



The MEMO Cuba Miracle Continues

The Christmas Report 2011

I cannot believe how terribly all of you have been neglected! But here we are at last, and I do have an explanation, though not an excuse. Have you ever been watching a program on TV and in the commercial pause a great sales pitch comes on, "Order soon and you can get all this for only \$29.99" and then..."But wait! Order right now....etc, etc." That "But wait" disease hit me, so let me explain.

In our last report (was that really sent in March?) we were looking forward to a team going to assess needs at various hospitals, **teach nurses how to use specialized wound dressings** we had obtained and our photographer Fran



was taking pictures to be used for MEMO promotions.



That trip was very positive and upon returning, the challenge of writing up a funding proposal to CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) for a five year breast screening initiative was upon us. **If accepted this would result in MEMO receiving \$4.00 from CIDA for every \$1.00 donation.** At that time we were told to expect a reply sometime in June.

What next? Container #41 was packed and shipped in April, we learned that the folks in Sioux Lookout were collecting for another shipment in July or August.

“Our warehousing was again full and we heard that two ultrasound machines were going to be shipped to us by an organization in Florida because they wanted them to go to Cuba. Think of the logistics of that! Also eight complete dental suites were donated by our local college.

But wait!” “There’s more!” CIDA notified us that **MEMO was on the short list** for grants and a final decision would be out on September 30th.

In June Jerome travelled to Cuba for discussions with Cuban oncologists and govern-



ment officials to assess the effects of our existing mobile breast screening clinic.

He was accompanied by Britt Bailey a Research Assistant at TBRHSC who along with



Dr. Neety Panu (head Radiologist Breast Imaging) submitted a report for CIDA. (and us 😊) I quote a few points:

“12, 244 women had a mammogram”

“271 early cancers detected - 95% expected to be cured when detected that early”

“Social situation in Cuba is such that saving a woman’s life equals saving an entire family”.

They also felt that the organizations i.e. MIN-SAP and MEMO “have a high level of respect for each other and cooperate well as a team”. They feel this is “**a very sustainable initiative**”. All very good, right? And the people in the street are beginning to realize there is a God who loves them and does answer prayer.

At the end of August the container was packed and ready to leave Sioux Lookout. We had money to ship another, #43, in October and began to plan for our fundraising dinner to be able to ship #44 in November. “But wait!” I can’t write now until we hear from CIDA! So-o-o-o, we had our dinner and yes!, we are able to ship! And not only that - **another miracle!** We have (at last!) obtained use of a very large warehouse which will have heated work space for construction of our next mammography trailer over this winter. We will be able to share space with a couple of other organizations and have lots of room to solidify all our “stuff”.



And No! We can't wait" **Miracles still happen!** We have located the required mam-mography system and it is being shipped.

We are learning patience in some areas and how to be creative in others. If the CIDA grant does not come through this will probably be the last breast screening unit we will provide as we have committed to provide film and developing fluid and repairs where possible on an ongoing basis.

We need wisdom in communicating the wonder of MEMO miracles and our excitement in what God is doing through all of our supporters (you!). Together we do make such a difference.

Please continue to stick with us through prayer, finances and spreading the word.

Blessings and Merry Christmas,

Maureen

For MEMO Cuba



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