming pools!
- Concrete weighs about 150 pounds per cubic foot. Therefore, 1,002 cubic yards of concrete would weigh around 3.3 million pounds—about the weight of 1,500 elephants!
- Steel (rebar) - Grupo Ossana has used a total of 58 tons of steel rebar.
- 58 tons is equivalent to about 116,000 pounds. That's roughly the weight of 10 average-sized cars!

NAILS - Grupo Ossana has used nails measuring 2, 3, and 4 inches long. If these are lined up end to end the total length will be approximately 16,275 feet.

- 16,275 feet is approximately 3.08 miles. That's roughly the distance of a 5K race!
- 16,275 feet equals about 45.2 football fields including endzones lined up end to end!
- The famous Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco is about 8,981 feet long, so 16,275 feet would be nearly two times the length of this iconic structure.



STORAGE EXPANSION

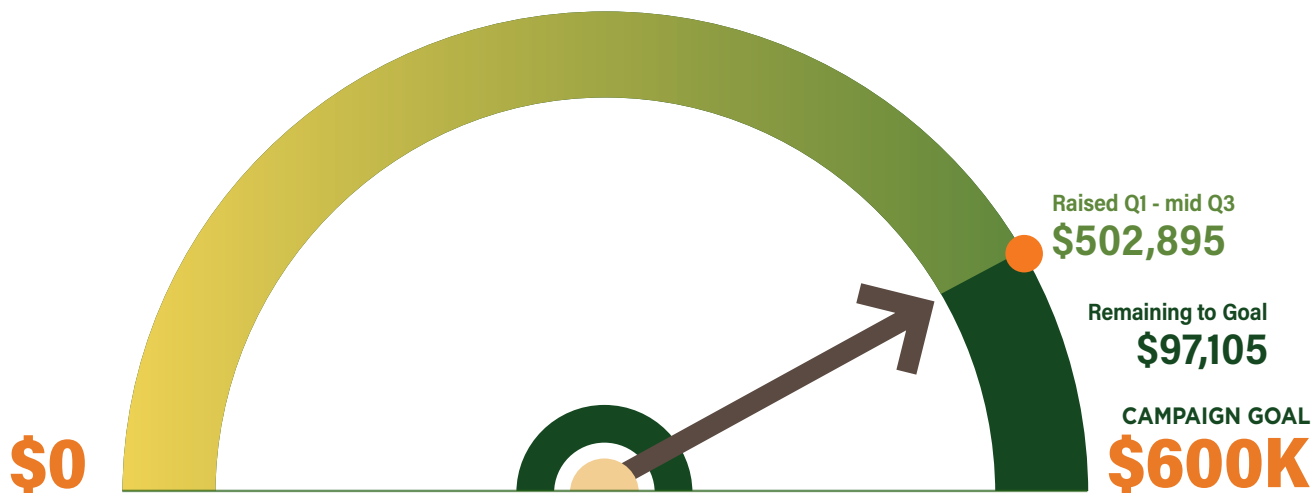
BY JAMIE WOMACK - SATC Logistics, Inventory, & Equipment Coordinator

As SATC has continued to grow, our supplies and equipment requirements have steadily increased and we have outgrown our storage area. The construction of a significant addition onto our current space will better hold our surgical implants, instruments, and supplies. This will dramatically improve organization and work flow.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your generosity and support are instrumental in helping us reach our goals, and we are grateful for all that the Lord has done and continues to accomplish.

2024 GENERAL FUND GIVING CAMPAIGN



CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I OF THE MIRACLE CAMPUS

will be completed and operational by early 2025, with Phase II plans to be released shortly thereafter. Key highlights in Phase II will include the development of our Chapel and Center for Hospitality.



2024 MISSION TRAVEL GIVING:

\$145,321

Donations made by team members and their generous supporters to cover mission travel expenses, and provide life-changing surgery through medical campaigns, inclusive of pre and post-operative patient care necessary for tracking patient outcomes to the highest standard of care.



OVER THE PAST **20** YEARS WE HAVE HAD THE SUPPORT OF:

10 Foundations
12 Churches



ONLINE GIVING IS CONVENIENT AND SECURE.
Scan the code or visit our website to donate now.

CONTACT US AT:

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www.scalpelatthecross.org | 786-405-9958

