

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

NEWSLETTER

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Pastor Juan Bayo

Pastor Juan Bayo grew up in a Quechua Indian family in Sucre, Bolivia. Their religion was a religion of idolatry. The only doctors they had were the witch doctors. At a very early age, Juan began to question his mother about why they had to go to the witch doctors. He observed that no one ever really got well. As Juan watched his grandmother become completely blind, he wanted to know why they could not take her to a medical doctor in town. Sometimes on holidays when his family went into town, Juan would hear the Gospel message being preached in the public square. Even as a boy, Juan felt that God was calling him to bring health care to the Quechua people.

When Juan was 11 years old, his father became very sick. Again, Juan asked his mother why they could not take his father to the hospital. Juan's father died, and Juan dropped out of school to get a job and help his mother support his 4 younger brothers and sisters. In the years that followed, Juan was a very sick teenager, but his mother refused to take him to a medical doctor. She was afraid of what the witchdoctors would do if they found out. So, whenever Juan was sick, they continued to visit the witchdoctor and sacrifice animals to appease the spirit of his dead father.

At the age of 16, as Juan lay sick and dying, some people from the town passed by with a horse drawn cart and insisted on taking Juan to the hospital. His mother finally consented and his life was saved. This experience served to strengthen Juan's vision to bring health care to the Quechua people. When he was 18, he gave his life to the Lord Jesus. Juan was discipled by American missionaries and became a pastor. Then he met Pastor Ruben Baldviezo, our mission

pastor in Santa Cruz. Pastor Ruben told Juan

about the work of **Mission of Hope, where the poor can receive free medical care and medicines and also hear the Gospel message of salvation.** Juan told Pastor Ruben that this was **his dream for the Quechua people of Sucre.**

Juan had land that he inherited from his father. He told Pastor Ruben that **he wanted to donate this land to Mission of Hope to build a medical clinic.** After a trip to Sucre to meet Juan and survey the land, **we, at Mission of Hope, have decided to step out in faith and open a second medical clinic in Sucre.** The plans are now drawn on paper, and a **construction team is preparing to go to Sucre in February of 2008 to build the clinic. Praise the Lord!**



Quechua Indian Girl



Quechua Boy Musician



Luis Fernando after heart surgery

Luis Fernando was born on March 16, 2006 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. At birth, his mother, Juana, noticed that his breathing seemed to be difficult, requiring a lot of effort. When she pointed this out to the doctors, they did not see the problem and sent them home from the hospital as if nothing was wrong. Juana continued to have concerns for her baby as she noticed the **breathing difficulties** and resulting **fatigue** were gradually increasing. She also noticed that he cried a lot.

When Luis Fernando was 6 months old, Juana noticed that his skin, hands, and **fingernails were a purplish color**. She took him to a pediatrician who told her there was nothing wrong with the baby. When Juana tried to insist that there was a problem, the pediatrician dismissed her without giving her the help that she needed. Then Juana took Luis Fernando to a government-run clinic to receive his immunizations. The nurse who took care of them saw the

problem right away and recommended that Juana take him to a heart specialist.

The cardiologist who examined Luis Fernando determined that he had a **congenital heart disorder**. The doctor told Juana that a **very delicate and very expensive surgery was needed in order to save Luis Fernando's life**. This was devastating news for Juana and her husband, José. Luis Fernando was their only child, and they had **no money** to pay for a surgery. José earns about \$4 per day as a taxi driver.

As Juana and her husband went about the city looking for help, they heard about Mission of Hope. When Luis Fernando arrived at our clinic, his lips and his fingernails were purple and he was very weak. Mission of Hope staff made arrangements for Luis Fernando and his mother to travel to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to a private hospital that specializes in pediatric heart surgery. This hospital is considered to be one of the best private hospitals in all of Bolivia. **Mission of Hope, Bolivia paid for all of the expenses** related to Luis Fernando's surgery and took care of his mother so that she could stay with him. Luis Fernando had a **successful surgery, and his life was saved. Praise the Lord!**

For the first time in his life, **Luis Fernando can breathe normally** and play as a normal toddler. In time, he will need 2 additional surgeries, and Mission of Hope is committed to helping with those surgeries as well. Each surgery will cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000. We have a waiting list at Mission of Hope for children with congenital heart problems who need this very same surgery. As we have the funds available, we send them one at a time for this very specialized surgery in Cochabamba.

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge continues until December 31.

An anonymous donor will match every dollar that we receive from individuals, churches, corporations and foundations. This money will be used to operate our free medical clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia during the year 2008. Funds will also be needed in 2008 to build, furnish, and staff the new medical clinic that is to be constructed in Sucre, Bolivia, to bring free medical care to the Quechua Indian people.

An independent financial audit for Mission of Hope, Bolivia reported that **approximately 98% of all donations** received during the year 2006 **went into our program in Bolivia**. Only about 2% was spent on administrative costs. As we end the year 2007, **we want to thank all of you for partnering with us to serve the poor** in Bolivia. We give **glory to God for the great things He has done through you** and Mission of Hope, Bolivia. God bless you!!

Mission of Hope, Bolivia

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