



# TASH TIMES

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www.tashinc.org

## GREETINGS

Dear Friends:



*Local hero, Jesús, joins the children after they got fitted for eyeglasses!*

When I was growing up my generation had real heroes. They were athletes, actors, missionaries, parents, teachers, and coaches. They taught us courage, self-sacrifice, virtue, and compassion. The athletes had a real relationship with the people in the city where they played.

As the years passed, I noticed that the media began to blur the distinction between the heroes and the villains. They presented the villains as more likeable than the police. The same thing happened to representatives of organized religion. Church leaders began to be presented as corrupt, naive or clueless.

A society without heroes is a hopeless society. I believe that many of the problems we face today, especially with our youth, can be traced to a lack of real heroes. Youth is meant to be a time of idealism, excitement, courage, and the ability to dream about better times. There are many young people today who do not believe that better times are coming. This fatalism among our youth is a source of concern for many adults.

My community, the Capuchin Franciscans, is a missionary community. In the 1950s the Vatican asked my community to send men to Papua, New Guinea to work with indigenous people who were recently discovered and were living a Stone Age culture. My community accepted the challenge and sent our strongest and healthiest men to work among the people in the Southern Highlands.

In the beginning they only came home every five years. The stories they told us about their struggles with language, strange food, rugged terrain, and tribal warfare were amazing. Rather than wanting to stay home, they were eager to go back to the mission. Their trust in God was truly amazing. We still have young men who volunteer to go to Papua. They are some of my heroes.

I always knew that I didn't have the health for rugged missionary work, but I had the heart to work with the poor. God opened the door for me when I visited Oaxaca, Mexico. When I saw the poor who needed medical attention, I knew that God was calling me to serve them.

Some of my heroes are now from Oaxaca, Mexico. They are priests who have 12 chapels to care for. Teachers who help at the music school. A young man at an orphanage who gives 100 percent of himself to the children. Single mothers who care for their children by growing food and doing other people's wash.

I believe that heroes are people who live an ordinary life in an extraordinary way. This means that all of us can be heroes. We need to ask God to open our eyes to the needs of others and give us the desire to help them. I hope you have heroes who inspire you. And whenever God calls you home, I hope you leave someone behind who claimed you for their hero.

God bless you!

Fr. Scott

## ■ Servant Leadership – TASH follows its guiding principles to drive impact

Consistent effort and discipline over time can produce extraordinary results.

The race to the South Pole in 1911 illustrates this principle. British explorer Captain Robert Scott and Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen were competing to be the first to successfully complete the 1,400-mile trek across notoriously treacherous terrain.

Amundsen and Scott employed different strategies. Amundsen's team traveled about 20 miles per day without exception. On bad weather days, they struggled to meet their target distance. On good weather days, they intentionally stopped after 20 miles. They did not push themselves to go further.

Captain Scott's team took a different approach. On good weather days, his team raced ahead covering as much ground as they possibly could. On bad weather days, they did not travel. They dug in and conserved their energy and resources.

Six months later, one team was victorious, and the other team was dead.

Amundsen's team reached the South Pole first and safely returned home. Scott's team reached the South Pole thirty-three days later, but they did not survive the return journey due to exhaustion and starvation.

Amundsen's strategy centered on discipline and consistency. It took discipline to push forward on bad weather days under challenging conditions; it also required discipline to stop travel on good weather days to avoid exhaustion. Adequate rest and recuperation are critical parts of high achievement.

In Oaxaca, for more than 20 years, TASH has employed consistency and discipline to maximize its capacity to serve the poor. Fr. Scott led by example and to this day, TASH continues to build on his vision and discipleship. Every year, TASH engages in the following activities:

- A TASH Board member personally visits Oaxaca, as Fr. Scott did for more than 15 years. These in-person visits are critical to build relationships and to ensure operational efficiency. I will personally visit Oaxaca for one week in December.
- TASH distributes money to support the hospital, La Clínica del Pueblo, and TASH's partner organizations. Without economic support, the hospital and TASH's partner organizations could not reach their potential as local heroes, as Fr. Scott noted in his article.
- TASH evaluates potential new strategic partners and re-evaluates existing partners, making changes as needed.
- TASH publishes six newsletters and has developed minimal cost Websites for TASH and La Clínica ([www.tashinc.org](http://www.tashinc.org) and [www.clinicadelpueblo.org](http://www.clinicadelpueblo.org))
- TASH hosts the Ole 5k, now in its 14th consecutive year. This walk/run has become a great tradition and the single biggest fundraising event for TASH. This year's race is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 8. I invite you to register here: <https://tashinc.org/ole-5k/> or become a sponsor.



