

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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The Sucre clinic is now open and going strong! Praise the Lord!! On Sunday, February 3, 2013, a special service was held to dedicate the new clinic to God. Opening day, February 4th, began with a devotional for all the staff led by Pastor Alex Merguzhis and shortly thereafter, the first patients arrived!



The first patients to arrive

Julian and Vasilia were the **first patients** to arrive. When they sat down at the reception to register and begin a written medical history, they were asked the usual questions. When Julian was asked, "Where were you born?" he answered, "Down by the river." When he was asked "When were you born?" he answered, "When the potatoes were blooming." Usual questions with unusual answers!

For many years, Julian and Vasilia worked hard farming the land with their hands, without the benefit of any modern equipment. They came to the clinic with many aches and pains throughout their bodies. They are **no longer able to work** and are dependent on their daughter and son-in-law to take

care of them. There is **barely enough money for food**. Medical care was not even an option until now.

There is **no public transportation** in this Quechua community and very few people own vehicles. **People walk for miles on foot to get to the clinic**. Pastor Juan Bayo, the pastor who donated the land for this clinic, uses his truck to pick up those who are unable to walk to the clinic. On opening day, he went to pick up **Sebastiana** with his truck and brought her back to the clinic in a wheelchair. Sebastiana is a **90 year old widow who lives alone**. She has been unable to walk since childhood, as the result of an accident. Pastor Juan and his family take care of her. Sebastiana was very grateful for the treatment and the medical care that she received.



Sebastiana arrives by truck

On day two, we were visited by three orphans from a nearby boys' home. **Jairo** is a 12 year old boy who is very short for his age. He told us he wanted us to help him grow. He was very happy when we gave him some vitamins!



Left to right: Jairo, Waskar, and Ariel

Ariel is 15 years old and has only one arm. He lost his left arm about 4 years ago as a result of an accident with electricity. He came to the clinic to receive treatment for his allergies.

Waskar is a 14 year old boy who also came in with allergies. When we realized that he had come to the clinic on the day of his birthday, we had an impromptu celebration! The staff came into the waiting room to sing "Happy Birthday." We gave him some brand new school supplies and birthday hugs. He was very happy with all the attention!

When we opened the Sucre clinic on Monday morning, February 4th, we opened the same way we opened the Santa Cruz clinic ten years ago...quietly and without any publicity or fanfare. In Santa Cruz, the news of our clinic spread very quickly by word of mouth. The same thing happened in Sucre. The first day, we had 3 patients. The second day, we had eleven patients!



Nancy is 3 years old. She is the youngest of 3 children. Her mother brought her to the clinic for a check-up. They heard about the Mission of Hope clinic from a neighbor who had come in the day before.



Francisca is a 67 year old lady. She lives with her husband, who works in construction and helped to build our clinic. She was so very happy that the clinic was open. She received medicine for pain and inflammation in her joints.



Soledad is an 8 year old girl who came to the clinic with her mother. Soledad has not had any energy or appetite for about one year. She received vitamins and treatment for intestinal parasites.



Sandra is a 39 year old lady who heard the Gospel message in her Quechua language for the first time while she was in the waiting room. Now Sandra says she wants to visit a Christian church.

As we celebrate the long-awaited opening of the clinic in Sucre, we want to say a big **“Thank you”** to all of you, our supporters, **for making this possible! We could not have done it without you!!**

A recent financial audit shows that we are still operating with less than 3 % overhead, meaning that approximately 97 % of all donations go directly into our Bolivia program! We are committed to good financial stewardship and to being a debt-free mission.

Thank you for partnering with us to serve the poor in Bolivia. To God be the glory!!

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