

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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In June of 2001, **Mission of Hope, Bolivia** was contacted concerning a **baby needing a life-saving surgery**. Baby Jordan Almanza was born with no anus. Her family is very poor. Her father earns about \$4 per day as a taxi driver, which he uses to feed the 8 people in his extended family. **Mission of Hope, Bolivia arranged for Jordan and her mother, Maria, to come to the US** on a medical visa. Surgery was scheduled for September 21 at the University of Va. Medical Center.

Maria's Story

When Maria became pregnant with Jordan, the doctors told her that it was an **ectopic pregnancy** and that she needed to have an abortion. Her husband, Walter, was a Christian and did not want to have an abortion. He had faith that the baby would live. At seven months, Maria began hemorrhaging and an **emergency Caesarian birth** was performed. The doctors told Maria that the baby would not live because its lungs would be too weak to sustain life.

Baby Jordan was born with very strong, healthy lungs. She went home 3 days later without having any intensive care. She was small enough to fit in the palm of Maria's hand.

The first time that Maria changed Jordan's diaper, she discovered that Jordan had no anus. She took Jordan to **many doctors**, and they all gave her **different opinions**. None of them knew how to perform the needed surgery. One night Maria had a dream that she was going to the US with Jordan for an operation. The next day, she told her mother about the dream. Her mother told her to pray because nothing is impossible with God. Months passed and Maria forgot about the dream.

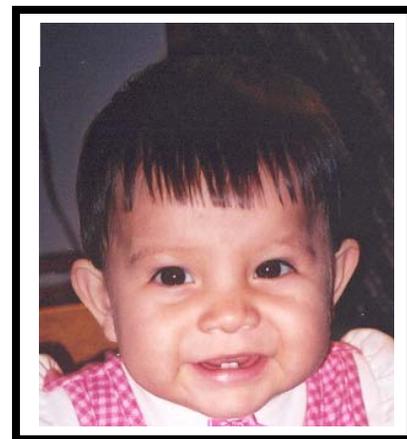
When Jordan was 7 months old, Maria went to her pastor, Ruben Dario, for prayer. Pastor Ruben is a member of our Mission Board in Bolivia, and he referred Maria to our medical director in Santa Cruz, Dr. Ruth Turner de Oropeza. When Dr. Turner contacted us to ask if we could help this baby, we told her that **Mission of Hope, Bolivia was created to help families like this one**. When Dr. Turner called Maria into her office to ask if she would be willing to take the baby to the US for surgery, Maria remembered her dream and began to cry. **With God all things are possible!**

Going Home for Christmas!

Baby Jordan is now a healthy, happy, normal baby! Jordan's surgery has been a total success! She has healed beautifully, and is going home for Christmas!! We praise the Lord for Jordan's life, and for the way **God is already using Mission of Hope, Bolivia!** Together, we really can make a difference!



Maria and Jordan with pediatric surgeon, Dr. Eugene McGahren, and Dr. Ruth Turner de Oropeza



Going Home to See my Daddy!
Thank You, Everyone!

\$75,000 Matching Gift Challenge Update

Every dollar we receive between now and December 29, 2001 up to \$75,000 will be **doubled** by one of our supporters. This matching gift **challenge applies to gifts from churches, foundations, corporations, and individuals**. This money will be used to open and operate a free medical clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia for the poor. At the time of this writing in late November, **we have about \$25,000 towards our goal of \$75,000** for the matching gift.

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Mission of Hope, Bolivia is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Meet José and Mayra Torres!



Mayra's Story

Mayra Torres was born and raised in Puerto Rico. In the spring of 2000, Mayra volunteered to lead a team of teenagers on a summer mission trip with Teen World Outreach. Being fluent in Spanish, Mayra signed up for a Spanish speaking country. She was quite surprised when she was assigned to go to Italy.

Meanwhile, our Mission of Hope Director's daughter, Katie Thacker, signed up to go to Italy with Teen World Outreach and

was assigned to Mayra's team. One day in Italy, **Mayra overheard Katie talking to a group of teammates about a hospital in Bolivia**. As Mayra listened to Katie talk about Mission of Hope, Bolivia, **the Lord really touched Mayra's heart**.

As soon as Mayra returned to the US, she and her husband, José, drove to Charlottesville, Virginia to meet the Thacker family. At that meeting, **Mayra and José** shared that God had been preparing their hearts for some time to go to the mission field, but they had not known where or when He would call them. They told the Thackers that they **were willing to step out in faith** with them, believing God for this hospital in Bolivia, and to go with them **to serve the Lord in Bolivia** for as long as God would have them stay.

Mayra and José sold their home, and they are now preparing to move to Santa Cruz, Bolivia with their 12 year old son, Phillip, and their 16 year old daughter, Sammy. Their home church, King's Highway Faith Fellowship, in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey will be providing most of their support. Mayra and José have been operating their own home construction business and bring a variety of talents and skills to the mission. Mayra will be helping with **bookkeeping and hospital administration**, and José will be in charge of **hospital maintenance**. We **praise the Lord** for their willingness to serve!