

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 3

December, 2006



Jennifer after heart surgery

As we finish the year, 2006, we are amazed at what God has done through Mission of Hope, Bolivia! To date, **more than 100,000 patients have received free care** in our out-patient medical clinic in Santa Cruz! The clinic is open Monday-Friday, January-December, except for holidays and the two weeks that we have surgery teams from the US. During the two weeks that the teams are there, the clinic is closed, and we become a full service hospital with 2 operating rooms and 12 patient rooms on the second floor. When patients come in at other times during the year who need an urgent surgery and cannot wait for a team to come, or when patients come in needing a very specialized surgery, Mission of Hope arranges for them to have surgery in a private hospital and pays for all of their expenses.

Eleven-year-old **Jennifer** has been **sick for most of her young life**. She was born in Sucre, where she lived with her mother, father, brother, and 3 sisters until she became very sick. Her parents took her to the hospital, and she was in the hospital for 3 months. By that time, her parents had spent all their money and **had to sell their land and their house to pay the hospital bill**. Jennifer needed a very expensive heart surgery, but her parents had exhausted all of their resources. An American missionary got involved and raised the money that was needed. The surgery went well, but soon after returning home, Jennifer began having problems again. She returned to the hospital, and her parents **sold their few remaining possessions** to pay the bill. Then Jennifer's father died, leaving the family without any means of support. Jennifer and her mother moved to Santa Cruz in hopes of finding a job. A short time later, Jennifer began hemorrhaging and needed immediate treatment. Her mother was **desperate to find help and asked God for a miracle**. Someone told her about Mission of Hope, and there she found the help that she needed. Mission of Hope arranged for Jennifer to have a mitral valve replacement in a hospital that specializes in heart surgery for children. **Mission of Hope, Bolivia covered all the expenses** for the surgery and follow-up care. Jennifer surprised the doctors with her very rapid recovery. Jennifer is now able to run and play with her friends, which is something she has wanted to do for a very long time!

Adrieli is 10 years old. She lives with her mom, dad, sisters, brothers, and cousins in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Santa Cruz. Her mom earns money by washing clothes, and her father works harvesting crops. When the US surgery team came to Mission of Hope in September, Adrieli was on the list for a hernia surgery. During the pre-operative exam, it was discovered that she had a serious heart murmur. She had been having episodes of chest pain and fatigue but thought it was related to the hernia. After a successful repair of her hernia, Adrieli had a cardiology consult, which revealed 4 heart murmurs. **Mission of Hope staff are now making arrangements for Adrieli to have the heart surgery she needs.**



Adrieli waits for heart surgery



Maria Gisela after heart surgery

Maria Gisela, who was featured in our spring newsletter, also needed a very expensive heart surgery. Frequent episodes of dizziness, blackouts, severe chest pain and fatigue caused her to drop out of school. Maria lives with her entire family in one room about an hour away from Santa Cruz. Someone in her neighborhood told her about Mission of Hope.

Maria had a very successful open heart surgery in one of Bolivia's best private hospitals. She amazed the doctors with her rapid and excellent recovery. She is looking forward to returning to school. Her whole life has changed! She is playing basketball and other sports. For the first time in her life, she is able to run and not get tired. **She is so thankful to all of you** for your prayers and gifts on her behalf.

Mauricio is 14 years old and lives with his mother and sister in Santa Cruz. His father abandoned him and his family 7 years ago. Mauricio began having problems with his kidneys when he was 3 years old. By the time he was 12 years old, he was **in renal failure** and had to begin **dialysis**. Mauricio's mother earns money by working as a hair stylist and selling cosmetics, but her income is not sufficient to pay for all the necessary treatments for Mauricio.

Mauricio loves school and was a very good student, but when his kidneys failed, he had to drop out of school. He loves to read and draw and play sports, but now he is no longer able to play sports. Mauricio's sister entered an essay contest and wrote a story about her brother. She won a prize for her essay, and her brother received donations to help with the dialysis treatments.

Mauricio needs a kidney transplant. In order to be placed on the waiting list to receive a kidney, he must pay a deposit of \$7,000. Mauricio recently visited his father to ask for his help, but his father rejected him and wanted nothing to do with him. **Mission of Hope, Bolivia would like to help Mauricio** to get a new kidney.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia is committed to helping the children of Bolivia. Every year, we receive **more and more requests for help**. When patients leave our clinic, they go back to their neighborhoods and tell their families, friends, and neighbors about the hope and healing they have received. News of Mission of Hope is spreading, and **patients are now coming from all over Bolivia** for help.



Mauricio needs a kidney transplant.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia

P.O. Box 4001
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Tel. & Fax: 434-977-4748
Email: cindytha@cstone.net
www.missionofhopebolivia.org

Mission of Hope, Bolivia is a
501c3 tax-exempt organization.

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge continues until December 31, 2006. An anonymous donor will double every dollar we receive, and this money will be used to operate our free medical clinic during the year 2007.

An independent financial audit for Mission of Hope, Bolivia reported that **more than 98% of all donations** received during the year 2005 **went into our program in Bolivia**. Only 1.46% was spent on administrative costs. It is because of your faithful prayers and support that we are able to provide these special surgeries for children like Jennifer, Adrieli, Maria Gisela, and Mauricio. As we end the year 2006, **we want to thank all of you for partnering with us to serve the poor** in Bolivia. We give **glory to God for the great things He has done through you** and Mission of Hope, Bolivia. God bless you!!