

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Do you remember this photo of baby Farid from the December, 2005 newsletter?

As we reflect on the past nine years, we are amazed at **what God has done through Mission of Hope! Many lives have been saved!** You may remember the story of **Farid**, a baby who was born with a **congenital heart defect**. Doctors told his parents that he was going to die and disconnected the machines that were keeping him alive! A **series of miracles** followed as Farid's parents found Mission of Hope and we sent them to a hospital in Cochabamba that specializes in heart surgery for children. **Farid's life was saved** and his father, Carlos was hired to work in the Mission of Hope clinic!

Even though Farid had a successful surgery and his life was miraculously saved, the doctors had concerns. They told Carlos and his wife that the blood pressure in Farid's pulmonary artery was very high. This is the main artery that carries blood from the right ventricle of the heart to the lungs. High pulmonary pressure can cause serious damage to the lungs and ultimately result in heart failure. Doctors also told them that Farid would probably be late walking, very slow gaining weight, and have other developmental issues. Much to everyone's surprise and delight, every aspect of **Farid's growth and development was completely normal** and he was walking before his first birthday! He was full of life!

From 2005 until 2008, Mission of Hope arranged for Farid to return to Cochabamba on a regular basis for check-ups. All of the follow-up tests and **studies showed his heart to be working perfectly!** The doctors thought maybe the high pulmonary pressure was related to the higher altitude in Cochabamba, but this continued to be worrisome for his parents.

Then, in April of 2011, a cardiology team came to the Mission of Hope clinic. Farid was seen by the team and tested. The results showed his heart and his pulmonary pressure to be completely normal! This was such a relief for his parents!

Farid is now 7 years old and in first grade. His father, Carlos, tells us that Farid is very good student and that he wants to be a doctor when he grows up! If you would like to read the original story of Farid, please visit our web site at www.missionofhopebolivia.org and click on the December, 2005 newsletter in the "Archives" section.



Farid with his dad, Carlos



Silvia

You may also remember the story of **Silvia**, a beautiful young lady who came to the Mission of Hope clinic so weak and short of breath that she had to be in a wheelchair. Silvia had a **serious heart condition**. Mission of Hope arranged for her to go to this same hospital in Cochabamba, where she had surgery on her mitral valve. She had a very **successful surgery** and **her life was dramatically changed!** Prior to the surgery, Silvia was focused on whether or not she would live or die. When Silvia came back to the Mission of Hope clinic a few months ago to visit, she was completing a two year nursing program! She had also married and was joyfully **expecting her first baby!** You can read Silvia's story by clicking on the December, 2008 newsletter in the "Archives" section of the web site.



Denil

Denil's Story

Denil is one of five children. His father is a carpenter and his mother works as a cleaning lady. Denil has been in and out of the hospital since birth with **episodes of not being able to breathe**. Each time this happened, his parents would rush him to the hospital. At the hospital, Denil would receive only enough treatment to stabilize and go home again because his **parents did not have money for any diagnostic tests**.

Finally, when Denil was five years old, a doctor told his parents that **he needed heart surgery**. They looked for help from charitable agencies in Santa Cruz, but **no one would help them**. They went to local TV stations and asked for air time to plea for help, but their request was denied. Meanwhile, the hospitalizations continued.

First they **lost their house**. Then, the lot of land that they lived on was raffled off to pay the hospital bills. Finally, **Denil's dad had to sell all of his carpentry machinery and tools** to pay the bills. Each time that Denil was admitted to the hospital, **Denil's mother had to quit her job** to stay with him in the hospital. She would sit in a chair beside his bed for days at a time.

Denil's parents had lost hope of being able to help their son. They knew that surgery was not a possibility. It was hard enough just to feed their family and keep up with the hospital bills. Then someone told them about Mission of Hope.

When Denil came to the Mission of Hope clinic in October of this year, he was **13 years old** and **weighed only 57 lbs**. He was **so weak, he could hardly walk**. His parents said his condition was worsening, that he had no appetite and that he was losing weight. He was often sent home from school because of extreme fatigue and shortness of breath. The Mission of Hope clinic arranged for Denil to visit the hospital in Cochabamba that specializes in heart surgery for children, the same hospital that Farid and Silvia went to.

Denil was evaluated and put on a special diet. When he returned to Santa Cruz a week later, he had gained 10 lbs! Doctors determined that **Denil needs surgery for an aortic valve replacement as soon as possible**. We need approximately \$10,000 to cover all the expenses of Denil's surgery. This includes pre-operative testing, lab work, surgery, medicines, and the cost of the replacement valve. If you would like to help with this surgery, please note that on the memo line of your check. If you are donating online, please send us a note by email to designate your gift.

\$100,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

The **\$100,000 matching gift challenge** continues until December 31st, 2011. **Every dollar** that we receive 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 is a **debt-free organization** and approximately **97 % of all donations** go directly to Bolivia! With your prayers and financial support, we are able to help special patients like Farid, Silvia, and Denil. **Thank you for partnering with us to help the people of Bolivia. Together, we are truly making a difference and lives are being saved! God bless you!**

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