

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

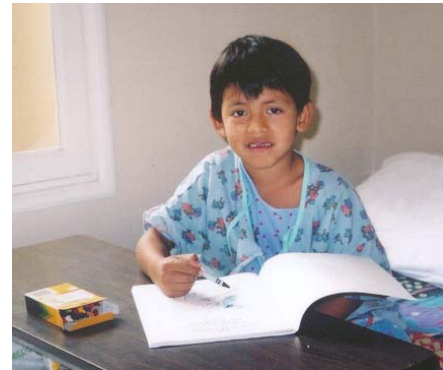
Volume 4, Issue 2

August, 2003

On Aug. 2, 2003, the first US surgical team arrived at the Mission of Hope hospital in Santa Cruz. The team from VA, NC, and FL performed 28 surgeries. This newsletter is dedicated to our first surgery patients and their stories. A big "Thank You!" to all of you for making this possible! It was wonderful!!



Drs. Kennel & Whitten with Fonda



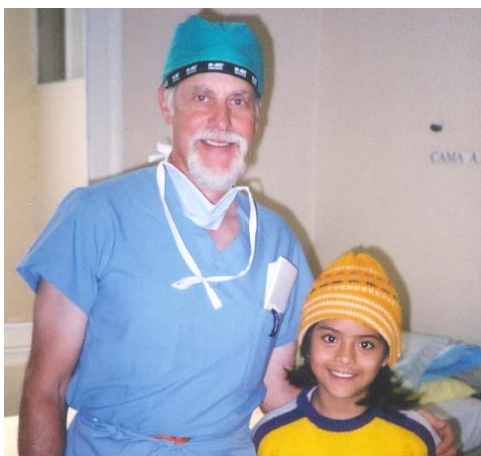
Gabriel after hernia surgery



Maria after removal of large cyst



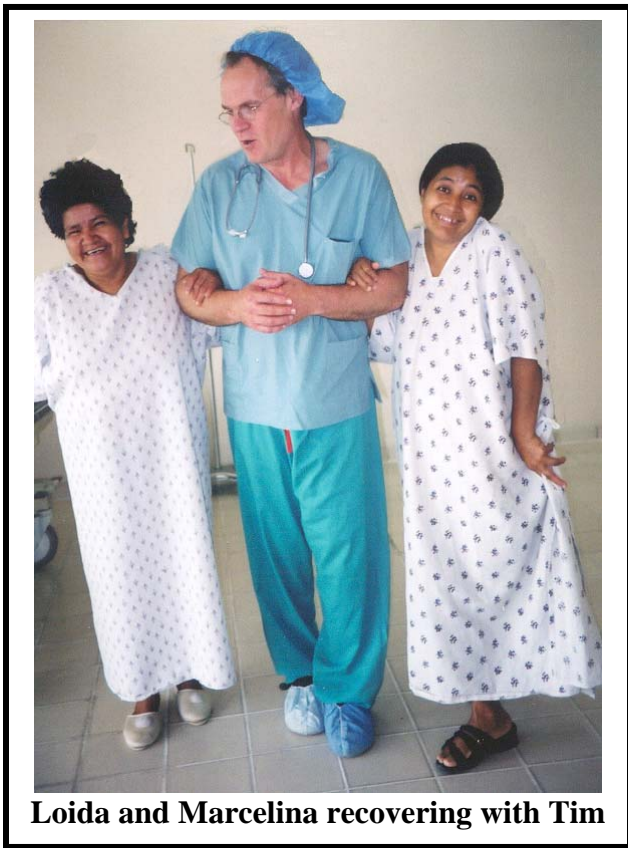
Pastor Chad singing to Porfidia



Katarina going home after surgery



Luisa giving thanks for her surgery



Loida and Marcelina recovering with Tim

***Gabriel** is a 5-year-old boy who needed a hernia surgery. His mother is unemployed and has no money. Gabriel had a successful surgery and went home the same day.

***Maria**, a 58-year-old lady, lives in the mountains near the border of Chile. When asked why she came to Mission of Hope for her surgery, she said, “because here we pray and sing songs.” Doctors removed an ovarian cyst weighing almost 6 pounds.

***Porfidia** is a 61-year-old lady with 5 children. She is very poor and earns money by cleaning houses. For 8 months, she had suffered with pain from a prolapsed bladder. The highlight of her hospital stay was Pastor Chad playing his guitar and singing a song to her about following Jesus.

***Katarina**, a 9-year-old girl, had an inguinal hernia. For 3 years, she experienced difficulty urinating. Her mother has 5 other children and did not have money for surgery. Within a few hours after a successful surgery, Katarina was walking around and able to go home.

***Luisa** is a 42-year-old lady who lives about an hour from Santa Cruz. She had suffered with a prolapsed uterus for 9 years. Her husband rejected her and would not give her food to eat. She was so weak that all she could do was lie in bed. Her pastor came to visit her and told her about Mission of

Hope. Her church gave her money for bus fare. Luisa was so very thankful for her surgery. She said, “If this hospital were not here, where would I go?”

***Loida** is a 50-year-old woman with 6 children. For almost 10 years, she had been in pain from gallstones because she had no money for surgery. Loida had surgery to remove her gallstones and is now pain free for the first time in many years.

***Marcelina** is a 38-year-old woman with 7 children. Her husband has been out of work for 2 years. She earns money by washing clothes. She has suffered from the pain of a prolapsed bladder for 6 years. After a successful surgery, Marcelina is now pain free. No wonder she is dancing with Tim!

*For more pictures and patient stories, please visit our web site at www.missionofhopebolivia.org

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The US Team: Marianne & Dr. Elmer Kennel, Sonia Elias, Fonda & Robert Cassidy, Dr. Carl Lynch, Pastor Chad Myhre, Dr. Larry Whitten, Tim Murray, Gaby Urgo, Michelle Greer, Kay Weber, Cindy Thacker, Danny Mace, and not pictured, Dr. Shirley Davis Martin