

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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In March of this year, our **8th U.S. surgery team** arrived at the Mission of Hope hospital in Santa Cruz, Bolivia to perform a **week of free surgeries**. Pictured here are four of the many patients who received the blessing of a free, life-changing surgery.



Paola, 6 years old, could not eat or sleep because of very large and inflamed tonsils. After a successful tonsillectomy, she is eating and sleeping normally.



Alfonso, 10 years old, was born with a huge open palate. He was unable to eat or speak. His palate was successfully repaired, and he is able to speak for the first time in his life!



Aurelio, 61 years old, had a slow growing tumor below his ear for more than 50 years. The tumor became painful, but he did not have money for surgery. He worked 16 hours a day as a bus driver, earning about \$7/day. One day a lady on the bus told him about Mission of Hope, and now the tumor is gone!



Maira, 8 years old, was 4 years old when her mother died. She went to live with her grandmother, who noticed that she was having constant drainage from both ears and ear pain. Her grandmother took her to many doctors, but nothing seemed to help. Maira had a successful repair of perforations in both eardrums and is now free from pain.



Johnny at the airport

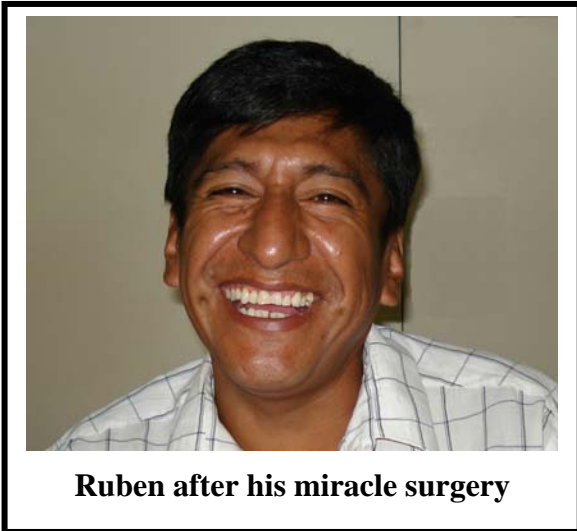
Johnny's Story

Johnny never knew his mother or his father. He grew up in the orphanages of Cochabamba, Bolivia. When he reached the age of 17, he was told that he was too old to stay in the orphanage and would have to leave. Johnny had nowhere to go. Johnny had a strong desire to continue his education and attend the university. He sent an email to a man that he knew from the orphanage and asked for his help. This man arranged for Johnny to stay in the home of a friend and attend classes at the university. One day as Johnny was walking home from class, **he was attacked by a gang. They beat him up and broke the bones of his nose**, leaving him in pain and unable to breathe properly.

An American missionary living and working in Cochabamba befriended Johnny and contacted Mission of Hope, Bolivia to see if we could help. At that time, we were preparing to send a team of ear, nose, and throat (ENT) surgeons to Santa Cruz to perform a week of free surgeries. Johnny rode the bus for 12 hours from Cochabamba to Santa Cruz to come for the screening. **Johnny received an excellent surgery and is now breathing without any problems.** The ENT team donated money to fly Johnny home. He is very proud of his "new nose."

Ruben's Story

Ruben is 45 years old and works as a tailor. He and his wife and 6 children live in one room with a dirt floor without indoor plumbing. **For 13 years, he was unable to hear out of his right ear.** Ruben came to the Mission of Hope clinic and was sent for a hearing test. Based on the hearing test and the physical exam, he was scheduled for surgery. At the end of Ruben's surgery, the surgeon emerged from the operating room feeling frustrated that the surgery had been in vain. When he got inside the ear, there was "nothing to work with" and nothing he could do.



Ruben after his miracle surgery

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The surgeon concluded that the hearing test had not been accurate and that the hearing loss was nerve related and **could not be corrected by surgery.**

A few days later, Ruben came back to the mission and gave us this testimony. "My right ear was very bad. For 13 years I could not hear, but now, thanks to God, my hearing is back....I say thanks to God because it was His hands that touched me while the doctors from the US were operating on me....When I was taken in for surgery, I saw the bright lights and a voice spoke to my heart telling me not to worry, that everything would be fine...**When I woke up, I felt like a different person, and I could hear!**"