

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Mission of Hope patients were so blessed by the two surgery teams that came this year. On April 8, 2013, **the audiology team** arrived to screen patients for ENT surgery. They not only screened patients for surgery, but they also **gave the gift of hearing to 50 patients who received free solar-powered hearing aids!** Then on April 13th, they were joined by the ENT surgery team and what followed was a wonderful week of ear, nose, throat, and thyroid surgeries.

On September 7, 2013, **a second surgery team** arrived and, again, our patients experienced **an amazing week of life-changing surgeries!** Patients who had lived with the pain of hernias and gallstones for years were set free from their pain.

Women with uterine masses and ovarian cysts went home after surgery with a new hope for their future!

Vladimir's Story

Vladimir is a 25 year old young man who lives in Oruro, Bolivia with his mother and 4 brothers and sisters. His father abandoned the family 10 years ago, and Vladimir supports himself by working as a helper on construction jobs.

Vladimir's problem began about 5 years ago when he was assaulted and hit in the face. From that time on, he found it very difficult to breathe. He **never felt that he could get enough air**, and it was especially difficult to breathe when he would lie down to sleep. He was also **plagued with frequent nose bleeds**. He went to a specialist, who told him that **he needed surgery**. For Vladimir, surgery was not an option because **he had no money**.

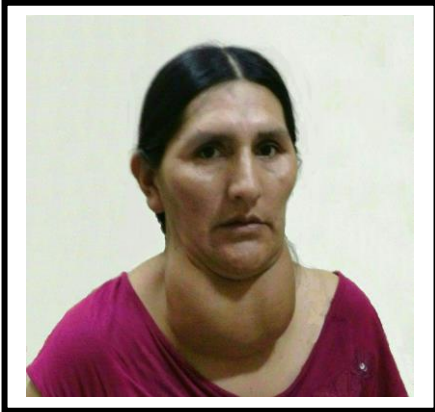
Vladimir had a 19 year old sister who was attending the university. One day she received a pamphlet which listed international foundations working in Bolivia. Inside the pamphlet, **Mission of Hope was listed as an institution that provides free surgeries**. So, Vladimir rode the bus 17 hours from Oruro to Santa Cruz to find out about the surgeries. When he arrived in Santa Cruz in January of this year, he did not know anyone. He went to an agency to find work and got a job selling ice cream in the street. In the days that followed, he was seen at the clinic and put on the list for surgery. He returned to Oruro to wait for the team's arrival in April.

Again in April, **he rode the bus 17 hours**, which took all of his money. He arrived in Santa Cruz the week before surgery to complete his pre-op lab work and find out if he was on the final surgery list.

He walked the streets until he found a man painting a house that was under construction. He offered to help and was allowed to sleep at night in the house that was under construction. The house had no windows or roof, so when he woke up, he found that he was covered in mosquito bites. In an effort to keep the mosquitos away from his face, he smeared his face with toothpaste, which burned his skin.

Finally, he was admitted for surgery. **After a successful surgery, Vladimir was able to breathe clearly for the first time in years!** It was also during his recovery that we heard the story of how he had overcome so many obstacles to have the surgery he needed. The surgery team gave an offering and Vladimir flew by plane back to Oruro! Vladimir was so very thankful for the love and care he received!





Celina's Story

Celina is a 42 year old lady who came to the Mission of Hope clinic with a **very enlarged thyroid gland**, which had been steadily growing for 12 years. It had gotten so large that it was putting pressure on her esophagus, which caused her to have **difficulty swallowing** her food. It was also compressing her trachea and



causing her to have **trouble breathing**. It affected her speech and the movement of her head, and it always brought stares from the people she passed by. **Celina was very embarrassed** by all the attention.

Celina lives with her husband and 3 of her 6 children on a farm about 4 hours from Santa Cruz. They grow food, which they sell in the open market. Celina went to a doctor about 5 years ago. He gave her treatments with pills and injections, but the **treatments did not help**.

As Celina watched the growth get larger, she became very worried. She had heard many terrible stories of people having surgery, and **she was afraid**. Then her sister-in-law told her about Mission of Hope. She came for an evaluation and was put on the list for surgery.

After a successful surgery, there was a dramatic change in Celina...not just in her appearance, but also in her spirit. She felt at peace. She had very little pain after the surgery. **She is very thankful** for the **wonderful experience she had at Mission of Hope**. She did not want to leave!



Candelaria's Story

Candelaria is a 53 year old lady who came into the clinic **doubled over in pain**, saying she felt like she was getting ready to have a baby! Candelaria is a widow who lives with her son in Santa Cruz. She has not been able to work because of the pain and has been supported by the meager earnings of her son. She is very poor and could never have paid for surgery on her own.

Candelaria was delivered from the pain of a **huge ovarian cyst**, which was about **the size of a large cantaloupe** or a small watermelon! After the surgery, she cried and hugged everyone saying **she suffered for 18 years** with the pain of that cyst, and **now her pain is gone!**

\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge

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 operate our free medical clinic in Santa Cruz during the year 2014. Mission of Hope, Bolivia takes its financial stewardship very seriously. We are a **debt-free** mission and almost 100% of all donations go directly into our Bolivia program.

Thank you for partnering with us to serve the poor in Bolivia. Together, we are making a difference, both now and for eternity! To God be the Glory!!

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