

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Mission of Hope was so blessed by the **two teams** that visited Bolivia this spring! The first team provided a **week of free ear, nose, and throat surgeries**. The second team provided a **week of free pacemaker surgeries**.

During the week of March 27, 2011, an ENT surgery team led by Dr. Charles Gross, who is now retired from the University of Virginia, removed adenoids, tonsils, nasal obstructions, and facial tumors. They also closed open palates and restored hearing, both with surgery and with solar-powered hearing aids. The 67 patients who received surgery and the 25 patients who received hearing aids are so grateful!

On April 7, 2011, a cardiology team led by Dr. Paul Mounsey arrived from the University of North Carolina with 20 donated pacemakers. The team spent the first several days screening patients in the Mission of Hope clinic to select the patients who would most benefit from the pacemakers. Then followed a week of implanting the pacemakers, using a private clinic in Santa Cruz that was equipped for cardiac surgery. It was an amazing week of blessing for the 20 patients who went home with a “new heart!”



Victor, an 8 yr. old orphan, is enjoying all the attention after a successful tonsillectomy!



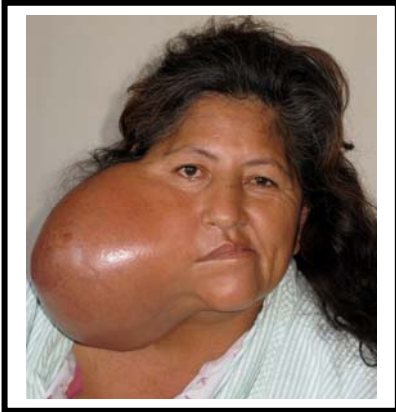
Ninoska, 17 yrs. old, is thrilled to be hearing again after many years!



Sonia, 48 yrs. old, was deaf in both ears. After a successful stapedectomy, she no longer needs to read lips or wear her hearing aid!



Humberto, 33 yrs. old, had nasal polyps obstructing both nostrils. He is now breathing through his nose for the first time in 12 years!



Julia's Story

Julia is a 52 year old mother of 7 children. Her youngest son, Marcelo, is 10 years old. She “adopted” him just hours after he was born because his mother did not want him. It was because of Marcelo that Julia overcame her fear of having surgery. She wanted to continue working to support him and “give him a good life.”



About 3 years ago, Julia **noticed a growth on the side of her face**. The tumor grew rapidly. The size and weight and pain of the tumor made it difficult for Julia to sleep. **The tumor grew so large** that it completely blocked her peripheral vision, and she had to completely turn her head to cross the street.

Everywhere she went, **people stared at her** and murmured as she passed by, but Marcelo was not ashamed of her. He always wanted to hold her hand as they walked.

Julia did not have money for surgery. She earned about \$6/day cooking food to sell in the open market. She prayed for God to make a way for her to have a safe surgery. Then her daughter-in-law told her about the **Mission of Hope clinic where everything is free**, and she heard about the team of surgeons that was arriving from the US. **The team removed a 5 lb. tumor** from Julia's face! When she looked in the mirror after surgery, she cried tears of joy. She is so thankful to God for what He has done in her life!

Eva's Story

Eva is a 53 year old Quechua Indian woman who lives with her husband, Alberto in a very remote area of Bolivia. They live in an agricultural community high in the Andes Mountains near Potosi, the highest city in the world. They rode the train all night, travelling more than 300 miles to reach the Mission of Hope clinic in time for the cardiology screening for pacemakers.

Eva has Chagas disease, a disease which permanently damages the heart. The heart muscle weakens, beats more slowly, and then fails altogether. Eva's **heartbeat was about 35 beats per minute**. She had resigned herself to the fact that **she was dying** and had even said goodbye to each of her children.

Eva and Alberto were just waiting for the end when **suddenly everything changed!** An American missionary doctor who was taking care of Eva told her about a US cardiology team that was coming to Santa Cruz. For them, **it was a miracle** that Eva was given the opportunity to go, and they saw it as a sign of God's favor that she was selected to receive a **free surgery and a free pacemaker!**

Eva and Alberto had experienced a lot of rejection from family and friends because of their deep Christian faith and their refusal to participate in pagan rituals. In their community, there is a lot of idol worship and the people still go to the local witchdoctor for “medical” care. Eva and Alberto were excited to return to their village to tell everyone what God has done for them!



PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR P.O. BOX NUMBER AND OUR ZIP CODE HAVE CHANGED.

WE ARE ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING OUR WEB SITE TO INCLUDE AN ONLINE DONATION OPTION. NEARLY 100% OF YOUR DONATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GO DIRECTLY INTO OUR BOLIVIA PROGRAM.

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