

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Surgery Team #11 provided a wonderful **week of free surgeries** at the Mission of Hope hospital! Gallstones were removed, hernias were repaired, cysts and masses were removed, and years of living and working in pain ended for the **66 patients who received the blessing of a life-changing surgery!**



Viviana, 9 years old, has had a hernia since birth. Her mother works as a cleaning lady, and her father works as a guard. Viviana is in 4th grade and her favorite subject is math. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up.



Martha, 40 years old, is a single mom with 5 children. Just before the team arrived, she was in so much pain from gallstones that she was admitted to a public hospital. Surgery was not an option there because she had no money.



Valentina, 54 years old, is a single mom with 3 teenagers. Nodules growing in her thyroid gland over the past 20 years had gotten so large that it was difficult for her to breathe lying down and difficult for her to swallow her food. Now she can eat and breathe normally!



Pedro, 45 years old, lives with his 2 school aged children in the poorest neighborhood of Santa Cruz. His wife died of appendicitis. He earns about \$6/day selling newspapers on the street. He was in pain from a large hernia for many years. Now he can work without pain!



Aguida's Story

Aguida is a 32 year old mother of six children. Aguida grew up in a Christian family and at the age of 18, she married the keyboard musician at her church. She worked as a cook's helper in a Christian mission home for street children until she began having children of her own. When she quit work to stay at home and care for her children, the family **economic situation became very difficult.**

After the birth of her 5th child, Aguida had a “**copper T**” **intrauterine device inserted** so that she would not have any more children. A few months later, she began to feel sick. She went back to the gynecologist who had inserted the copper T, and he **told her that she was pregnant.** Aguida, shocked by the news, asked the doctor how she could be pregnant when he had inserted an IUD. The doctor said there was no IUD in place and denied that he had ever inserted one.

When Aguida was lying on the operating table to deliver her 6th child by Caesarian Section, she informed the surgeon that a copper T had been inserted prior to her becoming pregnant. The surgeon refused to listen to her and told her to be quiet and not talk during the surgery.

About 5 years after the birth of this last child, Aguida began to feel **sharp pains in her abdomen.** The pain was so strong that she was not able to do her housework. In the months that followed, she went to several different doctors. Each one could feel a **mass in her abdomen**, but no one could tell her what it was and why it was causing such sharp pain.

Finally, she came to the Mission of Hope clinic. On exam, Dr. Luis Tapia was very surprised to discover that **this mass was the copper T** that had been inserted 7 years before! **Aguida needed an urgent surgery** and was immediately put on the list for the surgery team that was arriving from the US.

When the team operated, they found that the copper T was outside the uterus and had created an abscess. Aguida developed anemia and a very serious systemic infection after the surgery. A **middle of the night crisis** resulted in a decision to give her a blood transfusion. At 2 am, a call was made to the local blood bank requesting 2 units of blood. The **blood bank refused to send the blood** until someone came with \$200 cash to pay for the blood. If the team had not been there, that could have been the end of the story.

Later that day, the decision was made to transfer Aguida to a private hospital, where she could be more closely monitored in an intensive care facility. Before agreeing to receive her and treat her, the hospital wanted a \$3,500 cash deposit. Again, if the team had not been there, this story would have a completely different outcome.

Aguida has now completely recovered from her surgery and the complications which followed. She is very **thankful to God for using this team to save her life** and for all those who support the Mission of Hope clinic in Santa Cruz.

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

\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge is now in effect through December 31st. Every dollar that we receive between now and the end of the year will be doubled by an anonymous donor. To God be the Glory!