



The Chicago Catholic Missions
Medical • Education • Enterprise

REPORT ON OUR 33rd & 34th MISSION TRIPS

- September 18th - 29th, 2007: Medical Mission to Coroico, Bolivia
- September 29th - October 4th, 2007: Neurosurgery Program and coordination of other programs in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Coroico mission team performed 37 surgeries at the Hospital Universitario de los Yungas and helped them with their first laparoscopic gall bladder operation.
- Our dermatologist, ENT, gynecologist and neurologist saw 865 patients in clinic.
- The head of our Neurosurgery Program assisted in an endoscopic neurosurgery operation and delivered endoscopic instruments, a high speed electric craniotomy drill and bits, as well as two titanium plate and screw sets for cranial reconstruction.
- The delegation that went to Cochabamba and Santa Cruz met with key hospital leadership partners and the K'anchay cooperative. They set the foundations for our Pacemaker Implantation Program and Open Heart Surgery Program in Santa Cruz and delivered a defibrillator to the San Juan de Dios Hospital.
- We delivered 16 large boxes of pacemakers, leads, medications, anesthetics, surgical supplies and equipment valued at \$620,600.



MEDICAL MISSION IN COROICO

Our trip to Coroico proceeded with no delays or difficulties. We were able to take the new road, making it possible to bypass the "Road of death." Everyone was happy about this, though some were a little wistful about the loss of the adventure. Our welcome was very warm and wonderful. We opened the mission with a mass celebrated by the Aymara bishop, Juan Vargas. This was a very touching event with the usual round of speeches.

Coroico is stunningly beautiful, perched on top of a mountain, with sights of other higher mountains, some snow capped. It is in the tropical highlands of Bolivia – the Andes easing down toward the tropical Amazon basin.

Fr. Bob Oldershaw, a board member, came for the first time as chaplain. He presided at wonderful liturgies, with our donor mass and our closing liturgy particularly standing out. The closing liturgy included patients, hospital staff and our mission team.

Dr. Oblita in middle with surgical nurse Guadalupe and members of our team



Although this was the first mission trip for Ann Rhomberg, our new Associate Director, she was invaluable in the coordination of matters in Coroico. She also had the opportunity to meet our staff in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba and learn more about the extensive and impactful work that happens in our Ongoing Programs.

Surgeries: We performed a total of 37 surgeries, distributed among gynecology, ENT and dermatology specialties. Among the many important surgeries performed, the one that stands out the most is that performed on Miguel Quispe by Dr. Matt Brown, our ENT. His story is detailed below. Another very significant aspect of the mission was our sharing of instruments necessary for the Coroico hospital's first laparoscopic gall bladder surgery and assisting the local surgeon, Dr. Oblita, in performing this procedure.

Outpatient Clinics: Our clinical team consisted of a gynecologist, a neurologist, an ENT and a dermatologist. A total of 865 patients were seen – the biggest total to date. Dr. Jay Herrmann, our dermatologist, alone saw 340.

Donated Materials: We delivered a large quantity of donated drugs including antibiotics and analgesics. We also donated anesthesia supplies and other surgical supplies and equipment including an EKG machine and monitors for the operating room. The value of these was over \$50,000.

NEUROSURGERY PROGRAM

Dr. Richard Moser and Juan Lorenzo Hinojosa had meetings with the neurosurgery community at the Hospital Viedma in Cochabamba and Hospital Japonés and Hospital San Juan de Dios in Santa Cruz. The focus of this mission was delivering much needed materials and instruments as well as planning for future collaboration. We delivered Endoscopic instruments, titanium screw and plate sets, and a high speed electric craniotomy drill. It was a joy to see the many neurosurgeons, excited like children at Christmas, with the arrival of the craniotomy drill. It will mean a great deal to them and their patients. The value of the delivered items was over \$62,000. Dr. Moser operated jointly with his colleagues on an endoscopic case at the Hospital Japonés. The neurosurgery community of Santa Cruz has asked Dr. Moser to consider forming a mission team that may focus on spine, cranium or maxillofacial surgeries.



