



*This month, we have chosen to share some stories of patients who have received care at the San Lorenzo Clinic. These stories are representative of the people who Dr. Jane and the Clinic staff minister to on a regular basis. Your contributions to the Clinic are what make these life-changing events possible!*

## **AN HISTORIC DAY AT THE CLINIC**

In the February edition of LAMBLines, we shared an entry from Dr. Jane's blog in which she described the "bit of a scare" she had when examining Leidy, a patient with a very large fibroid tumor. As Dr. Jane began examining Leidy, the patient began to bleed uncontrollably. Because the Clinic has no blood bank, this was a life-threatening situation for Leidy. Dr. Jane tried to stop the flow of blood while she and Clinic staffer, María Luisa, prayed. Miraculously, when they said, "Amen," the bleeding had stopped!



*Leidy, several weeks after her surgery.*

[\(Click here to read Dr. Jane's blog post](http://www.LAMBOnline.org/drjaneblog/) entitled, "A Bit of a Scare..." which recounts Leidy's story: [www.LAMBOnline.org/drjaneblog/](http://www.LAMBOnline.org/drjaneblog/)).

Near the beginning of this year, Leidy returned to the San Lorenzo Clinic for surgery to remove her uterus. After a great deal of hassle and expense, she and her family were able to secure three units of blood for the surgery. An additional unit of blood was provided by

Dámarys Reyes, the Administrative Director of the Clinic.

Months before Leidy's surgery, Dr. Jane and Dámarys went to a hospital in Shell to learn how to type and crossmatch blood. This would enable them to draw blood to have available for surgeries such as Leidy's. After taking blood samples from the Clinic staff, it was learned that four employees have the same blood type as Leidy, one of whom was Dámarys.

Being the good leader she is, Dámarys volunteered to be the donor of an extra unit of blood, in case it was needed for Leidy's surgery. This is where the "historic day at the Clinic" begins.



Dámarys is NOT a fan of needles, so volunteering to be the first blood donor was not an easy thing to do. It's good she didn't see the size of the needle that was attached to the empty blood bag, because it was HUGE.

With plenty of people around to provide support (including LAMB Board member LeeAnn Booher), Dámarys successfully donated the first unit of blood at the Clinic!



*Dámarys is surrounded by the “blood draw team” after a successful donation.*

## AN UNLIKELY AMBASSADOR

María Rodríguez makes her living selling gallons of bleach on the streets of Esmeraldas, a town about four hours from San Lorenzo by bus. She suffered from a large thyroid tumor. Because of the way she looked, she didn't like to be seen in public. One day, while she was working, a dump truck driver stopped her on the street and told her there is a clinic in San Lorenzo that could help her with her neck. María made the trip to San Lorenzo, met with Dr. Jane and had her thyroid removed. She is a new woman, now, thankful to Dr. Jane and staff member, Angelita, for the life-changing care she received!



María before surgery.

María one week after surgery.

## A YOUNG LIFE CHANGED

Luisa suffered from hyperthyroidism (thyroid produces too much hormone). She saw Dr. Jane three years ago when she was taking medication to control her problem.

Luisa recently returned to the Clinic with her mother. Because she had stopped taking her medicine, Luisa had raging hyperthyroidism with bulging eyes and an enlarged thyroid gland.

Surgery to remove her thyroid would correct the problem; but Dr. Jane could not operate on Luisa in her condition. It would be very dangerous and could kill her. Instead, Dr. Jane prescribed medication to regulate Luisa's thyroid. After her condition stabilized, Dr. Jane scheduled Luisa for surgery.



The surgery went very well. The first thing Luisa asked Dr. Jane when she woke up was, “Are my eyes better now?” Dr. Jane explained that her eyes would improve, but it would take a little time.

The first day after surgery, Luisa asked Dámarys if she could rest on her lap. Dámarys had a mirror and asked Luisa if she would like to see herself. Luisa replied, “Oh, no! I'm ugly!” Well, that was then... this is now! Today, Luisa's life is totally different.



Luisa (on left) with one of her sisters and Dr. Jane.

## NEEDED EQUIPMENT

*A report from Dr. Jane*

Sebastian is a 66-year-old man who was referred to the Clinic to have gall bladder surgery. However, after talking with him about the symptoms that have been bothering him, I discovered that his clinical picture wasn't that clear. He needs further work-up to discover the source of his problem, and one of the things he needs is an upper endoscopy.

We are no longer able to do endoscopy at the Clinic because our equipment is old and no longer works. Now, we have to send people to other health care facilities to obtain what is a fairly simple procedure.

Not unlike many of our patients, for Sebastian this has become a complicated process. We scheduled his procedure in Ibarra -- but that meant a four-hour bus ride and paying four times the cost of the procedure at the Clinic. Sebastian's ex-wife is helping to pay the bill for his medical care, as well as taking up a collection in their neighborhood to try to obtain the necessary funds.

They are Colombians who have been displaced from their homes and are now living in Ecuador. Because the legal paperwork which allows them to be in Ecuador is not up to date, they were taken off the bus at one of the military checkpoints on their way to Ibarra - and had to return to San Lorenzo. They are now trying to get Sebastian's endoscopy done in Esmeraldas.



*Dr. Jane performing an endoscopy with Angelita assisting.  
Inset: The old endoscopy equipment.*

With the right equipment, we could have performed this endoscopy in a more timely fashion and at a much lower price. We could have his diagnosis already - and be working on his treatment.

We are hoping to find some good, used endoscopy equipment that we can put into use at the Clinic. Would you pray that we might be able to find something that will suit our needs? Thank you for your prayers!

### Around San Lorenzo



*The mall.*



*The laundromat.*

#### Contact Information

Website: [www.LAMBonline.org](http://www.LAMBonline.org).

Online Donations: [www.LAMBonline.org/donate/](http://www.LAMBonline.org/donate/)

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