



TASH TIMES

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www.tashinc.org

■ GREETINGS

Dear Friends:



Woman testing eyeglasses at La Clínica del Pueblo

This year we celebrate Pentecost on June 5th. It is the final celebration of fifty days of miracles beginning with Easter Sunday. During the fifty days, the scripture readings describe the times that Jesus appeared after He rose from the dead. They even give us the number of people who saw Him on one occasion, 500. Miracles continued to happen after Jesus rose from the dead.

Fast forward to Pentecost for the next miracle. The Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles in the upper room, and they went from being fearful to being courageous. Their preaching about the Risen Christ was so powerful that thousands were baptized. They were persecuted for their preaching, but they would not stop. St. Stephen became the first martyr when he was stoned to death for preaching that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah.

Fast forward to our times. Of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the one we need the most is courage. When St. Peter was taken before the Jewish leaders; he was told not to preach in the name of Jesus. Peter told them he would never stop. Here was a simple fisherman who had no fear of saying no to the powerful Jewish leaders. We need courage to say no to the things that try to undermine our faith. For example, movies and TV programs that are indecent or that put the Catholic Church in an unfavorable light. People must have the courage to say no to pornography, which is epidemic. Young and old need courage not to give in to peer pressure.

The media has reported all the national and international problems our world must contend with. Our leaders will need courage to deal with these problems. We must pray for them. We all know how divided our country is. Inflation continues to rise. Covid still hangs around. The Russian invasion of Ukraine. How do we deal with these problems without getting depressed? By calling on the Holy Spirit for help when we start feeling overwhelmed. The cry of Pentecost is: "Come Holy Spirit!"

Come Holy Spirit

Replace the tension within me with a holy relaxation.
Replace the turbulence within me with a sacred calm.
Replace the anxiety within me with a quiet confidence.
Replace the fear within me with a strong faith.
Replace the bitterness within me with the sweetness of Grace.
Replace the darkness within me with a gentle light.
Replace the coldness within me with a loving warmth.
Replace the night within me with Your day.
Replace the winter within me with Your spring. Amen



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Father Scott, continued

During my visits to Oaxaca, I was inspired by the people's courage in dealing with problems of safety, health, hunger, and abandonment. They never lost their hope, their sense of humor, their desire to help their families and friends. Poor Oaxacans have few belongings. They don't expect to become wealthy. Relationships are the source of their joy and children their wealth.

During May and June, we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. Let us celebrate the lives of parents who gave much and expected little. I went to the seminary when I was 14 years old. My parents drove me to the seminary on the day I had to report. When we were saying our good-byes in the parking lot there were no tears. However, I found out years later that as my parents were driving home, they had to pull off the road because they were crying so hard. I had a chance to repay my parents for all they did for me by taking care of them at the end of their lives. May God give us all grateful hearts.

God bless you!

Fr. Scott

■ Servant Leadership - Look backwards to measure progress

"Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

This quote from Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard highlights the importance of perspective in understanding the concept of progress in our lives. At any point in time, there are only two options: look forward, or look backward.

Our culture has trained us to measure progress by looking forward. We set goals and strive towards ideals. We pursue happiness. Yet there is a powerful tendency to quickly adapt to our current circumstances. After a positive development like a promotion at work or a new friendship, the emotional boost is generally short-lived. We quickly adapt to the "new normal." This leads to never being satisfied and to constantly seeking the next thing. Social media has accelerated this trend.

The best way to measure progress is to look backward. Recognize and appreciate the road that you have traveled. Most of us don't give ourselves enough credit for the challenges that we have faced and the accomplishments that we have achieved. Resist the tendency to take the past for granted. Measure progress from where we started to where we currently are. Recognizing how far we have come fills us with gratitude and puts us in a positive frame of mind. In a positive frame of mind, our performance is improved, and we can look forward with confidence and hope.

I kept these issues of progress and perspective in mind when I visited Oaxaca this past December. When I interacted with patients, I witnessed many people enduring extraordinary situations. Many people continue to suffer from a lack of necessities like clean water and sufficient food. During a site visit at a patient's home, I was stunned by her living conditions and moved by her generosity towards us, her guests. She had so little yet still offered us food and drink. As I visited the hospital and TASH's partner organizations, I noted the need for some significant capital projects: demolition of a condemned building at La Ciudad de los Niños (an orphanage), construction of new second-floor classrooms at Canica, and installation of radiology and technology infrastructure improvements at the hospital, among others.



Charley Gates on a Home visit, December 2021

During my first visit to Oaxaca ten years ago, I felt overwhelmed by what I saw. During my most recent visit, however,

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Servant Leadership, continued

I maintained my perspective. I recalled Father Scott’s first visit to Oaxaca in 1998 and the great leap of faith that he took to construct a hospital dedicated to serving the poor. I thought of how many patients have come through the hospital’s doors and received quality, life-changing care at little to no cost. Literally, the eyes of the blind have been opened through cataract surgeries and the lame have been made to walk through trauma surgeries. I reflected on the orphanages, the scholarship students, and the after-school programs that TASH has sponsored that have successfully changed the life trajectory of many children and families.

