

# MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

## NEWSLETTER

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Sandra

### Sandra's Story

**Sandra** grew up in a small house on the outskirts of Santa Cruz with her father, mother, and younger brother. When she was only 10 years old, a group of about 20 men broke into their house. They brutally attacked her father with machetes and beat her mother as she and her 4 year old brother watched. Her mother and father survived the attack, but her father was no longer able to work. They went to the authorities, but the authorities did nothing to help them. Because they were poor and did not have money, they eventually lost their home and their land and ended up living in a field.

Sandra is now 21 years old. She is married and has a one year old daughter. When Sandra came to our clinic, she told us that

**she had ear pain and drainage her entire life. Her father never had money to take her to a doctor.** When the pain became so intense that she could no longer bear it, she went to a local clinic in Santa Cruz, seeing a doctor for the first time in her life. From there, she was referred to the Mission of Hope clinic.

The years of chronic infection had resulted in erosion of the temporal bone of the middle ear. **Sandra needed a radical surgery.** Using a special fund that was set up by one of our donors, we arranged for Sandra to have the surgery she needed in a private hospital in Santa Cruz. Mission of Hope covered all of her expenses. Sandra had a very successful surgery and all of the infection was removed. The wonderful news is that **Sandra is now pain free for the first time in her life!** Her ear is clean and dry, and she is now hearing perfectly out of both ears! She is so very grateful for the care she received!

### Alicia's Story

**Alicia** grew up in a family of 10 children dominated by an abusive father. There were frequent beatings. When she was 9 years old, she left home with her 2 older siblings. After leaving home, she was not allowed any contact with her mother. Two years later, her mom was killed in a car accident and her dad sent for her to come back home and raise the 7 younger children! Alicia says her home was a place of chaos! She left home a second time at age 11 and came to Santa Cruz looking for work. This time she was alone, very sad and depressed, grieving the loss of her mom. She took a job as a cleaning lady in a church and fought thoughts of suicide for many years.

At age 20, Alicia received **Jesus** as her personal Lord and Savior and **began a new life.** Alicia says that a **peace came into her heart** that she had never known before, and she no longer felt abandoned.

Alicia is now 32 years old. About one year ago, she was taken to the emergency room in excruciating pain. An ultrasound revealed **a large ovarian cyst!** Alicia **did not have money for surgery** and decided she would just have to live with her cyst. Then a friend told her about Mission of Hope, where **everything is free.** At first, Alicia could not really believe that such a place existed. She decided there had to be a catch! Finally, her friend convinced her to go and see for herself! Alicia had a beautiful surgery with the US team, and is no longer in pain. She says it feels like it was a dream, and she doesn't want to wake up! She is **so thankful to God for Mission of Hope!**



Alicia



**Yolanda**

## **Yolanda's Story**

**Yolanda** is a 38 year old lady with 5 children. They all live in one room about an hour and a half from Santa Cruz. Yolanda supports her family washing clothes by hand in her neighborhood. She earns about \$1.50 for every 12 items of clothing she washes. Her husband does not have a steady job. He does odd jobs whenever he can find work, but Yolanda is the main one supporting the family.

Yolanda started having **abdominal pain** about one year ago, but she **did not have money to go to a doctor**. She heard about Mission of Hope from a neighbor and came with her 8 year old son to our clinic to see the pediatrician. While she was in the waiting room with her son, she had a sudden and **intense attack** of abdominal pain. An ultrasound revealed a gall bladder full of stones! This happened just a few **days before the US team arrived** to do gall bladder surgery!

Yolanda was put on the list for surgery. When the US team operated on Yolanda, they found that 13 large stones had gone out of the gall bladder into the common bile duct, **completely blocking the duct** and creating a **life threatening situation!** The stones were removed and drainage tubes were put in place. Yolanda was admitted to a local hospital for further testing and observation, and **Mission of Hope paid for all the expenses** related to her hospitalization.

When Yolanda was discharged from the local hospital, Mission of Hope staff accompanied her to her home. When our staff entered Yolanda's home, they were so moved with compassion. They noticed that there was no refrigerator and that half of the only outside door was missing. The open space was covered by a curtain, which allowed wind, rain, and cold air to come in. On seeing how she lived, they asked about her diet. Yolanda told them that breakfast was usually tea and crackers, and supper was usually tea and bread. Lunch, which is usually the main meal of the day in Bolivia, was just whatever they could find.

When the staff got back to the clinic, they started thinking about the extra refrigerator in the break room that was not being used. They got permission to take it to Yolanda. They loaded the refrigerator into the back of a taxi, along with a big load of groceries, and made a **surprise visit** to Yolanda! All she could do was cry **tears of joy!** A few days later, Yolanda's husband was contacted to see if he knew of a carpenter nearby who could make a door for someone. He enthusiastically gave them someone's name and then asked who the door was for. When they told him the door was for him, he was so overcome with emotion that he could not speak! With a special offering, a door was **custom made** that fit perfectly!

**THE \$150,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE**  
continues until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Every dollar we receive between  
now and the end of the year up to \$150,000 will be doubled!

There are many other "Sandras" and "Alicias" and "Yolandas" out there, and we are constantly amazed at how God connects people in need who are without resources to the Mission of Hope clinic!

The **\$150,000 matching gift challenge** money will be used to provide free medical care to the poor in Bolivia during the year 2020, both in our Santa Cruz clinic and our Sucre clinic.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia takes its financial stewardship very seriously. **We are a debt-free mission**, and last year's bookkeeping showed that less than 3% of all donations were overhead, meaning that **97% of all donations went directly into our Bolivia program!** As we close out the year 2019, 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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