

Postcard from Peru



June 10, 2019

Yes, the above image is of **Machu Picchu**. Let's get that out of the way. It seemed like when I said "We are going to Peru" the response was always "Enjoy Machu Picchu!". We (Joe, Sarah and Emily) did enjoy it very much as a side tour on our way to Piura Peru, where we were participating in a medical mission that was being hosted by Santisimo Sacirmento Parish. [Link to Santisimo Sacramento Web Site](#)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SARAH – LET'S GO TO PERU!

This trip grew like Topsy, buying tickets to places we knew nothing about other than an airport code, but we found ourselves heading to Piura Peru for the week following Memorial Day.

[About Piura Peru](#)

There is a lot going on in Piura to help the people of Peru, and we got a chance to participate.



The story starts with a visit to the [SEE Web Site](#) for volunteer opportunities. It seemed that there was a group going to Peru during the week following Sarah's birthday. Sarah thought it might be fun to come along.

Emily talked to her teachers and freed up the week to participate. Plans started to grow and the next thing you know we had plans!

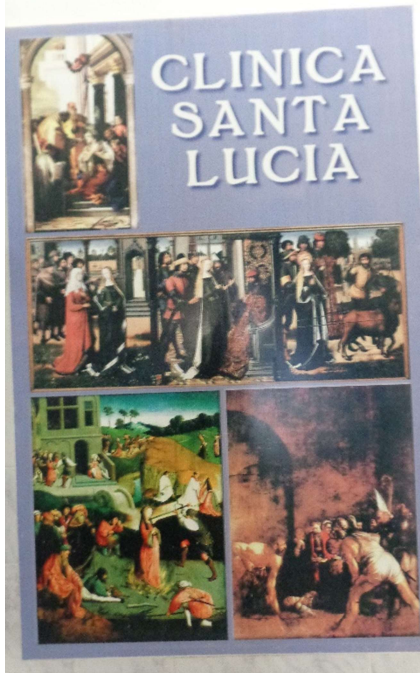
For about 20 years, Jim and Rhonda Doherty of Edmond Oklahoma have been devoting their time and money to building a first rate eye care center in Piura for the poor of the area.

PIURA PERU and EDMUND OKLAHOMA

There is a connection between Edmond OK and Piura Peru. (as described in the [St John The Baptist Website](#)) "In 1998, St. John the Baptist Parish adopted a sister parish, Santisimo Sacramento (Blessed Sacrament), in Piura, Peru. Piura is located approximately 600 miles north of Lima, Peru's capital, and approximately 25 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. The climate is generally hot and never cold. The region is very poor and experiences 40% or more unemployment. Father Joseph Uhen, raised in Oklahoma City and a graduate of Notre Dame University, was ordained a priest in Piura on April 1, 1995. He is the Pastor of Santisimo Sacramento Parish which has over 30,000 parishioners."

CLINICA SANTA LUCIA

Clinica Santa Lucia is Rhonda and Jim Doherty's big vision. "Make no small plans".



She and her husband Jim made this three table ambulatory surgery center happen in a church basement.



With year round Air Conditioning because Rust Never Sleeps.



There were plenty of hats to go around.

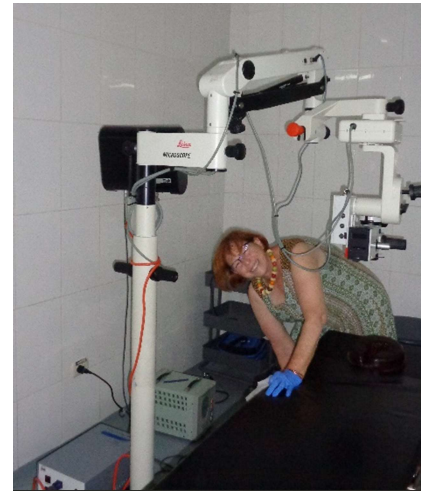
We were all promised jobs. Lots of Hats to be worn.

What's this? Sarah in Scrubs? Emily hooking school?

Welcome to Piura!



Sarah helped patients navigate into the OR, helped to "turn the room over", and kept the paperwork organized.



Emily was the Queen of Clean, keeping the autoclaves filled with surgical trays. Her management skills at knowing who was going to need a tray next minimized down time. She also circulated in the OR and helped with flow.



Joe joined Kent and Tyler Kirk. This is Kent's 8th consecutive year in Piura. His nephew Tyler is one of the family members in the Kirk Eye Center of Chicago. Kent "knew the ropes", Tyler had been here before, and Joe, once again, was out of his comfort zone.

An eye surgeon, to be successful, needs three things besides trusting patients, training, and confidence. A scope, a trained circulator, and a tray and supplies are essential.



We had patients thanks to Drs Socola

Scopes were well under control thanks to continued efforts to upgrade the equipment. The OPMI-1 had foot controlled focus and superb illumination.

Here our host surgeon, Dr Socola is performing our first two cases of the mission.

Once again, “Another Growth Experience” as my sister Deborah would say with a slight enhancement. These were not the rock hard mature cataracts of Africa that I had dealt with in the past. The patients for the most part had advanced nuclear sclerotic cataracts with lots of sticky cortex.



Fig 4.6-2 Bimanual technique of nucleus prolapse into the anterior chamber

Kent, thank you for teaching me the method you use to get a difficult to prolapse nucleus out of the bag and into the A/C. I found the “Kirk Chopsticks” described in the Aravind MSICS Manual but I know from now on I will be asking

for my Chopsticks, thanks to you!

Like many things in life, there are a lot of choices, and trying to make choices that fit can be difficult.



Finding a fit for our skills can be a challenge. I found myself kneeling to use a slit lamp because of the height difference. I'd like to

thank everyone for making us feel welcome, and able to contribute to the little rock pile that was generated by our team. Each of those brown things you see below is what some person was trying to see through.



Thanks to the Parish that housed and fed us, SEE that managed logistics, all the Donors that supplied lenses and necessary tools, especially Alcon, and to all the team that contributed so effectively.



Love from Piura Peru – Joe Sarah and Emily
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