

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 2

Fall, 2016



Linda (left) with Cristina (right)

THE GIFT OF CLEAR VISION

Would you ride the bus all night just to get a pair of eyeglasses? Well, that is exactly what Cristina did!

During the screening process of selecting the patients for surgery at the Mission of Hope clinic, patients who needed reading glasses were told that they could come Monday morning, September 5th, to receive free eyeglasses. So when Surgery Team #27 arrived at the clinic that Monday morning at 7 am to begin their first day of surgeries, patients were already sitting outside waiting to receive their free eyeglasses!

One of these patients named Cristina told us she had gotten on the bus about midnight the night before and had ridden the bus all night! She brought her Bible with her.

When she first put on her new glasses and realized that she could read the words of her Bible, tears filled her eyes. She was so happy! She did not want to take them off! She stayed at the clinic for several hours just quietly reading with her new glasses on.

Several members of the team tested patients to determine their eyeglass prescription strength in order to fit them with the brand new eyeglasses that had been donated to Mission of Hope in the US. About **60 patients received the gift of clear vision!**

THE GIFT OF SURGERY AND NEW LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

While the eye clinic was going on downstairs, the surgery team was upstairs running two operating rooms non-stop. Our first general surgery patient of the day was Nely, a beautiful lady, 44 years old, and a mother of 8 children. Nely traveled about 8 hours by bus with her husband, Emilio, and their youngest children from a farming community in the frontier near the borders of Paraguay and Argentina, where they grow beans, corn, yucca, and rice. They speak a dialect called Guarani. **How did Nely and Emilio hear about Mission of Hope, living so far away?**



Nely after a successful surgery

Emilio pastors a church. Once a year, the international church that they belong to sends missionaries to their community. Nely had been suffering from **the pain of gallstones for a very long time.** Emilio had taken her to see a doctor, who confirmed the diagnosis and told them that she needed a surgery. They did not have money to pay for a surgery. Everything changed when the missionary group told them about free surgeries at the Mission of Hope clinic. Nely had a very successful surgery and now her pain is gone. She told us, through her interpreter, that she is very happy!



Nery after a successful surgery

NERY'S STORY

Nery is a 52 year old lady with 6 children who also rode the bus all night to come to Mission of Hope for surgery. Nery lives with her husband in **a town on the border of Brazil**. **How did Nery hear about Mission of Hope, living so far away?**

Nery told us that a lady, who had been a patient at the Mission of Hope clinic, moved to her town from Santa Cruz. The lady came to her church and gave a testimony about how she had been healed through the Mission of Hope clinic. Hearing this, Nery made the

12 hour bus ride to get on the list for surgery. Nery had suffered with **the pain of a large hernia for 16 years**, and every year the pain had gotten worse. She is very thankful for the surgery she received.

MIGUEL'S STORY

Miguel is 23 years old. He lives with his wife and their 4 children in one small room, which he rents. There is no indoor plumbing and the bathroom out back is shared with other families who live there. His children are aged 5, 3, 2, and 4 months. Miguel's wife stays at home taking care of the little ones, and Miguel works as a "cowboy," helping to take care of cattle on a ranch outside of Santa Cruz. He came to the clinic with **a large hernia** that had been growing for **5 years**. He was in **a lot of pain**.

Miguel is now at home, recovering from a successful surgery. The generous offerings left behind by the surgery team "came from heaven," according to his wife, and are sustaining them until Miguel can return to work and support his family once again.



Miguel after surgery

\$100,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

The \$100,000 matching gift challenge is now in effect. Between now and December 31st, 2016, **an anonymous donor will double every dollar that is donated.** This includes donations from churches, individuals, and businesses. The money raised by the matching gift will be used to provide free medical care in 2017.

During the surgery screening process for this week of surgery, we found out that many patients had traveled very long distances, including one lady who traveled 16 hours by bus from La Paz through the Andes Mountains on very dangerous roads. It is amazing how the word about Mission of Hope has spread for miles around, and **the impact of Mission of Hope is being felt throughout the country of Bolivia and beyond.**

We are grateful for the teams that come, donating their time, their resources, and their surgical skills. We are also grateful for those of you who support us with your financial gifts and prayers. **Together, we are making a difference!!**

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