

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Mike Morse examining a patient with students, Chinni and Christian

FAMILY PRACTICE ELECTIVE BOLIVIA

In May of 2004, a group of graduating 4th year medical students from the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa, OK teamed up with medical students from the Catholic University of Santa Cruz, Bolivia to examine patients in our Mission of Hope clinic. Bolivian students learned “medical English” and the American students learned “medical Spanish” as they worked together under the supervision of Dr. Mike Morse and Dr. Steve Meixel, Family Medicine faculty members of the University of Oklahoma.

The students had many opportunities to visit other public hospitals in and around Santa Cruz where they saw patients with leprosy, leishmaniasis, and other diseases not commonly seen in the US. At the invitation of South America Mission’s physician, Dr. Toni Mercado, the students visited an Ayore Indian village outside of the city where they set up a medical and dental clinic and pharmacy. Approximately 70 patients were examined and treated in this impoverished village.



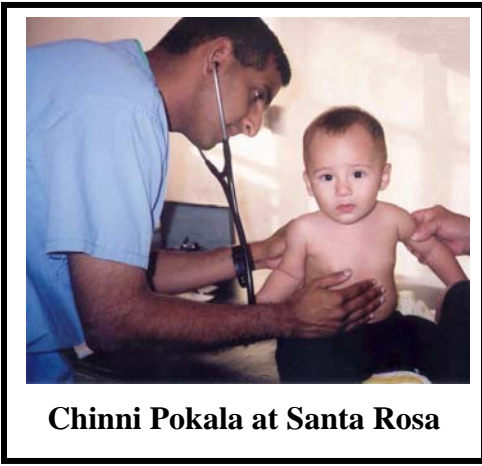
Bryce Murray examining a patient in the Mission of Hope Clinic



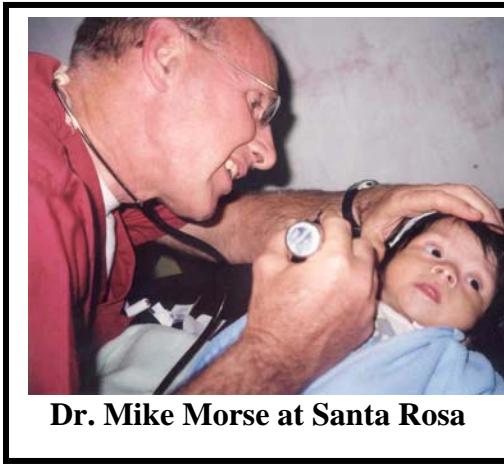
Students from Catholic University in Santa Cruz with students from University of Oklahoma

SANTA ROSA OUTREACH

At the invitation of an American missionary named Mike McDonough, the medical team had the opportunity for a medical outreach in the town of Santa Rosa, which is about 2 ½ hours from Santa Cruz. Advance notice of the team’s coming was given through the local church and teachers at the school, and the entire town was invited.



Chinni Pokala at Santa Rosa



Dr. Mike Morse at Santa Rosa



Patients line up for worm pills



Young boy receiving his pill

SANTA ROSA OUTREACH Continued

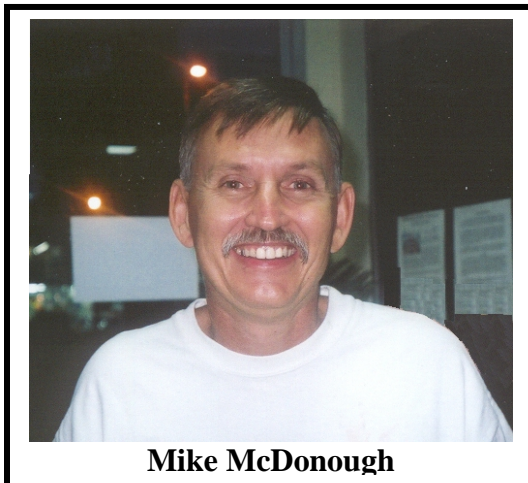
Utilizing the local school classrooms, various teaching stations were set up. In one room, children and adults were taught dental hygiene and free toothbrushes and toothpaste were given out. In another room, children and adults were educated about common worms and parasites. After receiving a free drug treatment, they were taught personal hygiene and proper handling of food and waste to prevent a recurrence. Examining rooms and a pharmacy were set up and many sick patients received free exams and medicine. In the local church, many heard a presentation of the gospel message and many decisions were made for Christ. About 200 children and adults participated in the outreach.

MIKE'S STORY

Mike McDonough, his wife, and family have served as missionaries in Santa Rosa for about 7 years. One day in August of 2002, shortly after opening the Mission of Hope clinic in Santa Cruz, our director, Cindy Thacker, received a phone call from a small, private clinic. They called to ask if there was anyone who could come and pray for an American missionary who was very sick. The American missionary was Mike McDonough.

A small group from the mission went to pray for Mike. They arrived to find Mike in bed with an oxygen mask covering his face as he gasped for every breath. His kidneys had completely shut down and the doctors were due to arrive at any moment to start Mike on dialysis. The group prayed for Mike's healing and left.

The next morning, Cindy went back to visit Mike. When she walked in his room, she found the bed empty. A short time later, Mike came walking back to his bed without any oxygen, breathing normally, saying he had gone to take a shower! He told her that the doctors had been 2 hours late the day before in coming to start the dialysis. By the time they arrived, his kidneys were working fine and he no longer needed dialysis! Praise the Lord!!



Mike McDonough

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