



TASH TIMES

Vol 05 – September / October 2019. Oaxaca, Mexico.

www.tashinc.org

GREETINGS

Dear Friends:

Pete Noll, the editor of TASH TIMES, wanted to emphasize gratitude in this newsletter. I asked Pete if I could write a personal expression of gratitude. The reason for wanting to personally say thank you is because September 27, 2019, is my Golden Jubilee of Ordination. When Bishop John McDowell placed his hands on my head and called me to the priesthood, never would I have imagined how God was going to use me during the next fifty years. I would never have guessed that my Capuchin Community would choose me to be a spiritual director for our high school seminarians, our theology students, as well as Novice Director.

When I was encouraged to evangelize on the radio, my program, “Joyful Reflections”, slowly evolved into six days a week and it lasted for almost twenty years. When I was given permission to travel and preach, I preached for 35 years. To stay in touch with the people I met during my travels, I wrote a newsletter “Joyful Reflections”. Finally, God opened the door for me to help the poor and sick in Oaxaca, Mexico. Many of you have been a part of my Oaxaca Ministry since 1999.

One of the signs of a civilized society is the ability to express gratitude. Gratitude is an art. It needs to be fostered throughout childhood. Today my heart is full of gratitude. On behalf of all the members of the TASH board, I want to thank you for your continual support.

May God bless you and all your loved ones!

Father Scott Seethaler, Capuchin
St. Augustine Friary
221 36 Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201



La Clinica, in the early days. (1999)

■ SERVANT LEADERSHIP by Pete Noll

On behalf of TASH and the communities we serve, we are grateful for all your prayers and economic support. One of the first words many of us learn in Spanish is ‘*gracias*’ ... thank you! I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to say gracias to so many people in my years of charity work.

Fr. Scott shared with me that he could never have imagined the outpouring he has received since the very early days. There is no gift too small or prayer too big that has not contributed to touching tens of thousands of lives in Oaxaca. Oaxaca is a place of contrasts, with enormous gaps in access for basic needs, like healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. But also, there is a resiliency in the people owing to their beliefs and history. We have seen miraculous turnarounds for people who received TASH's support.

As you read in the past newsletter, Fr. Scott is back on our Board, and we are fortunate to have his years of wisdom, humor, and spiritual leadership to guide us forward. We also hope that you feel a sense of belonging to the TASH project, past, present and future. While you might have noticed some differences to the newsletter content and to our organization's framework, what hasn't changed is 1) Fr. Scott's desire that TASH will always have a “heart for the poor” and 2) we read every piece of mail and give 100% of the prayer requests directly to Fr. Scott.

We recognize that your economic situations may not always permit you to donate year-in and year-out, but please know that the newsletter is not meant as an obligation to send a gift. Rather, we are motivated to share with you the blessed works that are made possible by the TASH community, who are more than 2,000 supporters who share in our mission. Thank you all!

■ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT and TRANSPARENCY

Thanks to a fellow Capuchin brother of Father Scott, TASH received a \$50,000 grant to purchase much needed upgrades at La Clínica. The money will purchase an anesthesia machine, patient hospital beds, a defibrillator, and oxygen regulators. We also sent an additional \$93,500 to La Clínica and partner organizations, such as CANICA, which supports street children, and Puente's summer nutrition program. Puente's

summer programs work with local youth volunteers and parents in 9 communities to provide education and healthy food to more than 250 children. Did you know that diabetes is the leading cause of death in Mexico, according to the World Health Organization? The disease claims nearly 80,000 lives each year. Those in marginalized conditions are disproportionately affected. If we can provide information and strategies at a young age, we can hope to curb these alarming numbers.



WITNESS to OAXACA

Translated from original Spanish version.

Enrique Alejandro is seven years old and the second of three siblings. His mother, Florinda, and his father, Nicolas, are originally from Pochutla, a community on the coastal side of Oaxaca and about a seven-hour drive through windy mountainous roads. Nicolas moved to Oaxaca city when he was only 18 years old due to the lack of employment opportunities in his community.