*Elderly patient treated with care at La Clínica*

*Servant Leadership, continued*

- TASH complies with all government regulations for nonprofits, including an audit by an independent accounting firm. TASH maintains the Platinum Seal of Transparency, the highest rating, through Candid ([www.candid.org](http://www.candid.org)).

Unlike Amundsen’s journey to the South Pole, TASH’s journey does not have an end point. TASH’s journey continues. In 2019, with Fr. Scott’s blessing, the TASH Board passed a significant milestone when we hired a full-time executive director, Pete Noll. Pete has deep roots in Pittsburgh, as his father worked at a school for ministry in Ambridge. Since 2001, Pete has lived almost full time in Oaxaca with his family. He received his master’s degree from CMU in 2006. He is honest, committed, and hardworking. He has a proven track record for building trust with our local partners to bring out the best in them. I have no doubt that Pete is following Fr. Scott’s approach and Amundsen’s “20-mile march” strategy on a daily basis, and TASH is continuing to deliver outstanding results.

As its journey continues, TASH will continue to bring consistency and discipline to bear on its mission to serve the poor in Oaxaca. Thank you for your prayers, your trust, and your continued support. God love you.

Charley Gates, MD  
President, TASH Board of Directors

## ■ Witness to Oaxaca – by Pete Noll



*Young Dylan’s recent surgery at La Clínica*

Two organizations. Two patient testimonies. A lot of inspiration for 2022 and beyond!

La Clínica del Pueblo teamed up with children’s shelter (Ciudad de los Niños, CdN) that TASH started supporting in 2022. The shelter houses and offers education to 60 low-income young boys and girls. Many of them have parents, but they are from troubled homes, or their parents have left them there, as they can’t afford to cover their basic needs. CdN is run by one of the local heroes, Jesús, that Fr. Scott mentioned in his article. Jesús is a special needs teacher by training and a devout Catholic. He is from Oaxaca City and has been the shelter coordinator for three years. He and his staff work tirelessly and on a shoestring budget to assure the children have everything they need.

In a conversation that Charley and I had with Jesús last December, we offered to start a collaboration so that the children could have access to La Clínica. Coming as no surprise, Jesús jumped on the offer. He had already identified that at least 10 of the children had vision problems. We set up appointments with our ophthalmologist and optometrist. They all received an eye test, and all but one was fitted for glasses. They received a bill for \$0, thanks to TASH generous benefactors. At that young an age, the early detection and vision solution will

go an extraordinary way to improve their academic learning and overall well-being.

But the needs didn’t stop there. Young Dylan, now nine years old, had a large cyst on his hand. Dylan was born in San Mateo del Mar, a tiny fishing village on the Oaxaca Coast. Due to the pandemic, his single mother lost all her income. She was devastated that she would have to leave Dylan and his three brothers at the shelter. But she was desperate and Jesús assured her they would take care of her sons until she could recover. CdN doesn’t have a specific budget line item for medical interventions, but that would be no problem for us.

*Witness to Oaxaca, continued*

We got him an appointment and on August 10, he underwent a successful surgery. Jesús shared with us, “I feel so blessed to receive such quality attention at La Clínica. It was as if each of the young boys and girls were the most important patients in the world.” Dylan also got a hospital bill for \$0. The journey is not over for Dylan. Jesús says he is very intelligent and wants to continue his studies at CdN, where classes are offered. Also, one day, they hope to reunite him with his mother, who has made some progress in her economic recovery.

On behalf of TASH and the local heroes, we are so grateful for all the support and prayers that make our work possible. Each and every donation is sent down to La Clínica and partner organizations to address a myriad of life-changing interventions. We are blessed and never take that generosity for granted!



## FUTURE EVENTS & UPDATES



Last chance to join us! Register here at [www.ole5k.com](http://www.ole5k.com) and please share this opportunity for family fun and the opportunity to support Fr. Scott's work in Oaxaca, Mexico. Thank you!

Planned Giving – One way to support local heroes is assuring that TASH has the resources to send down to Oaxaca, Mexico. A gift to TASH improves lives. Behind every patient treated are loyal supporters, like you, who make their care possible. Every time an individual enters La Clinica, receives affordable and quality attention, or needs emergency care, your generosity is felt and remembered.

In addition to supporting the mission of TASH, a planned gift can provide substantial tax advantages, especially on gifts of stocks and real estate. To learn more, you can visit the Website: <https://tashinc.org/donate/planned-giving/> or contact us at 412-219-9099.



*Planning Giving = generational impact*

**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](http://www.tashinc.org).



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