

## Volunteers Return to Isolated Village in Bolivia

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Volunteers in the south American country of Bolivia made a return visit to an isolated village that had been flooded, to deliver badly needed supplies; they were warmly welcomed by the residents. The village was Carmen, 120 kilometers west of Santa Cruz, the largest city in Bolivia and capital of the Santa Cruz region in the east of the country.

In February, days of torrential rain flooded the village, bringing a river of mud and cutting off 50 homes, where 200 people live. In March, volunteers visited the village, to survey what kind of assistance the people needed; it was an arduous, three-hour journey from Santa Cruz, over poor and bumpy roads. Because of its remote location, the village is largely cut off from the world. So the residents were delighted to see these visitors, who promised to return with the aid they wanted. The return visit in April was to deliver the aid. They brought two tons and distributed it in packages of 18, 27 or 35 kilograms, each containing both food and drugs.



It was a warm, sunny day; the residents queued up in orderly lines to receive these necessities they badly needed. It was a day also to exchange warmth and love -- to show the people of Carmen they are not alone in facing their hardships and that the Tzu Chi volunteers bring them spiritual as well as material help, a sense of hope.