

# MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 2

Fall, 2011

On September 24, 2011, **Surgery Team #17** arrived at the Mission of Hope hospital in Santa Cruz, Bolivia to provide a **week of free gynecology and general surgeries**. It was amazing to watch this team in action as they came together from all over the US and Canada, working together for the first time! The patients who received these **life-changing surgeries** were so very appreciative! Most of them had been in pain for many years because they did not have the money to pay for surgery in a public hospital.



**Maria**, 11 years old, loves math and is the best student in her class! She suffered with the pain of a hernia for 3 years. Any activity or exertion was painful. She had an excellent surgery and is now pain free!



**Lizandro**, 15 years old, loves soccer but was unable to play because of a large hernia. He is now looking forward to getting back in the game! Lizandro has big dreams. He wants to become a petroleum engineer!



**Reina**, 29 years old, lives with her husband and 4 young children, including one child who is handicapped and unable to walk. Her husband earns about \$12/day working in construction. Reina has been in serious pain for 9 years. She is now pain free after doctors removed a gallstone the size of a large acorn!



**Gregorio**, 65 years old, lives with his wife quite a long distance from Santa Cruz. He rode the bus for 12 hours each way to get to his screening appointments at the clinic. Being a man of faith, he continued to make the long trip and was finally selected for surgery to repair the hernia he had for 20 years!



**Marlene**

### **Marlene's Story**

**Marlene** is a 36 year old woman who lives with her husband, 4 teenage children, and her elderly parents about 12 hours from Santa Cruz. They live in a small farming community of about 30 families, where they grow rice, corn, yucca, and plantains. During the 3-4 months of the rainy season, the roads are often impassable, and the community has to go without basic necessities.

The nearest medical care is 6-8 hours away, depending on the condition of the roads. Marlene first heard about the Mission of Hope clinic from her sister-in-law, who lives in Santa Cruz. Marlene **was in a lot of pain** from what was thought to be a tumor

growing in her abdomen. The "tumor" had grown so large that it was pressing on all of her organs. She lived like this for about 2 years. Finally, the pain was so intense that she had to stop working.

Marlene came to the Mission of Hope clinic and was put on the list for surgery. The "tumor" turned out to be **an enormous 2 ½ lb. ovarian cyst** about the size of a large cantaloupe! Marlene feels much lighter now and very **happy to be free of the pain** that she lived with for so long. She is very grateful to Mission of Hope and to the team of surgeons who came from so far away.

### **\$100,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE**

The **\$100,000 matching gift challenge** is now in effect. **Every dollar** that we receive between now and December 31<sup>st</sup> up to \$100,000 **will be doubled** by an anonymous donor. This money will be used to operate our free medical clinic in Santa Cruz during the year 2012. Mission of Hope, Bolivia takes its financial stewardship very seriously. We are **debt-free** and approximately **97% of all donations** go directly into our Bolivia program.

On July 4<sup>th</sup> of this year, we celebrated **9 years of operating our free medical clinic** in Santa Cruz. To date, **more than 200,000 patients** have received medical care at no cost and more than 1,000 patients have received free surgeries. Also, more than 40,000 patients have made decisions for Christ in our waiting room!

If you have not yet visited our **new web site**, we invite you to do so. You will find that all the newsletters since we began in the year 2000 are archived. Photos from many of the teams are also archived. For your convenience, you can now make **secure online donations**. Please tell your family and friends about the work of Mission of Hope and encourage them to visit our new web site. [www.missionofhopebolivia.org](http://www.missionofhopebolivia.org)

### **Sucre Clinic Update**

**Construction of the new medical clinic in Sucre is now complete**, but it is empty. **Donations are needed to furnish this new clinic** so that we can begin providing free medical care for the Quechua Indian people of Sucre. The clinic in Sucre will serve as a medical out-patient clinic. We will not have surgical facilities there. The estimated cost of furnishing this clinic is about \$35,000. If you would like to help with this project, please attach a note with your gift or write "Sucre" on the memo line of your check.

**Thank you for partnering with us to serve the poor in Bolivia. Together, we are making a difference!!**

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