



MEMO

Spring Report



MEMO Newsletter
April 2016

Surprise!

On the day I planned to write the MEMO Spring Report we experienced a snowstorm! The view from our window was quite beautiful, but *really??* How many plans were disrupted, adjustments made in schedules etc. This changed things for many people but for me, I still wrote my report.

It reminded me again however, of the fact that we don't make "The Plan". MEMO's motto is taken from Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine...so they will see your good works and glorify your Father" and so we go to help the sick, poor and needy as The Plan and opportunities open up before us.

When last I wrote we had just shipped a container (October 1st) to El Salvador. The plan was to leave the container on Cecilia's property in Tutulepeque to be divided and used, one half as a bicycle repair shop and the other as a sewing shop.

We also planned to ship a container of medical supplies to the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC) for the care of senior citizens. Jerome would follow with a team of nurses to conduct

a Seniors Care workshop in several locations (under the direction of the CCC).

We still had the Liberia container to be shipped and a follow-up visit to El Salvador before Christmas, so - what has happened? The day after that October 1st shipment went to El Salvador, we received a flatbed truckload of very useful hospital equipment from Watson Lake, Yukon and were once more busy unloading, repacking and updating inventory at the warehouse. We found many treasures we knew were so desperately needed. I'll tell you one amazing story later. *

November 12; permission finally came to ship the container we had promised to missionaries in Liberia who had stayed on during the Ebola crisis.



James and Kathleen Ngenda, EFCCM missionaries with their children, Joshua, Joy, Noah and William.

Since most of the possessions belonging to the people in their community had been destroyed to combat the spread of Ebola, they were starting over - even to the extent of planning to grow their own food. Items in the container included a John Deere farm tractor and plough, a 65kw diesel generator, carpentry tools, household appliances and greatly needed OR equipment (for S.I.M. Elwa Hospital, referred to in the news as "the Ebola hospital" during the crisis in Liberia). It was an exciting relief when it was sent off and we had some room to move in the warehouse.

November 1 - 8; Jerome, along with Lori and Karen, nurses at a local hospital, and Martha, a Cuban-Canadian nurse (assisting in coordination and interpreting) went to Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban Council of Churches to teach families in the care of seniors at home.



The workshops were held in Santa Clara and Havana. Subjects included nutrition, prevention and treatment of bed sores,

spiritual and emotional care etc. They prepared course books and copied presentations on USBs to leave with workshop participants. They discovered their help was indeed greatly needed and appreciated.



In Cuba there is a monthly provision of \$10 in pension, a few kilograms of rice, beans and oil for seniors. As a result, they usually live with their children and if not may spend their time on the streets.

Under the auspices of the CCC we sent a container to Cuba on February 13th containing large quantities of wheelchairs, walkers, bedding, incontinence products, dressings etc. These supplies will be distributed to those caring for their elderly.

November 22 - 27; Jerome travelled to El Salvador to meet with Cecilia, Steve Neufeld and Eduardo Pulin to explore future possibilities. Jerome worked with Anna, one of three women chosen by the Tutulepeque community to become village doctors, teaching her basic principles for operating the village health centre for Cecilia.

December; A team from Lac La Biche arrived in Tutulepeque in order to construct the

health centre. George Maunula travelled from Thunder Bay to join them and Eduardo for the purpose of putting a roof over, cutting doors and windows in that container sent in October.



The bicycle repair shop and sewing shop we dreamed of earlier is now a reality.

2016

Now we are well into the year 2016! There has been a steady bustle of activity as equipment and supplies continue to be donated, packed, inventoried and prepared for shipping. During the winter months we also seek tourists travelling to Cuba who will carry an extra suitcase for MEMO to be given to our contacts. Thank you to West Jet for baggage charge exemptions!

