

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Praise the Lord for the **ENT Surgery Team** that comes to Santa Cruz, Bolivia once a year to provide a **week of free surgeries** at the Mission of Hope hospital! Pictured here are four of the 70 patients who received the blessing of a life-changing surgery at no charge!



Cristina flew on a small plane and traveled 15 hours by bus to get to our hospital. At the age of 6, she lost her voice because of polyps growing on her vocal chords. Her surgery means the end of 7 years of silence!



Olga was 15 years old when she fell out of a tree and broke her nose. She did not have money to go to a doctor. After a successful surgery, Olga can now breathe through her nose for the first time in 10 years!



Ana, 17 years old, was born with normal hearing. An infection of meningitis damaged the nerves that affect hearing and left her deaf in both ears. After being fitted for a free, solar-powered hearing aid, she spoke her first words of many years and said, "thank you!"



Marioli, 5 years old, was missing part of the bone that supports the brain, resulting in a mass between her eyes and a potentially fatal situation. Her father works in the fields planting and harvesting crops. He did not have money to take her to a doctor. Marioli can now go to school and have a normal life!



Eynar

Eynar's Story

Eynar lives with his wife and two children in one room with a dirt floor and no indoor plumbing. He worked as a taxi driver earning about \$7/day until about 4 years ago when he was in a head-on collision. The car accident crushed his face, his jaw, and his throat. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he received an **emergency surgery**. In order to save his life, doctors had to surgically create an opening directly into his trachea to enable him to breathe.

As a result of this surgery, Eynar had no voice and was **unable to speak**. He went to many doctors asking what could be done to restore his voice. He **was told that nothing could be done and that he would never speak again**. Then Eynar heard about Mission of Hope. He came to the clinic in March of 2007, just as the ENT Surgery Team was arriving from the US. The team examined Eynar and felt that his voice could be restored if a laryngeal stent could be surgically inserted for a time. The team tried to find a stent to buy, but was told that laryngeal stents do not exist in Bolivia! **The team prayed** and an amazing series of events took place.

First, the team contacted a friend in the US named Martin and asked him to locate the needed stent. Two days later, Martin called to say that he had the stent but there was not time to send it by express mail and the airlines would not accept it unless it was accompanied by a passenger. So, Martin drove to the airport, bought a ticket, and personally delivered the stent to the Mission of Hope hospital, just in time for a surgery on the team's last day!

Several months later, the stent was surgically removed, and **for the first time in 3 years, Eynar could speak!** In March of 2008, Eynar returned to thank the team and Mission of Hope. Now that he is able to speak, he can once again work and support his family. **Praise the Lord!!**

Sucre Update

In February of this year, a **construction team** of 13 people from Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia arrived in Sucre, Bolivia to **lay the foundation** for a **new medical clinic**. After the team left, local workers were hired to continue the construction, and the walls are now going up. This clinic will be based on the model we currently operate in Santa Cruz, offering free medical exams, free laboratory analysis, free medicines, and a presentation of the Gospel message. It will be a **great blessing** to the poor!

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Construction of a new medical clinic in Sucre