

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Surgery Team #13 arrived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on September 5, 2009 to provide a week of free surgeries for 60 of our Mission of Hope patients. These patients came from all over Bolivia...Sucre, Potosi, Cochabamba, and Pando...to receive the blessing of a life-changing surgery!



Mauricio, 10 years old, has had a hernia since birth. His mother died in childbirth when he was 5 years old, and his father is an alcoholic. He lives with his grandmother, who supports him by looking through trash for things to sell.



Adela, 41 years old, rode the bus for 20 hours through the mountains on many unpaved roads from Potosi to Santa Cruz. She went home much lighter after an abdominal hysterectomy. The mass in her uterus weighed 3 lbs.!



Susana, 43 years old, lives with her husband and 7 children in a Mennonite community 6 hours away from Santa Cruz. Her husband is a dairy farmer who makes cheese. After suffering with the pain of a large hernia for 20 years, Susana is now pain free!



Gerardo, 42 years old, was in so much pain from gallstones that he was not able to eat, not able to sleep, and not able to work. His wife has been washing clothes to earn money for food. After a successful surgery, he can now return to work and support his family.

Ezequiel's Story



Ezequiel

Ezequiel is a 56 year old man who lives with his wife and 7 children in a very remote area of Bolivia. There are no roads, no cell phones, and no doctors. They live in a dwelling that has a dirt floor and a thatched roof. His home in the jungle has no indoor plumbing, no running water, and no electricity. Ezequiel and his family farm the land by hand, using a machete and other hand tools. They grow rice, yucca, plantains, and corn. They fish in the nearby river and hunt for meat. In order to get to the nearest community, they must travel in a boat down the river for several hours.

In 1976, Ezequiel was visited by some missionaries, who gave him a yellow fever shot in the hip. A growth formed at the injection site, which continued to increase in size over the years. More than 30 years later, Ezequiel was once again visited by some missionaries. By then, the growth was the size of a small cantaloupe. The sheer weight of it caused him a lot of pain, but he continued working every day, taking care of his crops. The missionaries told Ezequiel about Mission of Hope and the team of surgeons that was coming from the United States.

Ezequiel agreed to leave his family for the first time ever and make the long trip to Santa Cruz. He had to ride on the back of a motorcycle for 2 hours through the jungle to get to a landing strip in Beni. There he was picked up by a missionary pilot, who flew him for 5 hours in a small plane to Santa Cruz.

Ezequiel had a very successful surgery to remove the growth, which weighed 3 ½ pounds! He had a rapid recovery and was soon reunited with his family. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts, which enable us help people from all over Bolivia who live in poverty.

Sucre Clinic Update

The walls are up, the roof is on, the inside is painted, and the floors are tiled! Funds are needed to complete the finishing work on the inside, including electrical work and plumbing. We also need to purchase bathroom fixtures, windows, doors and materials for a walkway from the street with steps up to the front door. If you would like to make a gift for the Sucre clinic, please make a note on the memo of your check.



Sucre Clinic

Mission of Hope, Bolivia

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

\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge is now in effect through December 31st. Every dollar that we receive between now and the end of the year will be doubled by an anonymous donor. This money will be used to operate the Santa Cruz clinic during the year 2010.

To God be the Glory!