

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Sarahi and her mother, Maria.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia has received a **wonderful answer to prayer for Sarahi**, the beautiful 5-year-old girl pictured in our fall newsletter. Sarahi needs a complicated neurosurgery that we cannot do in Bolivia. “Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center,” which is a **private, Catholic hospital in Baton Rouge, LA, has offered to perform the surgery for Sarahi free of charge.** They will also provide a complete round of pre-operative tests to evaluate her condition, as well as follow-up care with one of their pediatricians after the surgery. At their request, our **Mission of Hope pediatrician, Dr. Jesus Laime, will accompany Sarahi to Baton Rouge** so that he can be taught how to care for her following the surgery.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia will be working in conjunction with International Medical Ministries, which is headquartered in Baton Rouge. IMM is working with the local church to **provide transportation, translation, and host families** for Sarahi, her mother, and Dr. Laime. **American Airlines is providing free round-trip tickets** for Sarahi and her mother. They will be arriving in the U.S. on November 27th and surgery is scheduled for December 13th. Please keep them in your prayers.

\$100,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE UPDATE

Every dollar we receive between now and December 31, 2002 up to \$100,000 will be doubled by one of our supporters. This matching gift challenge applies to gifts from churches, foundations, corporations, and individuals. This money will be used to operate our free medical clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia during the year 2003. At the time of this writing in late November, we have about \$27,000 towards our goal of \$100,000 for the matching gift.



HOSPITAL UPDATE

With the heavy rains of the “rainy season” fast approaching, we realized it was necessary to have some type of protection in front of the clinic for the many patients who wait in line for hours at a time. We **have just completed a large awning** that extends out from the second floor to **give the patients protection from sun and rain.** Our clinic is **continuing to provide free medical care for more than 500 patients each week.** Praise the Lord!!

FIRST LADY OF BOLIVIA VISITS MISSION OF HOPE CLINIC



**Mission of Hope Director,
Cindy Thacker, with the
First Lady of Bolivia**

On November 7, 2002, our Executive Director, Cindy Thacker, had the privilege of personally welcoming **Mrs. Ximena Iturralde Sanchez de Lozada, the First Lady of Bolivia**, to the Mission of Hope clinic. The First Lady used her office to bring a 40-foot container of medical equipment and supplies into Bolivia for our mission. She **made a special trip to Santa Cruz to visit the clinic and officially present the donations.**

Usually, when a sea container arrives, the contents are unloaded into a customs warehouse for temporary storage until the paperwork is completed. In our case, the full **container did not have to be unloaded into the customs warehouse** and stayed intact. The **paperwork, which can take months to complete, was accomplished in 3 days.** Normally, trucks the size of the one carrying our container are prohibited from entering the city, but **our container passed** easily through the city streets, complete with a police escort, **directly to the door of our clinic for unloading.** We are very grateful to the First Lady for the support she is giving to our mission in Bolivia.



**40-foot container carrying more than 8 tons of
medical equipment and supplies leaving
customs on its way to the clinic**



**The entire staff, doctors and nurses
included, work together to unload the
container at the clinic**

\$3000 Matching Gift Challenge for Kitchen Renovation

We are working towards our goal of performing surgeries and keeping patients overnight. To help us get our third floor kitchen operational, we have received a **\$3000 matching gift to renovate the kitchen.** At the time of this writing in late November, **we have received \$1000** towards the \$3000 matching gift.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia

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