

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

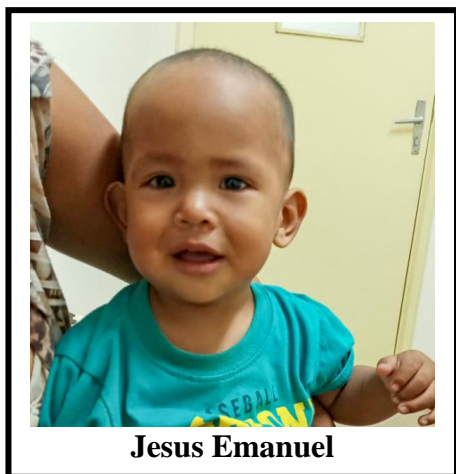
NEWSLETTER

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Stories from Santa Cruz

In July of this year, our **Mission of Hope clinic** in Santa Cruz, Bolivia **celebrated 18 years** of providing **free medical care and medicines** to patients like these...



Jesus Emanuel

Jesus Emanuel is 12 months old. His family is very poor. He lives with his mother, brother, aunt, cousins, and grandparents all together in one house with no indoor plumbing and a dirt floor. The grandfather supports the family by driving a taxi. There is barely enough money for food. So, when Jesus Emanuel began having diarrhea and vomiting on a Saturday morning, there was no money to take him to a doctor or even fill a prescription.

The grandmother had heard about Mission of Hope from a neighbor. So, early Monday morning, as soon as the clinic opened, Jesus Emanuel and his mother were standing outside, waiting to come in and see the pediatrician. They were given medicines and vitamins at no charge. In talking with the mother, we learned that the family is so poor that they rarely have money to buy milk for Jesus Emanuel. So, when he came back for his follow-up appointment, the

clinic gave his mother a good supply of powdered milk completely free. He is now a healthy, happy baby!

Yan Jaira is 6 years old and in first grade. She lives with her mother and 2 older sisters in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Santa Cruz. Her father abandoned them when she was a year old.

When Yan Jaira was 3 years old, she began having symptoms of fever, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Her mother took her to a medical clinic near her home, where Yan Jaira was treated for a urinary tract infection. During the next 3 years, the symptoms would come and go, but never really went away. She also developed a loss of appetite and headaches. On subsequent visits to this same clinic, the diagnosis was always the same... a urinary tract infection. Finally, her mother brought her to the Mission of Hope clinic where lab work revealed an infection of parasites and not a urinary tract



Yan Jaira

infection. After a successful treatment for parasites, Yan Jaira is well and all of her symptoms have disappeared!

Iker is also 6 years old and in first grade. There are 9 people living in his household and his father is the only one working. His father earns about \$15/day as a cook's helper.



Iker

Iker came to the Mission of Hope clinic with a skin infection. During the course of the visit, our pediatrician noticed that Iker walked with a slight limp. His mother said she had taken him to the government run Children's Hospital in hopes of seeing an orthopedic doctor but was turned away. Because of Covid-19, the hospital is only seeing emergency cases. Mission of Hope paid for Iker to see a specialist and purchased special shoes for him that the orthopedic doctor recommended. Meanwhile, after a successful treatment of the skin infection, Iker is no longer scratching and his skin is clear!

Carmelo's Story



Carmelo after surgery

Carmelo, 13 years old, lives with his parents, one brother, three sisters, and his grandmother. His father works to support the family as a helper in construction whenever he can find work. He does not have a steady job.

In late August, Carmelo began experiencing **sharp pains** in his abdomen. **He could hardly eat** anything because eating made the pain worse. One night, the pain got so bad that his mother took him to the Emergency Room of a private clinic, the only clinic open at that hour of the night. An ultrasound there revealed **many tiny gallstones**, which were small enough to pass into the common bile duct, creating a

potentially dangerous situation. **Carmelo needed surgery**, but his **family did not have money** for a surgery. He was given pain meds and sent home.

The pain got worse. His mother took him to a public clinic. They tried for 3 days to get in to see a doctor. Finally, they were told to go to a public hospital since Carmelo needed a surgery. At the public hospital, they were turned away because there was not a pediatrician there and because the public hospital was only admitting Covid patients and emergencies, and they did not consider Carmelo an emergency. So, Carmelo and his mother returned to the public clinic to tell them they were unable to get help at the public hospital. They were given more pain meds and sent home.

Meanwhile, the **pain was constant** and keeping Carmelo awake at night. Then the grandmother suggested they go to the Mission of Hope clinic where everything is free. Carmelo came to the clinic with his mother and older sister. During the appointment, his sister began to cry saying her brother had been in pain for so long and that they didn't know how to help him because they don't have money.

Mission of Hope arranged for Carmelo to have a **successful surgery** in a private hospital and **paid for all of his expenses**. Now when Carmelo's sister talks about him, there are tears of joy! She is so happy that her brother is no longer in pain! Carmelo's father said he could not believe that a place like Mission of Hope really exists...a place where they pay for everything without asking for a penny in return!

Jesus Emanuel, Yan Jaira, Iker, and Carmelo are typical of the children we see in our clinics. Many of them live in very unsanitary conditions with dirt floors and no indoor plumbing... no sinks with running water or bathroom facilities inside... When there is **barely enough money for food**, any sickness is a crisis, especially when it involves a child. The **parents are always so thankful** and relieved to have a place like Mission of Hope where they can receive **good medical attention and medicines at no cost**.

As we noted in our previous newsletter, the Covid-19 crisis has resulted in a **complete collapse of the health care system in Bolivia!** The need is now greater than ever! **Both of our clinics** in Sucre and Santa Cruz **are open and going strong!**

Mission of Hope is a faith-based, no-debt mission. In 2019, less than 3% of all donations were spent on administrative expenses, with 97% going directly into our Bolivia program! Thank you for giving generously throughout the year, and thank you for partnering with us to serve the poor and share the hope that we have in Jesus. To God be the glory for this very special ministry!

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

EXCITING NEWS!!!
THE \$150,000 MATCHING GIFT
CHALLENGE HAS NOW BEEN RAISED TO
\$200,000!!!

Every dollar that we receive between now and December 31st up to \$200,000 will be doubled by an anonymous donor. This money will be used for operating expenses in the coming year!