



July 20, 2005

It's about time that I let you know about what's happening with MACLA and the hundreds of patients that you helped us treat in this, our 21<sup>st</sup> year.

At the Padre Billini Hospital in Santo Domingo this February we operated on 201 patients, saw over 1500 new patients in consultation and treated hundreds of those in need. Again most of the patients who we operated on had reconstructive plastic surgical problems from cleft lips to hypospadias, hand deformities, burn and traumatic facial and extremity deformities. To date, all of our patients have done well and there were no reports of any significant problems.

Because of the recurrent physician strikes in the Dominican Republic and for little or no pay, the Dominican physicians have postponed their spring trip to the Haitian border until this fall. In the fall another 200 operations are anticipated by multi-specialty teams made up of Dominicans whom we have supplied with all the equipment, medicines and funds. This is made possible by our ongoing education of our Dominican friends, as well as your generosity in allowing us to reach out to more in need.

Bolivia has been a bit of a political mess with protests against the government, a new president elected under strife and paralysis of the capitol of La Paz where we do most of our work. Dr. Dana Towle is taking a medical team this month to Bolivia to potentially explore other sites and reaffirm our friendship with our Bolivian allies. Later this year or early next, another medical team will be heading to La Paz if all is safe.

Also in November, MACLA will be sponsoring a small surgical team led by Dr. David Song from the University of Chicago to reconstruct ears on children. This is a new and exciting venture for us as the country has no reconstructive surgeons who do any type of ear reconstruction. Thousands of patients need these operations.

Please read the lengthy PS on the back, if you wish, and keep supporting our efforts. Without your gifts, support and work, hundreds of lives could not be changed, saved or given some hope. We need your continued support and we are thankful for you.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Geraghty, M.D