Psychology research shows that confidence does not create success; rather, prior success creates confidence. As we look back to where TASH started, it’s plain to see that TASH has achieved so much in the past 20 years. This past success instills unbreakable confidence in me that TASH will be able to meet any obstacles that the future holds.

Thank you for your continued support. God love you.

Charley Gates, MD
 President, TASH Board of Directors

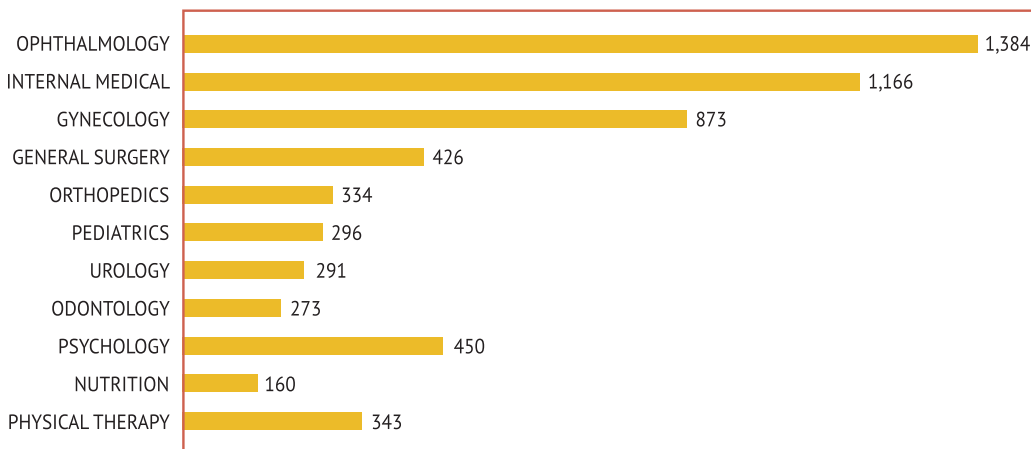
■ Witness to Oaxaca – by Pete Noll



Servicio Medico 24 Horas translates to “Medical Service 24 hours” – La Clínica is open 365 days a year, 24/7. Nor did it shut down for even an hour during the pandemic.

In many of the 21 editions of the TASH Times, we have focused on an inspiring testimonial of an individual, such as Ana Patricia, Miriam Luna, Hilda and her family. We believe those human stories connect you to the work happening on the ground in Oaxaca, Mexico. Today, I wanted to highlight another side of the ground-up perspective by looking at the cumulative or full impact that La Clínica del Pueblo “Anna Seethaler” has had. *Did you know?* Last year, in the midst of a pandemic, La Clínica provided 298 low or no-cost surgical procedures in the specialty areas of ophthalmology, pediatrics, OB-GYN, urology and other general procedures. It is worth noting in the Oaxaca context that the cost of a cataract surgery at a private clinic would be \$750 USD or 1/3 of yearly income, while wait lines for even an appointment with a government eye specialist can be three months or more. At La

Clínica, a patient can be seen and operated on within 1 -2 weeks. If the social worker finds the patient to be in the lowest income bracket, they will receive no bills and be on their way back home with not only their vision restored, but a new sense of hope and a future. If they have more modest means, the patient might pay a symbolic fee or part of the full cost.



NUMBER OF PATIENTS ATTENDED

2021 MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS



In 2021, La Clínica registered 5,996 specialist consultations. In addition, La Clínica has a modern lab for bloodwork, a pharmacy, and an optical department.

Witness, continued

Again, so if you multiply these numbers by the years since La Clínica first opened its doors on January 1, 2000, you can only imagine the impact that Fr. Scott's faith and vision, supported by your generosity; has had on the health and recovery of so many people and will CONTINUE to do so for decades to come.

Early 2022 numbers are already peaking, as most of the government mandates have been pulled back, and patients are seeking out much-needed care that was put on hold, as access to critical hospital services was foregone; and people were without income to cover even the costs of transportation to a medical facility. It is certain that La Clínica will remain one of the first stops for those looking for an affordable doctor or other hospital-based service in Oaxaca and the surrounding area.

Finally, in 2022, TASH will make a significant investment in renovating our X-ray room and equipment to increase quality of medical attention and faster service. In addition, we will invest in the community health program to prioritize getting out to the villages most in need, many of which we left unattended during the pandemic. We are so grateful for your ongoing commitments to the people of Oaxaca.



FUTURE EVENTS & UPDATES

We are thrilled to share with you an exciting new twist to the 14th edition of the Olé 5k Benefit Race: a sponsor Happy Hour "Building Bridges" to be hosted during packet pick-up on Friday, October 7 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Your contributions are vital to our work, and we wanted to come up with another way to say THANK YOU! We invite you to join Fr. Scott, the TASH team, and other sponsors for complimentary food and beverages at Cadence Clubhouse @ Pro Bike + Run.

For each Double Platinum Level sponsorship, you receive 4 invites to the free Happy Hour. Platinum Level, 3 invites, Gold Level, 2 invites, and Silver Level, 1 invite. All previous sponsorship benefits are still included, including free race registrations and Website promotion. Learn more at: www.tashinc.org/happy_hour_2022/



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 FROM 4:30 TO 6 P.M.

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.



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