

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 4

December, 2005

Farid's Story



Farid in the intensive care unit

Farid was born with congenital heart defects. Farid would often scream out in pain and turn blue as he gasped for air, even when he was sleeping. These episodes were very frightening for his young parents. Farid was their first baby.

In December of 2004, Farid experienced one of these episodes of not being able to breathe and turning blue. His mother rushed him to the emergency room of a public hospital. The doctor on duty did not see the need for oxygen, so his mother took him to a second hospital. The doctor on duty at the second hospital gave Farid oxygen and then sent him back to the first hospital, saying that Farid needed intensive care and they did not have adequate facilities. When Farid and his mother arrived a second time at the first hospital, they were told that the hospital was full, and they were sent to a third hospital! Finally, 12 hours after they left home, Farid was admitted to an intensive care unit. A few days later, Farid had stabilized and was sent home.

Farid's mother took him to see a heart specialist, who did some tests and referred them to a surgeon. The surgeon said that **Farid urgently needed surgery** because **he would not live much longer**. His **parents had no money for surgery**. Desperate to find help for their baby, Farid's mother and father went to many different social and humanitarian organizations, but no one would help.

During this time of desperate searching, Farid's condition was worsening. He was losing weight, sleeping less, and his episodes of not being able to breathe were occurring more frequently. Farid was again hospitalized in intensive care, but his parents had exhausted all their resources and did not have money to buy the medicines he needed. They had already sold everything they owned of any value. Finally, the **doctors** told Farid's parents that nothing more could be done. They said that Farid was going to die, and they **disconnected all the machines that were helping him to live**.

Farid's parents were distraught when they arrived at the Mission of Hope clinic. After hearing their story, Pastor Ruben shared with them the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and they made a decision to put their faith and trust in Christ. Mission of Hope staff contacted a hospital in Cochabamba, Bolivia that specializes in cardiac surgery for infants and children. A local Bolivian airline donated round-trip tickets for Farid, his parents, and a physician. An ambulance met the plane in Cochabamba and took Farid directly to the hospital. After a cardiac catheterization, Farid's parents were informed that the **surgery he needed had a 99% mortality rate**.

Farid not only survived the surgery, but he amazed the doctors with his rapid recovery! Today, Farid is a healthy, happy baby. He recently celebrated his first birthday, and he continues to amaze his doctors! He is gaining weight, he is walking, and his heart is developing normally. He is a wonderful testimony to **God's miracle working power** and the way **God continues to use Mission of Hope, Bolivia!**



One month after surgery

Asael's Story



Asael after plastic surgery

Asael is a young man, 20 years old, who lives in Santa Cruz, Bolivia with his father, mother, and 2 sisters. Asael was **born with only one ear**. On the right side of his head, he had only a small flap of skin where the ear would normally be and **no opening**. His mother took him to many different doctors. She was told that she needed to take Asael for a hearing test, but because she did not have money to pay for the test, she did not take him.

When Asael was 15 years old, a plastic surgery team came to Bolivia from the US. They examined Asael. They told him that if he was willing to go through three separate surgeries, they could form an outer ear for him, but he would still be without hearing in that ear. Asael agreed and the first surgery was completed. Two years later, a second team from the US came and performed a second plastic surgery on his outer ear. They also told Asael that he would never hear out of that ear. In the spring of 2005, the first ear, nose and throat team from the US came to the Mission of Hope hospital. Thinking that this would be his opportunity to have the third and final surgery to complete his outer ear, Asael came for the screening. **Mission of Hope, Bolivia paid for Asael to have his very first hearing test and CT scan.** The tests revealed that Asael did have the ability to hear and that **all the bones for hearing were inside!** He just needed to have the ear opened up. This was a surgery too delicate to be done at the Mission of Hope hospital in Bolivia, so arrangements were made for Asael to come to the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, Va. and have the surgery at no charge. Asael received an excellent surgery from Dr. Brad Kesser, who opened the ear and formed an ear canal. A skin graft was taken from Asael's inner arm to line the ear canal and cover an eardrum. One week after the surgery, the surgical packing was removed, and **Asael could hear normally for the first time out of the operated ear!**

Mission of Hope, Bolivia

P.O. Box 4001
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Tel. & Fax: 434-977-4748
Email: cindytha@cstone.net
www.missionofhopebolivia.org

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



One week after surgery, Dr. Kesser tests Asael's hearing. He can hear!

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge continues now through December 31, 2005. An anonymous donor will double every dollar that we receive. This money will be used to operate the Mission of Hope clinic in Santa Cruz during the year 2006. Thank you for your faithful support. Together, we are making a huge difference!!