

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Stories from Sucre

In February of this year, our **Mission of Hope clinic high in the mountains of Sucre**, Bolivia celebrated **7 years** of providing **free medical care and medicines** to the Quechua Indian community there. The poverty in this community is extreme. There is no public transportation and most of the patients arrive at the clinic on foot, some having walked a very long distance.



Basilia

Basilia's Story

Basilia is a 69 year old lady who was one of the first patients to come to our clinic. Basilia lives within walking distance from our clinic and heard from her neighbors that a medical clinic was being built in the neighborhood! So, she came on opening day and has been coming for medical care ever since!

When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Bolivia, our clinic had to close for a period of time. During this time of closure, Basilia **developed a urinary tract infection**. She went to various health clinics in other locations, but **no one would see her** because of her “advanced age” and because they were only seeing patients with symptoms of Covid-19. She even went to a hospital in Sucre but they

refused to see her. As soon as she found out the Mission of Hope clinic had reopened, she immediately came and received treatment for her infection. She is so grateful for the care she received!

Sofia's Story

Sofia is 7 years old and in second grade. She came to the clinic with her grandmother. Sofia's parents divorced 4 years ago. Her mother left with another man and never returned. Her father works all day as a helper in construction and earns about \$13/day. So the grandmother was left to raise Sofia and her younger brother.

One day the grandmother noticed that Sofia was not hearing very well out of her left ear. On closer exam, she saw that Sofia had **put a plastic bead in her ear** while playing with some other children. The bead was too far down in the ear canal for the grandmother to remove it. This happened right before the pandemic hit Bolivia.

The grandmother took Sofia to several health clinics, but **no one was able to extract the bead!** Sofia would start to scream and refuse to let anyone touch her! Finally, the grandmother brought Sofia to the Mission of Hope clinic where the doctors were able to gain Sofia's trust and extract the plastic bead! What a relief for Sofia and her grandmother!



Sofia after her ordeal

THE \$150,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

is 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 in Bolivia during the year 2021. Mission of Hope, Bolivia takes its financial stewardship very seriously. We are a debt-free mission, and almost 100% of all donations go directly into our Bolivia program.



Lucia

Lucia's Story

Lucia is a 74 year old widow who lives alone. Her husband died many years ago in a mining accident. Her children are grown and live in other cities. They send her money from time to time, but her main income is a small, monthly government stipend for the elderly. In order to receive this stipend, she must go in person to a government office and stand in line. This was not possible during the quarantine and the stay-at-home orders.

During this time of quarantine in Bolivia, Lucia lost her balance and **had a bad fall on the uneven, cement patio of her house.** She was badly **bruised and in great pain.** She went to several health clinics asking for help, but **she was turned away** because of her age and because they were only seeing patients with symptoms of Covid-19.

Lucia says she cried herself to sleep many nights as she lay in pain. She did not have money to see a doctor, and her children were unable to send money to help her because of the quarantine. Finally, one of her neighbors reached out to her and **suggested that she go to the Mission of Hope clinic where everything is free.** Lucia was seen by one of our doctors and given pain medicines. When she returned for a follow up appointment, she was recovering well and no longer in pain!

Julio's Story

Julio is a 50 year old man who came to the Mission of Hope clinic in Sucre complaining of abdominal pain. He is married and 3 of his 5 children are still living at home and depend on him for support. Julio works as a helper in construction and earns about \$15/day. His wife does not work.

When Julio was young, he was playing with an explosive device, similar to a firecracker, and it exploded in his lap, causing him to lose one of his hands. With only one hand, it was difficult for him to find work. He **became very depressed,** to the point of **wanting to end his life.**

Julio got a job working as a guard for a construction company, which happened to be directly in front of Pastor Juan Bayo's home. Pastor Juan is the person who donated the land to build the Mission of Hope clinic in Sucre. Pastor Juan shared the Gospel message with Julio and invited him to church. **Julio put his trust in Jesus** and as he experienced the love of Christ through his new church family, the **depression left him.** A brother in the church hired him as a construction helper, which is his current job. It was also through the church that Julio found out about Mission of Hope and came to our clinic.



Julio

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Following a successful treatment for worms and parasites, which are extremely common in Bolivia, Julio is well and no longer in pain. He is so very thankful for the care he received!

The Covid-19 crisis has resulted in a **complete collapse of the health care system in Bolivia!** As a result, the need there is now greater than ever! Even though many clinics have closed, **our clinics in Sucre and Santa Cruz are open and going strong!**

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to serve the poorest of the poor. We are continuing to share the hope that we have in Jesus Christ in both clinics, and **hope is really what is needed** during this challenging time!

Together, we are making a difference!