

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

NEWSLETTER

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Fernando

Fernando's Story

Fernando grew up as an only child who never knew his father. His mother earned about \$10 each day washing clothes by hand in the neighborhood and selling drinks and cold refreshments from their house.

When Fernando was about 5 years old, his knees became so inflamed that he was unable to walk. His mother took him to several different clinics where they lived, but none of the doctors were able to make a diagnosis. After about a year and a half with no improvement, his mother took him to a public hospital in Santa Cruz, which was about an hour away. The doctors there made a diagnosis of rheumatic fever and began treating him. By the time he

was 10 years old, he was able to run and play with his friends and life seemed normal to him.

Fernando is now 33 years old. In March of 2020, about the time the pandemic began, Fernando was working as a motorcycle taxi driver earning between \$10 and \$13 per day. He was experiencing such extreme fatigue that he would often have to stop in the shade of a tree to rest. The fatigue became so severe that he finally had to stop working altogether. Because he could no longer support his wife and 3 year old daughter, his wife left and went to live with her family and Fernando moved in with his mother.

Fernando went to see a cardiologist in Montero where he lived. The doctor there told him that he **needed an urgent valve replacement surgery**. The doctor told him that the rheumatic fever he had as a child probably caused permanent damage to the heart by weakening the valves. He told Fernando about a foundation in Santa Cruz that might be able to help him. At the foundation, his photo was taken to be put on social media with a plea for help and he was referred to a private hospital in Santa Cruz called "Incor," where he could have the surgery done.

Fernando was evaluated at the Incor hospital. Doctors there told him that the surgery to replace the aortic and mitral valves was urgent. **Doctors told him that without the surgery, he would have only months to live.** The surgery was estimated to cost about \$12,000, an impossible amount for Fernando and his mother! Even so, they were determined to raise as much money as they could. The neighbors decided to help by organizing a raffle and a fund-raising dinner, which brought in about \$350. Several hundred more was raised on social media, but the total raised was not even close to the amount they needed. The hospital required a deposit of almost \$9,000 before they would even schedule the surgery, so **the situation was dire.**

Meanwhile, Fernando had been in touch with a social worker in Montero who knew about Mission of Hope. The social worker contacted us and asked if we could help. Fernando came to our clinic in Santa Cruz in February of this year and had a successful double valve replacement surgery 2 months later at the Incor hospital. **Mission of Hope covered all of Fernando's expenses**, including surgery, meds, labs, and follow-up.

Following an excellent 6 hour surgery, doctors were amazed at Fernando's recovery! He was in the ICU less than 24 hours and was discharged to home 5 days after the surgery! Doctors told him that most patients are in the hospital for about 2 weeks after a surgery like his. **Fernando is so grateful** to God and to Mission of Hope for his surgery. He says he feels stronger than ever! **He is so excited about his "new life" with his "new heart!"**



Fernando arrives home 5 days after surgery



Sara

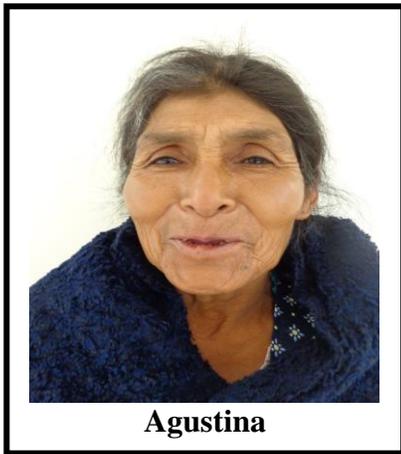
Sara's Story

Sara is a very shy 12-year-old. She lives with her mother, father, brother, sisters, and grandmother. Her parents support the entire family of 7 washing cars by hand, earning about \$15 a day.

When Sara was 6 years old, a **lump appeared** behind her right ear. Sara grew her hair long to cover the mass and avoid teasing by her classmates. The **mass continued to grow** during the next 6 years, but her **parents did not have money** to pay a doctor. Then a friend told them about **Mission of Hope, where everything is free.**

Sara was evaluated by our clinic doctors, as well as a specialist in private practice. She had a beautiful surgery in a private clinic to remove a cyst about the size of a walnut. Mission of Hope paid for everything. When Sara's mother received news that the cyst had been successfully removed, she burst into tears... so thankful for a surgery she never thought possible! She is so thankful to God and to Mission of Hope!

\$150,000 Matching Gift Challenge
Every dollar that we receive between now and December 31st, 2021, up to \$150,000 will be doubled by an anonymous donor and used to provide free medical care to the poor in Bolivia in 2022!



Agustina

Agustina's Story

Agustina, 63 years old, lives with her husband in Potosi, a province about **5 hours from the Mission of Hope clinic in Sucre.** She and her husband farm the land, growing a variety of vegetables, which they take to the market in the city of Potosi to sell.

Agustina suffered for many years with muscular aches and pains, **general weakness, and fatigue.** She went to the local witch doctors, but she did not get better. She then went to several clinics in Potosi where she was finally **diagnosed with anemia.** It took all her money to pay for the appointments with **no money left to pay for medicines.**

One day at the market in Potosi, a friend noticed that Agustina did not look well and seemed very weak. The friend told Agustina about a **Christian clinic in Sucre, where everything is free, including the medicines.** Agustina made the 5 hour journey to our clinic, where she received treatment for her long-standing anemia and diet counseling. She also heard the Gospel message in her native Quechua language and **gave her heart to Jesus!**

On Agustina's follow-up visit to the Mission of Hope clinic **she was much improved!** She told us what a huge blessing the clinic had been for her. She is now attending church where she lives in Potosi and is **feeling much healthier!**

Mission of Hope, Bolivia is a **debt-free mission.** In the year 2020, less than 2% of all donations were overhead, meaning that **98% of all donations went directly into our Bolivia program!** As we close out the year 2021, we want to **thank you for giving** so generously throughout the year to support our work. **Together we are making a difference!**

To God be the glory for this very special ministry!

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