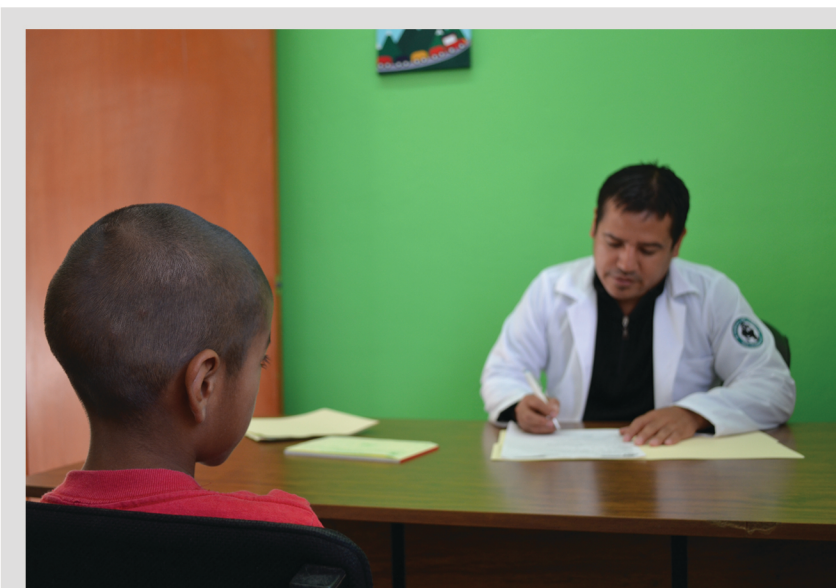


Florinda shared that Enrique was born at home because she was all alone in her home at the late hours when she began labor. An elderly woman who lived in the same home helped with the birth. Enrique was only 4.5 lbs at birth. At six months, he was infected with hepatitis, and ever since, he frequently gets fevers and other illnesses.

In two of the worst cases, Florinda took Enrique to the Public Hospital emergency room for fevers and nose bleeds. Enrique is one of the many children who live near or on the municipal garbage dump, as their parents work to make a living by recycling trash. Thanks to a collaboration between La Clinica and Si Kanda, another nonprofit TASH supports, a school was opened to give children at the dump an education. At the school, they hold health campaigns to detect malnutrition or other conditions.

At one of these clinics, Enrique was attended to by one of La Clinica's pediatricians. Now back on track to a full recovery, his parents could not be more grateful for the dignified and quality medical support. It is only possible thanks to the support of TASH that children and families in dire need can have access to quality healthcare.

Blessings,
Dra. Teresita Flores,
Head of La Clínica's social outreach
program since 2014



HUMOR

Back to School!

One memorable day that all of us can remember is the first day of school, with new shoes, a boxed lunch, and a backpack that was half our size!



Bennie comes home from his first day of school, and his mother asks, “What did you learn today?”
 “Not enough,” Bennie replies. “They said I have to go back tomorrow.”

Joe: What’s the king of all school supplies?

Jane: I don’t know. What?

Joe: The ruler.

What kind of school do you go to if you’re...

...an ice cream man? Sundae school.

...a surfer? Boarding school.

...King Arthur? Knight school.

Johnny: Would you punish me for something I didn’t do?

Teacher: Of course not.

Johnny: Good, because I didn’t do my homework.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Once again the Parish of St. Teresa of Avila will host a brunch after all the Masses on Sunday, Oct. 27. There is no charge for the brunch; however, free will donations will be thankfully accepted. Fr. Scott will preach at all the Masses that weekend.

Save the Date: The 12th Annual Ole 5K will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at Harmar Pavillion in North Park. Please email Pete at pete.noll@tashinc.org to be added to the mailing list. We look forward to another incredible event!

**If you would like to make a donation to support the mission in Oaxaca,
 we would truly appreciate it.**

**Please make a check out to TASH, Inc. and use the donation envelope included
 or you can make a secure donation online at www.tashinc.org.**