Dr Moser discusses a patient's CAT scan with Bolivian colleagues

PACEMAKER and HEART SURGERY PROGRAMS

As part of our Pacemaker Surgery Program we delivered donations of 52 pacemakers, 46 leads, a pacemaker programmer and other pacemaker implantation supplies worth over \$487,600. The biggest developments in this program are the full functioning of our two Pacemaker Clinics in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz and the decision to replicate our Cochabamba program in Santa Cruz. In the past, we collaborated in Santa Cruz with the Fundacion Nino Feliz to distribute the pacemakers to be implanted at various hospitals in the city. The new model, based on the model we use in Cochabamba, will now provide the patients with seamless care at one institution (Hospital San Juan de Dios), from diagnosis to implantation to follow up care. We have agreements with two cardiology interventionists who were trained in Brazil and with the Hospital San Juan de Dios. We delivered a defibrillator and will be delivering 4 temporary pacemakers used to temporarily keep alive those who are near death until they can be implanted with a more permanent pacemaker. We also delivered 7 heart valves worth \$21,000.

Our open heart surgery program continues to provide lifesaving surgeries in Cochabamba. We have decided to expand it to Santa Cruz, working with an excellent hospital there, Clinica Incor, and a very experienced cardiac surgeon, Dr. Arturo Barrientos.

CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM

Our newest program, The Children's Vision Program, is a joint program of Solidarity Bridge and the Goff Gift Fund. Our delegation had the opportunity to visit a school for poor children, where this program was functioning. It was a joy to observe vision testing performed for 30 students that day. Ten of these students needed a follow up appointment with the ophthalmologist to further evaluate their need for glasses. The Children's Vision Program partners with local ophthalmologists for the children's prescriptions and the glasses will be coming from either China or a local source. We are currently exploring both of these options.

ENTERPRISE MISSION and OVERALL ACTIVITY

Our delegation visited our new expanded offices in Cochabamba and in Santa Cruz. It is gratifying to see how things are developing to meet the needs of our growing programs. We also visited one of the sewing cooperatives with whom we partner for our Solidarity Clothing program. We celebrated a wonderful mass with our staff, presided by Fr. Bob Oldershaw. Fr. Bob also had the chance to visit Sacaba, near Cochabamba, a possible mission site for next year's medical mission.

PATIENT STORY

Miguel Quispe Gonzales is an indigenous person who works a distance from Coroico. He tells us: "We the people of the countryside live far away (about 3 hours on foot) and I work in a coffee plantation. One night it got too late to go home and I decided to sleep in a *paweechee* (a place with no walls and a roof of palms). I did not think anything was wrong until I felt something strange in my nose. An insect had laid its eggs in my nose". When we found

Fr. Bob chats with Miguel after his surgery.



Miguel, he had already had over 60 worm like larvae taken from his nasal cavities. They had eaten a good bit of the soft tissue and cartilage. In all of the 17 years of the functioning of the hospital, they had not seen a case like his. Without Dr. Matthew Brown's expertise, Miguel would have continued to suffer and the larvae would have continued to eat their way toward his eye and brain. He underwent a successful surgery and was there to give thanks at our closing mass.

TEAM MEMBERS

COROICO MEDICAL MISSION TEAM			
Dr.	Matthew	Brown	ENT
Dr.	Steven	Bujewski	Gynecologist
Dr.	James	Herrmann	Dermatologist
Dr.	George	Lederhaas	Anesthesiologist
Ms.	Aruna	Marri	Nursing coordinator and surgical nurse
Dr.	John	Oldershaw	Neurology
Ms.	Patty	Yaniz	Nurse
Dr.	Daniel	Yousif	Anesthesiologist and medical director
NEUROSURGERY PROGRAM			
Dr.	Richard	Moser	Neurosurgeon and program director
CHAPLAINCY			
Fr.	Bob	Oldershaw	
TRANSLATORS			
Ms.	Sue	Arenas	
Ms.	Kathleen	Curran	
Ms.	Hannah	Clark	
COORDINATING TEAM			
Dr.	Juan	Hinojosa	
Ms.	Ann	Rhomberg	
Ms.	Nicole	Bujewski	