

# MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, Issue 1

Spring, 2019

## Another Amazing Surgery Week!!!

**Surgery team #32** arrived in Santa Cruz the weekend of April 5<sup>th</sup> to provide a wonderful week of free surgeries for patients who had suffered for years with their problems! Here are some of their stories...



**Shariz**, 14 years old, never knew her father. He left her mother when she was pregnant. Shariz and her mother live alone. Her mother earns money for food by washing clothes for people by hand. Shariz has had problems with her tonsils her entire life! After a successful tonsil surgery, she is now pain free!



**Romualdo**, 39 years old, had a tumor growing on top of his head, which he covered up with a baseball cap. He did not have money to go to a doctor. A friend told him about Mission of Hope, and he rode the bus all night to see the team. Following a successful surgery, the tumor is gone, and he is so happy!



**Ariel**, 34 years old, smashed his nose in a motorcycle accident about 10 years ago. He did not have money to go to a doctor, so his nose healed badly. He heard about us from a neighbor and rode the bus all night to see the team. Ariel is now breathing through his nose for the first time in 10 years!



**Edgar**, 37 years old, needed an ear surgery. When he was 10 years old and playing with friends, an insect went into his ear. His friends tried to get it out with wooden matchsticks and punctured his eardrum. For the rest of his life, he had pain and infection in that ear. With surgery, his infection of 27 years has healed!

## William's Story



**William after his ear surgery**

William was born with his intestines severely malformed and within hours of his birth, he had to be rushed into surgery in an attempt to save his life! He also had a heart defect, a missing kidney, and a cleft lip and palate. William's birth mother abandoned him, and he spent the first 3 months of his life alone in the government-run children's hospital in Santa Cruz.

William was then taken to an overcrowded orphanage where he had to lie in a metal crib day and night. At 8 months of age, he was so weak and thin that he could not lift his head. His body was covered with scabies, and he was close to death.

Meanwhile, an American couple living in Santa Cruz felt led by God to petition the courts to adopt a Bolivian child, even though they had 2 biological children. They were told that the waiting list for adoption was very long. So, the couple told the judge that they would be willing to take a child that no one else wanted.

About that time, the 80 year old Brazilian nun in charge of the overcrowded orphanage began pressuring that same judge to find a family for William before it was too late. The American couple then got the call to come and get William. At that point, there was no way to know if William would ever walk or if he would even survive. William's adoptive family fully embraced him, trusting in God's plan for his life. Six weeks later, William amazed his doctors by his tremendous weight gain and by getting up on all fours to crawl! They declared him healthy enough to have surgery to repair his cleft lip and palate. Doctors were also amazed to find that his heart defect had disappeared, and an ultrasound revealed that deep in William's pelvis, the "missing" kidney was functioning perfectly!

William, who is now 12 years old, came to the Mission of Hope clinic because he has suffered with painful and continuous ear infections for the past few years. These infections had resulted in the formation of a cyst behind the eardrum in both ears. If left untreated, these cysts can destroy the bones of the middle ear, can cause hearing loss, and can even result in the inflammation and infection of the brain. William, who speaks perfect English and Spanish, told us that he needed surgery to "take something out of my ear."

William had a successful surgery and a quick recovery and has now been reunited with his 10 brothers and sisters. After William's adoption, his parents felt led to open their home to other children with special needs. Mission of Hope looks forward to partnering with this very special family for their future medical needs.



**William's family**

In addition to the 65 patients who received the blessing of an excellent surgery completely free of charge, many Mission of Hope patients were given brand new prescription/reading eyeglasses during the eye clinic that was held by several team members... a luxury these patients could not afford on their own!

This year, we will complete more than 19 years of offering free medical care and medicines to the people of Bolivia. Many of our patients struggle to put food on the table. Without our clinic, medical care would not be an option for them. To date, we have seen more than 300,000 patients free of charge. We are a faith-based, debt-free mission. We thank you for your continued support of this very important work. To God be the Glory!

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

[cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org](mailto:cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org)  
[www.missionofhopebolivia.org](http://www.missionofhopebolivia.org)

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