

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Celebrating Surgery Team #31!

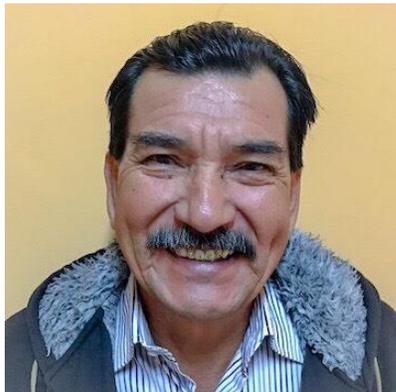
Surgery team #31 arrived in Santa Cruz the weekend of September 7th, in spite of cancelled flights and stormy weather! Team members came from all across the US, and patients came from all over Bolivia! Patients who did not even have money for bus fare to get to the clinic received an excellent surgery completely free of charge! Patients who have lived with their problems for years can now work without pain and support their families! Here are some of their stories...



Ana Isabel, 35 years old, is the mother of 3 children. She endured the pain of gallstones for 9 years because she was terrified of having surgery! Now, she is pain free and so happy that she came to Mission of Hope for surgery!



Andres, 62 years old, is a farmer who has been in pain from a large hernia for 15 years! His brother told him about us, so he borrowed money for bus fare and rode the bus all night! After a successful surgery, he is now pain free!



Jose, 55 years old, is a single dad with 3 children aged 9, 12, & 16. A plumber by trade, he was in so much pain from a hernia that he could not even sleep. Now he is sleeping well and there is no more pain. He can now work and support his family!



Valerio, 53 years old, lives near the border of Argentina. He started having pain about 2 years ago from gallstones. He works as a mason and also sells ice cream in the street. He rode the bus 10 hours to have his surgery! He is so thankful for the doctors who came.



Dina after surgery

Dina's Story

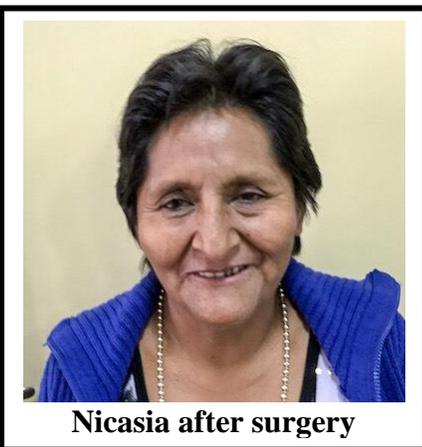
Dina is a 46 year old widow who has 3 living children. Her first born son was working with a crew on a bridge construction when something broke and the bridge collapsed, sending her 18 year old son and two others to their death in the river below. Not long after the death of her son, Dina's mother and father both died. Then, her husband died of leukemia 3 years ago.

Dina began having pain and heavy bleeding more than a year ago. She went to a doctor, who told her she needed surgery. For Dina, the idea of surgery seemed impossible because she did not have money. Then a friend at church told her about Mission of Hope, where everything is free. When Dina came for her interview before surgery, we asked her if she was working. She said she had been without work for two weeks. She had been cleaning house for a lady, but the lady left town and had not come back. We asked her if there was food in her house. She hesitated and then said that they were eating whatever they could find.

Dina had a successful surgery and is now pain free! The US team blessed her with an offering so that she could rest and recover from her surgery with good food to eat. Dina says that her husband was a Christian and her living son is a pastor. In spite of all the sorrows she has experienced in her life, she has chosen to follow Jesus and says that she has experienced many wonderful answers to prayer!

\$150,000 Matching Gift Challenge now in effect!

Every dollar that we receive between now and December 31st **up to \$150,000** will be doubled by an anonymous donor. This money will be used to provide free medical care to the poor during the coming year of 2019. Mission of Hope is a **debt-free** mission, and **almost 100%** of your **tax-exempt donations** go directly into our Bolivia program! Please note that **the challenge has increased by \$50,000!!!**



Nicasia after surgery

Nicasia's Story

Nicasia is a 50 year old single mom who lives in Santa Cruz with her 3 sons, aged 14, 16, and 20. Her husband abandoned her shortly after her youngest son was born. She earns her living by cooking and serving lunch from a small area of her house with 3 tables. Her 20 year old son cooks, and her 17 year old son works for a bakery to help her with expenses. He gets up at 3 am every morning to go to work. He sells bread in the market until 9 am, then comes home and helps her until noon, then goes to school.

About 5 years ago, Nicasia started gaining weight and having pain in her abdomen. As she continued to gain weight, she went to a doctor, who told her that she had a cyst. The doctor told her that the cyst would dry up on its own and that she did not need surgery. She went to a second doctor who told her the cyst had disappeared.

Nicasia continued to gain weight and have pain. One of her neighbors took her to the Mission of Hope clinic. She was sent for an ultrasound, which showed "something real big inside." Nicasia had a successful surgery to remove a 9 lb. ovarian cyst! She feels much lighter now, and 5 years of pain has ended! Meanwhile, her lunch business continues. While she recovers, her daughter-in-law is filling in for her so that she does not lose her faithful clientele. She says she is "very thankful and happy."

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