

# MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 3

December, 2013



**Edward after surgery in April**

### **Baby Edward**

**Baby Edward** was born November 29, 2012 to David and Ximena, a young couple having their first baby. After giving birth, Ximena wondered why the nurses did not bring the baby to breastfeed. As soon as she was able to get out of bed and walk, she went looking for her baby. She found him in the newborn intensive care unit in an incubator receiving oxygen. There she was told that her baby **could not cry, could not suck, could not breathe**, and that he **would be on oxygen for the rest of his life**.

Baby Edward stayed in the incubator for one month. David and Ximena were very anxious to take their baby home. Finally, the nurse told them that if Edward was able to go through one night without oxygen, he would be able to go home. She turned off the oxygen and told them to pray. They did. The next morning, they were delighted to find out that Edward had **slept through the night without oxygen** and that he could go home!

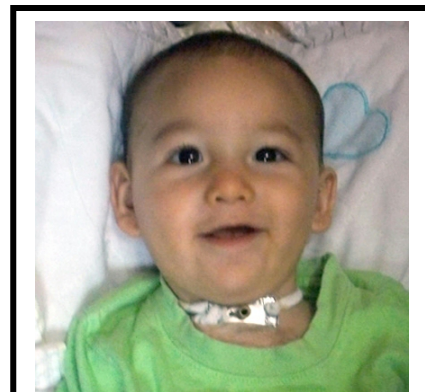
David and Ximena grew up attending the same school together. When Edward was born, they both had jobs cleaning this very large public school of grades 1-12. After taking him home, they could not sleep. They felt that they had to watch him every second. They would take him to work with them in an infant carrier and set him in the corner of the room where they were cleaning. Ximena would take breaks to breastfeed him. David and Ximena were both exhausted!

From time to time, Edward would have **episodes of difficulty breathing and turning blue**, and David and Ximena would have to rush him to the nearest medical facility. Sometimes they would wait for hours to see a doctor. When they finally did receive attention, Edward would just be given some oxygen and then sent home again.

At the hospital where Edward was born, they met a nurse who told them about Dr. Patricia Ortega, an ENT doctor who volunteers at the Mission of Hope clinic. When they went to see Dr. Patricia, she told them about a surgery team that was coming. The ENT surgery team arrived in April and examined Edward. His every breath was a struggle, accompanied by a squeaking sound as he tried to take in air, and his cry was very weak, like that of a kitten. They determined that **both vocal chords were paralyzed** and stuck shut, leaving only a very narrow airway. It was truly a miracle that he had survived all those months! Even the slightest inflammation or increased mucus production, like a common cold, could have been fatal by closing off his tiny airway. He needed an immediate surgery to insert an airway below the obstruction, which would allow him to breathe, sleep, and eat without difficulty.

After Edward's surgery, he remained in the hospital so that David and Ximena could learn how to take care of him. They were both overwhelmed and terrified at the prospect of caring for his tracheostomy, as it involved frequent suctioning of the flem that would collect in the breathing tube. With the help and support of Mission of Hope, they overcame their fears and became excellent care givers! Now they carry their portable suction machine everywhere they go!

Edward is now doing very well. A recent exam revealed that the **vocal chords are starting to move!!** Now there is hope that the breathing tube can be permanently removed in the near future. David now has a teaching job in the school where he was working as a janitor. He and Ximena are so very thankful for all of your prayers and support!



**Edward, 11 months old**

## Mission of Hope's first Eye Clinic



Alie Cooper tests Concepcion



Concepcion's new glasses

In the process of screening patients for the September surgery team, patients were asked to read a passage of Scripture. We were then able to make a list of those **patients who needed reading glasses but did not have money to buy them**. They were given a special return appointment!

**Concepcion** (pictured at left) was one of the patients selected to receive glasses. Concepcion is a 58 year old lady who lives with her 3 daughters in Santa Cruz. She is **very poor** and has no husband and **no income**.

On September 6th, 2013, Mission of Hope held its first ever eye clinic! Through a generous donation of brand new reading glasses, **we were able to fit more than 50 patients** like Concepcion with their correct prescription strength. These patients were so happy to be able to read again! Each patient also received a Spanish New Testament as a gift from the local Gideon Bible Society of Bolivia.

We would welcome any donations of new reading glasses for a future eye clinic. **This was truly a life-changing event** for all of the patients who received the gift of clear vision!

## \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge

**The \$100,000 matching gift challenge continues until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.** Every dollar that we receive between now and the end of the year will be doubled by an anonymous donor. The matching gift challenge applies to churches, foundations, and individuals. This money will be used to operate our free medical clinics during the year 2014.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia takes its financial stewardship very seriously. We are a **debt-free mission** and our most recent independent audit showed that approximately **98% of all donations** went **directly into our Bolivia program!**

As you partner with us to serve the poor in Bolivia, we are able to help special patients like baby Edward, saving and transforming many lives in the process! **With your support, we are making a difference, both now and for eternity! Praise the Lord!!**

## News from the Sucre Clinic



Severina

Our **new clinic in Sucre**, which opened in February of this year, has already taken care of **more than 2,500 patients!** As word of this clinic has spread, patients walk for miles on unpaved dirt and gravel roads to get to this free clinic!

**Severina** (pictured at left) came to the clinic with severe anemia. She was given treatment, and she returned a few months later in much improved health. She is **90 years old** and her coming to our clinic was her **first time ever seeing a medical doctor!** She told us **how grateful she is to God for putting this clinic in her neighborhood!**

## Mission of Hope, Bolivia

P.O. Box 103  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
Tel. & Fax 434-977-4748

New email address:  
cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org  
www.missionofhopebolivia.org

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