

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Issue 3

December, 2017

Celebrating 15 Years !!!



The Santa Cruz Clinic staff celebrates 15 years!

Pictured here, Mission of Hope clinic staff take a day to celebrate 15 years of God's faithfulness! Dr. Yamina Eid and Dr. Luis Tapia (centered behind the cake) were part of the original staff when the clinic opened 15 years ago!

On July 4th of 2002, Mission of Hope opened a free medical clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia by faith. That first day, we quietly opened with a full Bolivian staff without any fanfare or publicity. The first patient arrived mid-morning and everyone was so excited! We saw a total of 3 patients that first day. The second day, we saw 8 patients, and on the third day we saw 22 patients. By the end of the second week, there was a long line of patients waiting outside to be seen. Patients started sleeping on our doorstep so that they could be first in line to get in, and it has been that way ever since! To date, **more than 300,000 patients** have passed through our doors!

Mission of Hope, Bolivia was formed for the purpose of **providing free medical care to the poor** in the country of Bolivia and for the purpose of **sharing the hope that we have in Christ Jesus**. That **vision has not changed** over the 15 years of operating the Mission of Hope clinic!

Each morning, all of the patients come in as a group to the waiting room. Before anyone sees the doctor, the patients hear the Gospel message and have a time of prayer. To date, **more than 70,000 patients have made decisions to follow Jesus** in our waiting room! Praise the Lord!!

\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge!!!

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge continues until December 31st, 2017. Every dollar that we receive between now and the end of the year up to \$100,000 will be doubled by an anonymous donor. This money will be used to provide free medical care to the poor in Bolivia during the year 2018.

Mission of Hope takes its financial stewardship very seriously. **We are a debt-free mission** and **more than 97% of all donations go directly into our Bolivia program!**

Celebrating 15 Years Continued...

Patients come from all over Bolivia to our medical clinic in Santa Cruz! The clinic is staffed with local Bolivian doctors who specialize in pediatrics, gynecology, and general medicine. We also have our own laboratory and pharmacy. The goal is for each patient to be seen, diagnosed and treated all in the same day. Even a few coins for bus fare to get to the clinic can be a hardship for some of our patients.

Everything is in our clinic is free, including the doctor's exam, the lab work, and the medicines. In addition, we cover services that are not provided in our clinic using special funds that have been donated by our supporters. If a child takes a bad fall and needs an x-ray to see if there are any broken bones, we send them to a medical facility that works with us, and **we pay for the cost of that x-ray**. If a patient comes in with appendicitis, we accompany them to a local hospital, and **we pay for the surgery**.

Twice a year, we are able to provide a week of free surgery in our clinic when surgery teams come from the US. Surgery team members come from all over the US. They pay their own way and volunteer their time, often using a week of their vacation time from work. As the Bolivian doctors who work in our clinic see patients throughout the year, they keep a list of all the patients who are in need of a surgery that can be done by the US teams. Then, when the US teams come, they do the final screening of the patients for surgery. Seeing the team members meet and work together for the first time is amazing!

The first surgery team came in the year 2003, and surgery teams have come every year since. To date, a total of 29 surgery teams have come to do ENT, GYN and general surgery. We also had one cardiology team from the University of North Carolina that implanted 20 pacemakers. To date, **more than 1,700 patients have received wonderful, life-changing surgeries** from the teams that have come!

There have also been painting and construction teams... more than 45 teams in all!

Sucre Clinic Update

The clinic in Sucre is going strong! On February 3rd of 2018, **we will be celebrating 5 years of free medical care** to the Quechua Indian people of Sucre and beyond. Many of these patients are seeing a real medical doctor for the first time in their lives and hearing the Gospel in their Quechua language for the first time in their lives. We hear story after story of how they went to their local witch doctor for healing but did not get well. Now, as they experience healing for the first time, **many are giving their hearts to Jesus!**

Word has spread far and wide about the clinic in Sucre. There is a line outside when the clinic opens each morning. **Patients walk for miles, walking for hours on footpaths!**



Sucre clinic waiting room

Mission of Hope, Bolivia
P.O. Box 103
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Tel. & Fax 434-977-4748

cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org
www.missionofhopebolivia.org

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

In both Mission of Hope clinics, there is a verse of Scripture written on the wall above the entrance. Matthew 10:8, **“Freely you have received, freely give,”** is written above the reception in Spanish in Santa Cruz and above the reception in the Quechua language in Sucre.

As we close out the year 2017, **we would love to hear from you!** Please take a moment to send us an email (see box at left) so we can have your email on file. Please also let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list.

A big **“Thank you!”** to all of you who have supported our work in Bolivia! **Together, we are making a difference, both now and for eternity! To God be the Glory!**