

House of Hope
Proyectos Esperanza
Cochabamba, Bolivia
Calle Chirvechis #3, Zona Temporal
Cochabamba, Bolivia
Website: www.houseofhopebolivia.org

As we went back to Bolivia in 2004 we realized that beyond the walls of the Baptist Seminary our students needed more than theological discussions and pastoral theory. They needed to stop seeing daily life from the balcony and start doing theology and pastoral theory on the go: As they dealt with poverty, homeless people, Andean women and kids who came from the mountains, hunger, hopelessness and their own limitations. Around October of that year, one evening, as Iris was buying a hamburger at Burger King Cochabamba, she discover a little Andean Quechua Kid standing on a post playing and watching how people picked up their hot fast food from the delivery window. Iris says that he looked hungry, and so she roll down her window and asked the kid in Spanish if he wanted to eat, he replied yes by nodding his head. So, Iris added up another meal for the kid. When she got the food, she called the boy and gave him the food, he came rapidly and took the bag and ran as though he was going to be charged for the meal. God was manifested there Iris realized that there was something more we could do for Quechua Kids like that one boy in the City of Cochabamba. Here is where we discovered a plethora of needs that the immigrants from the mountains have in Cities like Cochabamba. We discovered that they needed dignity, they needed to be recognized as persons in the city, yes, they are different but they are human beings just like the city people is, they needed food, they needed medical care, they needed HOPE. We heard the voice from the Lord and went ahead to start the HOUSE OF HOPE now with a new perspective: INTEGRAL MISSION. Not only our seminary students would have exposure to do ministry on the go but now we got churches involved and our relationships with the Andean Quechuas sprung to the point that we now have a HOUSE OF HOPE in Tacopaya (A small village in the Andean Mountains where Quechuas come and have a weekly market) and we are providing the same services as we do in Cochabamba: Medical and Dental services, food and shelter, jobs training for women and kids, after school programs, agricultural counseling and as funds become available we will start crafts production.

Services provided and the specific needs met:

- Basic Medical and Dental program to provide medical and dental interventions to identify medical and dental problems and create a plan of care where people start their plan of care on site and then is referred to other medical programs including offered for free by government or by volunteers. This applies also to people in the mountains. The need we meet is that we are able to indentify medical and dental problems treat the ones that can be treated on site with the resources available and refer the cases that are in need of ongoing treatment.
- SHELTER and food, at the HUSE OF HOPE Tacopaya we identify a particular need. Tacopaya is a central village with elementary and middle school, thus many kids come to Tacopaya often form nearvy villages but some villages are far and the kids need to walk at least 5 hours to get to school. Therefore we opened a shelter for this kids where that

can stay during the week and go home over the week end. We provide at this point shelter to 10 kids.

- **FOOD** for the Andean Immigrants in the city. At the **HOUSE OF HOPE Cochabamba** we provide food in coordination with churches and seminary students. We combine this ministry with basic and medical care available every week. Here, we meet the **BASIC** needs such as food, clothing and medical and dental interventions of dozens of Andean women and kids who came to city seeking jobs and opportunity.
- **JOB TRAINNING** many women and kids want to be productive but they do not know how. We provide constant training on skills and micro business opportunities to them so they can be productive.
- **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS** in Tacopaya we started a after school program for the shelter kids and other kids come so the group has increased to 25. We provide math tutoring, reading tutoring, computer tutoring and homework support.
- **AGRICULTURAL COUNSILEING**, we provide training to families in potatoes production with a volunteer agricultural specialist and we also provide quality certified seed for better productions.

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