



MEMO Update

“Hurry Up & Wait”



MEMO Newsletter
July 2013

Surprise!

MEMO is still here. As we entered the year 2013, I described our situation as “hurry up and wait”. Jerome said he felt like the children of Israel at the Red Sea; the Egyptians behind them and the water in front. For MEMO it was a warehouse full of collected goods faced with the imminent sale of the building and the delayed granting of permission from the Cuban government, which is in a state of “transition”. What to do?

While we waited and prayed we kept our volunteers busy with organizing and preparing of all the items in our warehouse, continuing to pick up donations, packaging pills and other supplies to be carried by tourists to our Dr. Aurora in Cuba and dressing beautiful dolls and animals for children in hospital.

During January, February and March, 22 generous tourists travelling to Varadero carried fewer personal items so that they

had luggage space for much needed items and valuable antibiotics to deliver to Dr. Aurora.

Thank you to all who answered our call!

On April 5, Jerome sent an email to some supporters saying “The Red Sea parts and El Salvador is on the far shore!” Another MEMO miracle! We had learned of a small but extremely efficient and well organized mission which had just built a family medical clinic (Shalom Family Medical Centre) in El Salvador.



We were referred to one another by mutual friends who knew that they needed equipment and we needed to ship some to

empty our warehouse. These people contacted MEMO and Jerome asked for a wish list of **all** they needed, while we sent an inventory of **all** we had. (Remember that inventory we had been doing?) When the two lists met we discovered we could provide basically their **every need**. How is that for planning? But we weren't the ones with the **Master Plan**.

And so the physical work began....and these people are **efficient!** Teri Benner, the director of the clinic made all the arrangements in El Salvador and on April 26th the first container was packed and shipped to travel down the Atlantic coast, through the Panama Canal and finally to its destination.



We learned that this trip was less costly (by \$500) than shipping to Cuba. Every bit of money saved does help.

Another bit of exciting news for us is that a young woman known to a number in Thunder Bay is not far from and now is in contact with the folks at Shalom Clinic.

Cecilia Huezo moved to Thunder Bay from El Salvador with her family as a young girl. A couple of years ago she felt the call of God to return to her roots to work among the women and children in a poor area in the jungle. She is living by herself, slowly building a center of support for friendship, help with nutrition, extra tutoring and love. We were able to send some items in the container to share with Cecelia to provide her with encouragement. **A blessing for all!**

The task of consolidating the equipment at the warehouse is ongoing as our eviction notice hangs over our head. A second container to El Salvador was packed and shipped on June 22nd. Our warehouse now has space to move around but it is not vacant. We are praying for more time. The new owner has said several times that he won't put us out but nothing is in writing. Of course there is always the matter of money to ship the next containers. Continued MEMO miracles are needed.



Good news! On June 6th Dave and Arlene March joined Jerome and Fran Friesen (our photographer) to spend a week in El Salvador meeting and visiting with our new friends at Shalom Family Medical Centre.



The team learned that 40% of El Salvadorians die with no medical care as they cannot afford it and 54% of pregnant women receive no prenatal care. Jerome was able to meet with the Dean of Medicine at the Evangelical University of El Salvador who would like to pursue discussions on working together with MEMO. During the week both the [need](#) and the [opportunity](#) was evident. There was great excitement. One staff member realizing all that was being provided said "I think I am going to faint".... that was a *man* speaking!



The first container was cleared through customs on July 3rd and the contents carried

to their appropriate areas in the clinic. All this was done by manual labour up and down four flights of stairs as the elevator is not yet functioning.



They are now awaiting the arrival of the second container. We here at MEMO continue to receive miraculous calls of available medical equipment while on the other hand we are trying to empty our warehouse. We will plan now to ship a container of beds and hospital furnishings to Cuba, as authorized, to help clear out the warehouse and await further directions. We [need wisdom far beyond our own](#) to make decisions but with the experience of so many miracles to encourage us and relying on the prayers and financial support of so many, we will carry on one step at a time.

We are expecting more miracles, are you?

Blessings,

Maureen Harvey

[for MEMO](#)

p.s. For those in the Thunder Bay area -

MEMO Fund Raising Dinner

Valhalla Ballroom

October 4, 2013

with special guests,

Armando and Dr. Aurora Riera!

If you would like to receive future letters by email, please notify us at: infomemo@tbaytel.net

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Sending Donations

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Precious in His sight

Contact MEMO Cuba

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