

# Haven of Hope

*Santa Cruz, Bolivia*



Severe poverty and the fact that nearly half of Bolivia's more than nine million people are under age 18 has led to a crisis in this country. Children do not fare well here. They are often treated as mere possessions, with newborns occasionally left to die in the mountains or cast into the rivers of the Amazon. More than 300,000 children are orphans, and many more thousands live on the city streets, vulnerable to delinquency, prostitution, and inhalant (glue), drug and alcohol addictions.

During the 1990s, church pastor Gusto Chanez Choque of Santa Cruz rallied local support to rebuild a former orphanage in the area, a ruined structure that once served orphans of indigenous Indian descent. However, little developed until 2003, at which time Pastor Roberto Suarez also became involved and arranged for purchase of the site. Pastor Suarez contacted an American humanitarian group, Men and Women of Action, who sent a church mission team from Florida to perform hands-on construction. Soon the crumbling brick walls of the old facility were being transformed into one of Bolivia's most beautiful and memorable homes for orphans.

Called Haven of Hope, this 80-bed facility opened its doors on January 25, 2004, and operates through funding provided by Children of the World Ministries and several U.S. churches. Due to budgetary constraints, however, the facility must currently limit enrollment to 30 children.

**We need your help. Many more precious Bolivian children are wandering and waiting. Please act now before these innocent victims surrender everything to the streets.**