



October, 2012

After eighteen years as an organization Heart Care International commenced a trip without one of its early Board members. Jerry Jacob passed away just before this mission took place. It seems only fitting that we call this Jerry's trip, for without his commitment and insights much of what Heart Care International has undertaken would not have been possible.

So it was with a sense of loss that we commenced our third journey to Lima, Peru, and the Instituto del Niño. What follows is my observations as a volunteer without portfolio.

I watched the 'dance of healing', with operating theatre one as the stage, and with a multitude of props, and the table at the center and the heart-lung machine in its back-up position, the stage was set and the perfusionist arrived. Each patient requires a different setting, and without music the dance begins; there is a noise in the hall and the gurney is wheeled in with Fausto, or Sofia, Diego or Elena, heart sick, precious children, each with a special need, each one without price. There is a surge in the activity, the Anesthesiologist arrives, probing for a vein, an artery, more dancers, the O.R. nurse, more props gleaming cold, Fausto disappears scrubbed in brown and draped with sterile cloths until all you see is his tiny chest and the faint rise of his beating heart.

Old hat for these dancers, something they have done over and over again, only this time no pay check. Without fanfare, quietly two surgeons enter, one Heart Care International, the other Peruvian both looking like some lighted insect, having already conferred, and noting the others the rhythm changes, there is the noise of a saw, the sound of sheers, there is a poetry about it, for at the center is a naked beating heart, life itself is at stake, and the result is not only the prolonging of life, but the gift of joy to the patients certainly, but the parents as well.

There are no hero's with Heart Care International, we all realize that it is the team, a dance team, in my mind you are all hero's and as an audience of one, I stand and clap and clap for Fausto and all the others whose lives Heart Care International has changed and for Jerry, who made a bit of this happen.

What a privilege to be the bringers of hope, and to Jerry and all those who have no skills in medicine, but have given countless hours, ideas, and yes, even money, thank you. We can and we will do more. We have some needs right now.

Ron Allison, Board Member