



MEMO Cuba Miracles Autumn Report


Medical Equipment Modernization Opportunity
Oportunidad para Modernizar Equipo Medico
MEMO Cuba Newsletter
October 2010

Hello Again!

How appropriate that our annual October fundraising dinner for MEMO Cuba is so close to our Canadian Thanksgiving! The title "MEMO Miracles" was so fitting when just over 200 people gathered on October 22 to share a meal together and hear an overview of what has happened (over these last six years) and what is yet to come.

In Review

But first, where did I leave off in my last letter? I told you of our Greek dinner, thanks to "chef" Dimitrios Vergidis and that Dr. Aurora Riera was in Thunder Bay for training in breast screening and mammography at

our cancer centre. We were expecting to pack and ship container #39 on July 10th. That went smoothly and efficiently with an adequate number of volunteers who worked cheerfully and went home with weary bodies and a sense of satisfaction in a job well done.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

This year Thunder Bay hosted the International Junior Baseball Championships and MEMO was asked to host the Cuban team in their off-time one day. On Sunday July 25th we introduced thirty-some Cuban 16 to 18 year olds and their entourage to a "Canadian summer cottage wiener roast" at a beautiful lakeside location.



Cuban team enjoys hotdogs by the lake.

They had time to relax from the pressures of the games with the stiff competition (representing their country - and they did go home with the bronze). The members were transported in cars by volunteers with a Spanish-speaking Canadian in each car to facilitate interaction and develop friendships. On the way, a side trip and brief stop was made at the Terry Fox Memorial Park where Terry Fox was forced to end his Marathon of Hope years ago.



Cuban Junior Baseball Team at Terry Fox Memorial

Terry Fox is a major Cuban hero! At the annual Terry Fox run in Havana there are over 20,000 runners! It was a wonderful day! Remember Dr. Aurora was here at this time, and this

is how she summed it up - "How could all this be together?" These young men from all over Cuba are here and have pictures taken at this spot---- Aurora is here to tell them all (in Cuban Spanish) about MEMO and what we Canadians are doing for Cuba and why, and they will all go back and show their friends and families pictures of themselves with Aurora and tell about MEMO and God's love for them. This is a "MEMO miracle".



Dr. Aurora shares with the baseball team about MEMO and Christ's love.

Now about Aurora - She benefited greatly from her time of training here and felt she learned much.



Dr Aurora meeting with Canadian physicians Dr. Vergidis (L)

She says she read more than 1,000

mammograms and feels more competent for the job she has to do, was taught diagnostic procedures she needs to know, and Dr. Vergidis says she is very good at her work. That was nice to hear! After three months away from home she was very anxious to get back to her family in Cuba.

Mountain Ambulance Miracle



Then another MEMO miracle occurred! Three years ago the Health Minister of Villa Clara province in Cuba asked if we might find a four wheel drive diesel ambulance. During the rainy season the roads down the mountains often are washed out and women in labour who need to get to a hospital can't make it. A four wheel drive vehicle could save lives! We learned recently that just such a vehicle (four wheel drive, fully equipped, only 70,000km and excellent condition) was being offered to MEMO for free.



We found that letting air out of the tires and cutting the wheel fender

flares off would allow it to fit in a container (with 1" to spare on each side!). We purchased a winch (heavy duty) which will sometimes be needed to pull itself through rivers, put extra equipment inside, had seven feet of extra space behind to pack more needed supplies and off it went!



Winch-equipped 4 wheel drive ambulance slips into container #40

On October 16, MEMO Cuba shipped container #40 to Cuba!

A Timely Delivery

On October 20 Erwin Stuka arrived from Alberta pulling a large trailer of valuable medical equipment he had been gathering up over the last months. Jerome was almost dancing with excitement as they unloaded the trailer, sorted and inventoried all the "valuable stuff". In Canada, our health regulations are so cautious and careful that we do discard so much which really is "good stuff". However, from MEMO's point of view that is all the better for Cuba and we are

helping the environment by sparing our landfill sites.

And now we arrive back at October 22 - our MEMO Miracles fundraising dinner. As Jerome summed it up:

1. Volunteers worked hard and were cheerful.
2. The food was delicious.
3. The music was inspiring.
4. The M.C. made all feel comfortable.
5. The table decorations were unique and attractive.
6. The slide show clearly showed MEMO is alive.
7. The DVD interview really showed the person of Dr. Aurora.
8. Newcomers to MEMO were overwhelmed.

All went home uplifted and realizing miracles do happen!

Latest News from Cuba

October 27th Jerome left for Cuba carrying eight, 50lb bags containing some of that "good stuff" from Alberta, along with pharmaceuticals and other items to supply a variety of requests. (Remember those expensive PICC lines which are so essential in chemotherapy treatment? Many of those arrived from Alberta just in time to go!) I've received an e-mail

saying all arrived safely and with no problem. Now that is a miracle!!



Dr. Tim Wollin (Edmonton) & Dr. Arnoldo (Cuba) Urologists discussing surgical procedures.

What's ahead?

We are interested in finding churches, groups of people or individuals who would be willing to commit to a monthly donation small or large, as well as those who may send occasional donations. We require \$800 monthly to supply film and developing solution for the mammography program.

Please prayerfully consider how God may lead you in this endeavour. Thank you for your prayerful support of MEMO Cuba and the people of Cuba we are reaching with the message of Christ's love.

Maureen Harvey

for MEMO Cuba 

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