



**SOLIDARITYBRIDGE**  
*Healing & Empowering the Poor*

**REPORT**  
**GENERAL SURGERY MISSION TRIP**  
March 6th – 14th, 2010: Cochabamba

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The goal of the trip was to take two expert surgeons and provide their experience and expertise to the Bolivian surgical community that serves the poor in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- We worked in two hospitals: Hospital General Viedma and the Instituto Gastroenterologico Boliviano Japonés.
- Dr. John Gregory taught laparoscopy and Dr. Malcolm Bilimoria taught advanced open cancer surgery.
- A total on 42 operations were done at both institutions.
- We donated a total of \$212,767 of general surgery instrumentation, supplies and medications. Additionally we donated \$6,000 worth of mechanical heart valves and 20 pacemakers and 31 pacemaker leads for a total of \$191,000 for our Heart Surgery Program. The total donated was \$409,767.

**MEDICAL MISSION**

Our mission team arrived in Cochabamba to a beautiful valley of the Andes Mountains at an elevation of 8,430 ft. above sea level. This valley was the breadbasket of the Inca Empire and of the Spanish colony and has continued to supply the agricultural needs of Bolivia. The city itself was founded in 1542.

Our team of 8 people arrived and immediately went to work at the biggest public hospital – Hospital Viedma. Our goal was to advance the use of laporoscopic surgery (Dr. John Gregory) and to teach advanced surgical techniques in 2 hospitals – both public. We had the good fortune to have two surgical physicians assistants who were very capable in surgery and were also able to speak Spanish, making their help especially valuable.

At the hospital Viedma, a total of 34 surgeries were done and our surgeons helped both train and equip the local surgeons. Our second stop was the Instituto Gastroenterologico Boliviano Japonés where Dr. Malcolm Bilimoria performed a total of 7 difficult cancer surgeries and Dr. Gregory did a difficult laparoscopic case. A number of the team, including one surgeon and our surgical nurse, was hit by an intestinal problem. We were received with immense gratitude by the patients and the local doctors. We are grateful for their welcome and warmth.

**PATIENT PROFILE and MISSION PICTURE**

Mrs. Marta Lopez had to carry her giant hernia. The hernia had grown for over 7 years and she did not have the resources to receive an operation that would help her. Dr. Bilimoria and his local counterpart, Dr. Butron were able to help her and she is now recovering and will no longer have to carry her heavy burden.

**Dr. Bilimoria and Physician’s Assistant Stephanie Morup with Marta Lopez.**



**Dr. John Gregory and Physician’s Assistant Kirk Kenfield doing laporoscopic surgery with Bolivian surgeons.**



<b>MEDICAL MISSION TEAM</b>			
Dr.	John	Gregory	General Surgeon
Dr.	Malcolm	Bilimoria	General Surgeon
Mr.	Kirk	Kenfield	Physicians Assistant
Ms.	Stephanie	Morup	Physicians Assistant
Ms.	Renee	Georgius	Surgical Nurse
Ms.	Sara	Bilimoria	Helper
Ms.	Sophia	Jelsma	Helper
Dr.	Juan L.	Hinojosa	Mission Coordinator and Chaplain
Mr.	Juan Carlos	Avila	Local Coordination and Translation