* At this point I will tell you the story started back at Watson Lake, YK. Eighteen months ago a little baby girl was born in the north of Cuba. Her name is Sophia. Unfortunately Sophia was never able to breathe on her own and required the constant



use of a ventilator. Her parents (both physicians) had to spend their time in hospital making sure the ventilator did not fail. Eventually they were told they could take Sophia home if they had a ventilator. On a combined salary of \$60/month it would never be possible for them to purchase a ventilator.

Eighteen months ago in the small community of Watson Lake, Yukon the small ten bed worn-out hospital was replaced. Most of the hospital equipment was also replaced. EFCCM missionaries John and Naomi Hall live in Watson Lake. They are supporters of MEMO. They arranged with the Yukon Health Authority to donate the redundant equipment to MEMO. It arrived at our warehouse in October 2015.

In November 2015 while translating for the MEMO nurses during "Care of Seniors" workshops in Cuba, Martha Delgado was approached to see if MEMO had a ventilator that Sophia could use. We did not. On returning home a week later we began going through the donations from Watson Lake. You guessed it! There it was, a compact, electrically driven ventilator suitable for a baby along with the operating manual and accessories. Though several years old the

ventilator had never been used! This means it will operate reliably for many years.



In February, a gracious tourist carried the ventilator in her luggage to Cuba for Sophia. **God is good!**

Once Sophia's parents have been able to repair the leaky roof in her room she will be allowed to go home.

It is MEMO miracles like this that remind our volunteers they are doing God's work. These miracles encourage us to keep going because what we do is making a huge difference in lives.

February 21; Jerome and Mark Serediak travelled to El Salvador. Mark is a volunteer with Bicycles for Humanity in Thunder Bay. His purpose on the trip was to train three El Salvadorians in the secrets of bicycle repair in the new Tutulepeque repair shop.



Jerome taught three women (including Anna) in Cecilia's community to be village doctors at

the new medical centre. The teaching went well and Jerome remains in contact by Skype each week for questions they may have.



During the visit the inevitable happened when Cecilia introduced Jerome to Zacamil Hospital, the government referral hospital for Cecilia's area. It is a 300 bed hospital doing 3000 baby deliveries annually. They have no ultrasound machine for prenatal exams. The government remodeled part of the hospital to be the ICU but provided no equipment. With the latest donations we have received, we should be able to provide their needs. We even just received an integrated ICU monitoring system for four separate patients. That is a miracle!

April 2; despite a cold wind and snow falling, cheerful volunteers worked hard to pack another container bound for El Salvador. This was followed by another day of packing April 23rd and the 66th container is now on its way to equip hospitals, health centres and much more in El Salvador.

Well, you can see there really has been so much going on in the last five months. As I reread what I've written, I do get the sense

of a Plan unfolding, but it isn't our plan. It seems as we step up to an opportunity another door opens in front of us. It is constantly surprising and keeps us referring to "MEMO miracles".

Again we want to remind each of you that you are a vital part of these miracles. Whether it is financial support, prayer, telling others about MEMO; all is necessary for MEMO to continue. So far that seems to be The Plan. Thank you so much for the part you are playing.

Blessings,

Maureen Harvey



for MEMO

If you would like to receive future letters by email, please notify us. tjharvey@shaw.ca

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter please let us know.

EFCC & EFCCM Designated Gifts Policy

Spending of funds is confined to organization-approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards an organization-approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that, when the need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the organization, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program project will be used where needed most.

Contact MEMO

Address: 380 N. Court Street
Thunder Bay ON
P7A 4X1

Phone: (807) 346-8170

or

(807) 627-6360

E-mail: tjharvey@shaw.ca

Website: www.memoministry.org

Sending Donations

Address: EFCCM
PO Box 850
Langley Stn. LCD1
Langley BC V3A 8S6

E-mail: info@efccm.org

Phone: (604) 513-2183

Please make your cheques payable to

"EFCCM - MEMO" #2-5055

Send them to the Langley, BC address.

To donate by credit card, please call

(604) 513-2183

OR

go to www.efccm.ca and use the

"Donations" link.

Official tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.