

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Issue 2

Fall, 2017

Celebrating Surgery Team #29!

Surgery team #29 arrived in Santa Cruz the weekend of September 16th, in spite of cancelled flights due to Hurricane Irma! Team members came from all across the US, including one nurse who came from Puerto Rico. It was an amazing week of teamwork as 63 patients received the blessing of an **excellent surgery done free of charge!** **Many lives were changed**, both physically and spiritually!



Reyginaldo is 11 years old. His hernia was causing him pain when he tried to run or even walk fast. Now that he has had a successful surgery, he is looking forward to running and playing soccer with his friends!



Cirila, 33 years old, suffered with the pain of a hernia while caring for 3 young children. Her husband earns about \$15/day selling drinks in the street when it is hot outside. On a cool or rainy day, he earns much less. Surgery was not even a possibility until now!



Lucy and her husband work on a farm. Lucy has had gallstones for 30 years! She waited 30 years because she was afraid of surgery, but eventually the pain was more than she could bear. After surgery to remove a gall bladder completely full of stones, she is now pain free!



Simona is a 49 year old mother of 8 children. Her youngest is only 18 months old. She has suffered with the pain of a hernia for 15 years! Surgery was never an option because she did not have money. Now the pain is gone, and she is thankful to God for what He has done!



Elena after surgery

Elena's Story

Elena is a 45 year old single mom who lives with her 3 children in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Santa Cruz. Her father died when she was only 4 years old and her mother remarried. From that point on, she was treated very badly and suffered terrible abuse. She tried to tell her mother about it, but her mother did not believe her. Finally, at the age of 14, she left home. She went from job to job, doing whatever she could to survive, enduring more abuse.

By the age of 22, Elena was thinking about suicide. A friend invited her to church, and Elena accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. For the first time in her life, she experienced real peace.

Elena never learned to read or write. Her oldest son washes laundry by hand 6 days a week to support his mother and pay for classes at the university for himself and his younger brother. Three times a week, they go to a Compassion International center, where they receive a free meal and have Bible studies.

Elena suffered with the pain of a hernia for almost 12 years. During this time, she was not able to work. She went to many hospitals asking for help but was turned away because she did not have money. She is so thankful for the surgery she received at Mission of Hope. She now looks forward to working again in the near future and helping her children. Elena says they don't have much money, but they have each other and they have the Lord and they are happy.

The \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge is now in effect!

Every dollar that we receive between now and December 31st up to \$100,000 **will be doubled** by an anonymous donor. This money will be used to provide free medical care to the poor during the coming year of 2018. Mission of Hope is a **debt-free** mission, and **almost 100%** of your **tax-exempt donations** go directly into our Bolivia program!



Ana Luisa after surgery

Ana Luisa's Story

Ana Luisa is a 44 year old lady who lives with her husband and 3 children not far from Santa Cruz. Ana Luisa had a hysterectomy when the US surgery team came 2 years ago. At that time, the surgeon told her that she had a cyst in her right ovary, but it was very small.

In August of this year, she was having a lot of pain on the right side of her body. The pain was so intense that she had to quit her job as a cook's helper. She came to the Mission of Hope clinic, and an ultrasound revealed that the cyst had grown considerably and was about the size of a tennis ball!

When this year's surgery team arrived, the surgeon was able to palpate the cyst and, after looking at the ultrasound, told Ana Luisa that she needed surgery to remove the cyst.

Ana Luisa began praying that God would heal her and asked the pastor of her church to also pray for her healing. Ana Luisa says that she went into the operating room with a lot of faith. When the surgery was over, the surgeon came into her room to tell her that they looked for the cyst, but it was not there! They did not remove anything because there was nothing to remove! Both ovaries looked completely normal and there was no cyst! Ana Luisa knew then that God had done a miracle! He had already done the surgery!

Mission of Hope, Bolivia
P.O. Box 103
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Tel. & Fax: 434-977-4748
cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org
www.missionofhopebolivia.org

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