

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Waiting for the Clinic to Open

Hospital Update

Sixteen months ago, Mission of Hope, Bolivia opened a free medical clinic in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. To date, we have served more than 25,000 patients! Praise the Lord!! Patients arrive early in the morning to receive a free exam, free lab analysis, and free medicine. When one of our patients needs hospitalization, we network with other health care facilities to provide them with the services they need. Even though we have 2 operating rooms and 20 patient beds, we do not yet have the staff to operate a full-service hospital.

Gary Cueto is a 5-year-old boy who became very ill after eating some rotten food. He quickly developed a **very high fever** as the **intestinal infection spread to his heart and lungs**. Gary's father abandoned him 3 years ago and wants nothing to do with him. Gary lives with his mother and 2 sisters in one of the poorest sections of Santa Cruz. Gary's mother took him to a medical clinic in their neighborhood. As Gary's condition worsened, the doctor informed her that **he was dying** and needed intensive care. Gary was taken to 2 different hospitals, but **no one would admit him because his mother was poor and did not have money to pay**. They also told her that he was going to die anyway.

Finally, the mother was able to convince doctors in a private clinic to admit Gary, but she did not have money to pay for the necessary antibiotics to treat the infection. A friend told her about **Mission of Hope**, and we **began supplying all of the needed medicines and IV solutions**. Our staff also began daily visits to encourage Gary and his mother and to pray for Gary's healing. When the owners of the clinic found out that the mother did not have money to pay the bill, they disconnected all the machines and ordered her to leave with the child!

Mission of Hope, Bolivia arranged for Gary to be taken to another hospital and our mission doctors began **coordinating all of his care**. We are **paying for all of Gary's expenses**. We believe that Gary's life has been saved, and we are **trusting God for his complete recovery**.



Gary Cueto in the Intensive Care Unit

Natalie is a **9-year-old girl** who lives in a small town about 5 hours from Santa Cruz. She was at home caring for her 3-year-old brother while her mother and father were out working. She struck some matches and accidentally ignited a can of alcohol. **The can exploded and covered Natalie's leg and arm with burning alcohol.** She was taken to a nearby hospital.

Our director, Cindy Thacker, heard Natalie's story as she rode with Natalie's uncle, Antonio, a taxi driver in Santa Cruz. He said that Natalie had been in the hospital for almost one month, but **the burns on her leg were not healing.** He said that **she was not getting proper care because her family did not have money.**

Antonio brought Natalie to the Mission of Hope clinic, and our doctors took over her care. The mission provided Natalie with a **high protein diet, antibiotic therapy, and full-time nursing care.** A plastic surgeon was contacted, who performed **2 successful skin grafts in a nearby hospital at no charge.**

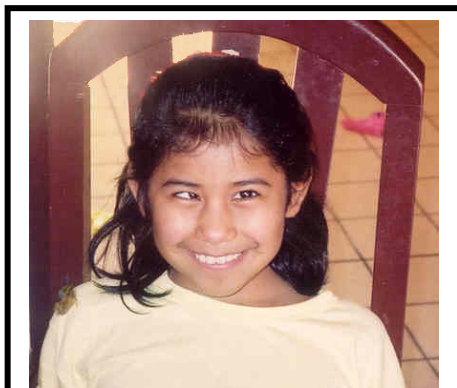
When Natalie first arrived at the clinic, she was fearful and withdrawn, unable to trust anyone.

Within a short time, she became confident, out-going, and affectionate as she experienced **the loving care of our staff.** As her trust grew, she even **consented to having a corrective surgery done on her eye.**

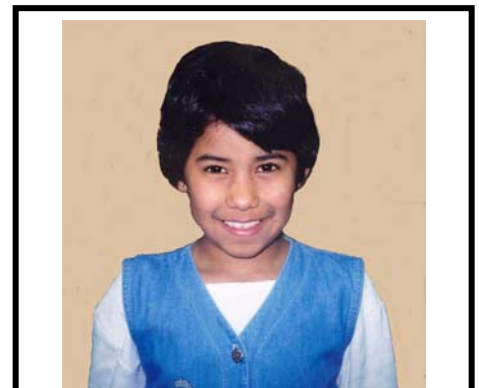
The stories of Natalie and Gary Cueto are not unique. Their situations are very typical of the everyday reality for the poor in Bolivia, but **Mission of Hope, Bolivia is changing the situation! With your prayers and support, we are making a difference!! Mission of Hope, Bolivia is bringing hope and healing to the people of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. To date, more than 18,000 patients have prayed to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior through our ministry, including Gary Cueto and Natalie. Lives are being saved, both physically and for eternity! Praise the Lord!!**



Natalie comes back to thank her friends at the Mission of Hope clinic.



Natalie before her eye surgery



Natalie after her eye surgery

\$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge Update

Every donation that we receive between now and December 31, 2003 will be doubled by one of our supporters. This money will be used to operate our free medical clinic in Bolivia during the year 2004. At the time of this writing in late November, we have about \$18,000 towards our goal of \$100,000.

Mission of Hope, Bolivia

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