



# MEMO Reports



*You're Invited*

*MEMO Fund Raising Dinner*

(without the dinner)

Location: your armchair

Menu: your favourite evening snack



Is it really possible that so many months have flown by without a report on MEMO being sent out? Well at least this time I don't have to say it was inexcusable! From early March there were a continual series of personal medical situations which occupied much time and carrying on the regular physical activities took priority over reporting on MEMO activities.

We have now arrived at that time of year when we usually have the annual MEMO Fund Raising Dinner in Thunder Bay. This year plans have changed and we have a surprise for you! This report is coming out to those who regularly receive it and also to some of those who usually attend that dinner. We invite you to sit back in your own home - no babysitter or concern about what the teenagers are doing and you don't even have to get dressed up for our "fund raising dinner without the dinner"! Join us in marvelling at more MEMO MIRACLES as I recount the busyness of the last several months.

When last I wrote in February our team of volunteers had just packed a container for El Salvador loaded with items for the people of La Presa. Among other things we sent equipment to construct a hand rail for them to climb the steep and often slippery path to the community



(necessary to carry their water supply) and also dehydrated food to feed the children attending an afternoon school run by our associates. That container arrived safely and also held much needed equipment for the hospital in

Metapan. The doctors and staff were so excited when it arrived and were swift to install all these treasures and put them to use.



In April a team of eight volunteers left Thunder Bay to construct the promised hand railing and also a metal building to



be used as a community health centre for the people of La Presa.

It was HARD, HOT, WORK but provided a wonderful opportunity to work *with* the community - and was successful!



We also said we planned to send Steve Wiebe (an air ambulance paramedic) to teach a course for ambulance attendants and also for the community health worker where Cecelia lives and works in Tutulepeque. Steve proved to be an excellent teacher and this project too, was successful. We are thankful!



Then another chain of events produced yet another opportunity for MEMO to offer our experience in "gathering and shipping" to serve the needy in other lands. We had earlier met a couple who were serving the poor in the country of Liberia, W. Africa. They had built a community centre for training pastors and meeting the needs of the poor. When the Ebola virus arrived so many died and so many homes and much equipment had to be destroyed. The needs became even greater. The Ngendas contacted us. They had a vision, a location and a list of things they needed. They wanted to develop food sustainability by developing a market garden for the community where they live on the outskirts of the capital, Monrovia. We already

had much of what they needed in our warehouse and after a period of searching, one of our volunteers even located a suitable tractor in the farming community around Winnipeg. (Thank you Peter!)



And the "chain of events" I mentioned continued. The Ngendas had friends at ELWA hospital in Monrovia. If that name sounds familiar it was much in the news over the last year as the Ebola Hospital, the main hospital in Liberia which cared for Ebola victims and saved many lives. We had a personal connection with ELWA in the late 1970's when we spent four years in Africa with S.I. M., so we might be able to help them too. And thus another MEMO MIRACLE occurred! We came into possession of and refurbished a complete video endoscope system which will diagnose lung cancer, stomach cancer and colon cancer. The surgeons know how to use this equipment but had never had the scopes. Countless lives will be saved by early diagnosis.



Now, back to Cuba. On June 29 we packed a container containing much needed hospital equipment (anesthetic machine, O.R. lights and baby incubator) as well as wheelchairs, walker, mobility equipment for the children's hospital in Matanzas and also the old folks



home. The packing and shipping went beautifully and we got all the needed things in to the container.

During the summer we were also busy collecting donations and making an inventory of all the supplies which are stored for shipping. One of the items we obtained was a retired, single stretcher EMS ambulance which perfectly fits the needs list of the community of Tutulepeque where Cecilia Huezo lives. They have three people already



trained (by Steve Wiebe) as ambulance attendants. On October 1, the container was packed and shipped for El Salvador. A MEMO team will build a roof over the container which will be divided in two - creating a sewing shop and a bicycle shop. We have already sent the equipment to operate these small shops which provide business opportunities for youth.

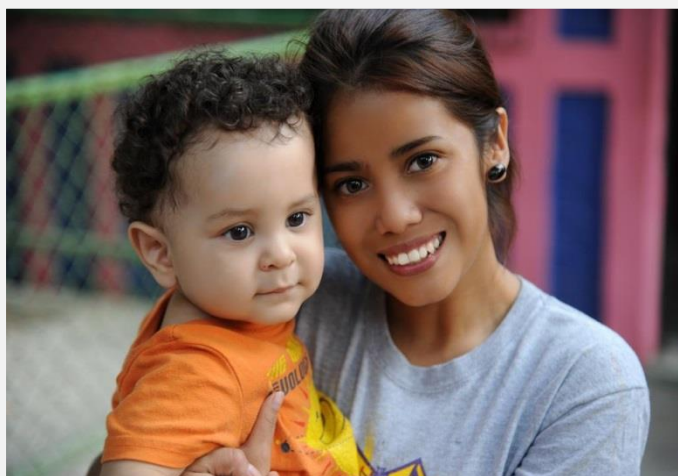
Over the last few months we have obtained mobility aids, diapers, dressings etc. which will be distributed by the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC) to people with aging relatives living at home. These we hope to ship in the next few weeks once the Cuban government has given us our shipping number.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> week of November, Jerome will travel to Cuba with three nurses under direction of CCC to conduct a Seniors Care Seminar in several locations. This will help

those caring for the old folks at home. They will also learn how to properly use some of the new dressings which MEMO has provided for bedsores.

We still await the final papers for the Liberia shipment and are grateful for a donation received which covers the shipping costs. However, we are once again in that position where we must say we have no money. We have shipped a container to El Salvador on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> trusting that the money to cover the cost will arrive (we have a moderate deficit). Our warehouse contains more supplies needed in both El Salvador and Cuba, and yes, we have another surprise! One day after the shipment went to El Salvador we received a flatbed truck of very useful equipment from a hospital in Watson Lake, Yukon. Yes, Yukon!! The people up there gathered many valuable items from the old replaced hospital, packed it and delivered it to our warehouse door.

We have no idea what the future holds, but we know who holds the future, and we believe in miracles. How about you? Would you like to be a part of this?



We want to thank you for joining us for our MEMO Fund Raising Dinner (without the dinner). We realize that without fund raising we cannot continue to ship equipment to needy areas of our world and that also means, for those concerned about the environment, that our landfill areas will fill more rapidly. We realize we need your support, so as we say at the end of our dinners "Get out your cheque book now, fill in the enclosed envelope and send it in", or take advantage of the opportunity to donate online. Rejoice with us at all the MEMO Miracles thus far and contribute to the next two containers.

MEMO thanks you for your support, prayers and encouragement.

Blessings,

*Maureen Harvey* 

for MEMO

If you would like to receive future letters by email, please notify us. [tjharvey@shaw.ca](mailto:tjharvey@shaw.ca)

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

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## **Sending Donations**

Address: EFCCM  
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Phone: (604) 513-2183

***Please make your cheques payable to***

***"EFCCM - MEMO" #2-5055***

***Send them to the Langley, BC address.***

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