

# Another MEMO Report

MEMO Newsletter  
February 2015

**MEMO**  
Medical Equipment Modernization Opportunity  
[www.memoministry.org](http://www.memoministry.org)

## Greetings to all

Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> arrived in Thunder Bay with a very brisk windchill of -30C. As the sun was rising a crowd could be seen gathering around the MEMO warehouse waiting for the arrival of the truck and container we planned to fill with supplies needed for our friends in El Salvador. MEMO's 59<sup>th</sup> container!

The team of volunteers (about 20) toiled

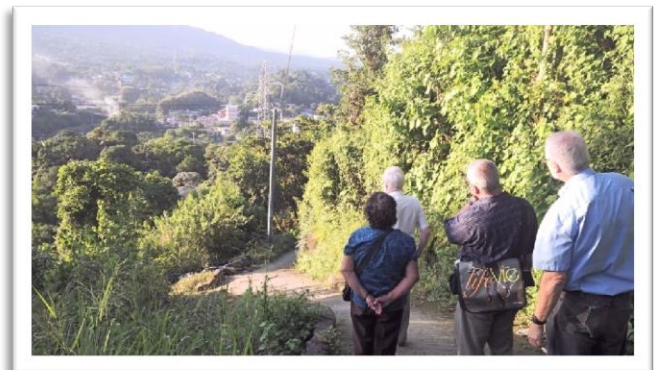


through the day, some part time and a few actually all day from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., taking turns at the coldest jobs and finally,

victoriously, sealing the doors. To give an example of how cold it was, one fellow tried to take a drink from his water bottle in his jacket pocket and discovered ice! Our volunteers are a dedicated lot!! They also know these supplies have been requested



and are needed. We are now sending more than just medical equipment. This container was packed with 1300 lineal feet of pipe along with a generator, welder, cement mixer and all the tools for installing a handrail up the La Presa mountain. The women (many elderly) in this poor community have to walk down for water and carry it up the steep and often slippery path to the community. Eduardo has



made arrangements for the work to be done with help from the community when Jerome goes with a team in April. The women at La Presa also expressed a need for food and so we have packed pallets of dehydrated food obtained through the Ontario Gleaners. This will provide 90,000 bowls of soup for the community of La Presa.

We have also been introduced to the worn out Metapan hospital and have now sent them a newborn incubator, surgical/treatment tables, bedside tables, OR lights, hundreds of dressings, needles, splints, those smaller items needed for a hospital to function. When this container is emptied it will remain there to be used as a warehouse by Eduardo for his ministry needs.

In my last letter we said that Eduardo would stay for several weeks in El Salvador after Jerome's brief trip in October to assess further needs at Shalom Clinic and surrounding area including Cecilia Huezo and her community centre an hours' drive away. Being fluent in the language enables Eduardo to learn so much about the people and their needs. Some quotes from his reports reveal the needs he saw at the Metapan hospital.

"This is a public hospital and I have never seen a place so needy. I feel so happy to help them as they are a group of (mainly women) doctors and health personnel working as a family to help others.



It is a 50 bed hospital to serve 78,000 people."

He sent some pictures and lists of what he saw as their needs. When he gave a few small items to one doctor he heard her say, "Oh, look at this! My God loves me!" How wonderful



that Eduardo was here in Thunder Bay to help pack this container and then will be in El Salvador when it is opened and distributed. Having shipped the container we now turn our attention to organizing our warehouse and organizing for further acquisition of supplies.

## *Next steps*

So, what is next? Well, Steve Wiebe the air ambulance paramedic trainer who supervised outfitting the ambulance we sent earlier is going to El Salvador on April 6<sup>th</sup>. He will teach a course for ambulance attendants (he is an experienced & excellent teacher). He will also train Lillian as a community health aide. She is the community representative of Tutulepeque where Cecilia lives and works. A metal building has been constructed on Cecilia's property for a first aid station. Also at Cecilia's an ocean container will be divided with a sewing shop on one side and a bicycle repair unit on the other. (We have sent bicycles, repair equipment and cartons of sewing supplies already.)

The team going in April plans to construct the handrail along the path up to La Presa. They may also help at Shalom Clinic in organizing and distributing supplies sent in earlier



shipments. We will depend on Eduardo's awareness and knowledge of needs gained as he has been living in the community for many weeks now.

## *But What of Cuba?*

In our last report we mentioned plans for Jerome to make a brief trip to Cuba in November to assess how we might help the Cuban Council of Churches in the care of the elderly and also assist a pediatric hospital that had approached us for help. He did tour the children's hospital in Matanzas and came home with a list of needs including an anesthetic machine, OR lights, baby warmer, neonatal intensive care incubator and more. We are preparing to ship a container to Cuba soon.

Jerome met with the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC) committee on social action which is supporting families caring for aged parents at home. MEMO will provide bedding, mobility aids, diapers, dressings etc. A week after Jerome returned home, St. Joseph's Care Group provided MEMO with 18,000 disposable diapers. I still believe in miracles! The CCC is arranging wound care seminars across Cuba for relatives caring for aged loved ones. Two nurses from St. Joseph's Hospital will be going in the fall to teach at these seminars.

The Christian doctors we are working with in Matanzas are a husband and wife team, Dr. Abel Santana and his wife Marisel. Marisel is a maxillo-facial surgeon who does amazing reconstructions of faces horribly disfigured by cleft lip and palate. MEMO was able to provide her with a set of new pediatric surgical instruments. Her comment: "In 20 years I have never had such good

instruments!" MEMO plans to continue this



support as we are able.

After faithfully being "the face of MEMO" in Cuba for over 10 years, Dr. Aurora Riera and husband Armando emigrated this past year to Florida with their children Caleb and Cathy (now young adults).



They are settling in and adjusting to this new life. In a few months they will have their American passports. We keep in touch and Aurora is even considering going to El Salvador to set up the mammography unit they plan for the future. They will not forget their Canadian friends and wish to be remembered by you!

Before I finish this report I have one final thought some may wish to consider. Throughout this report on El Salvador you probably noticed how frequently Eduardo has

been mentioned. He and his family have been accepted as missionaries with the EFCCM and he has been volunteering with MEMO over the past year as he raises financial support before moving to El Salvador. Eduardo and Marta are fluent in Spanish, have met and developed friendships with the people around the Shalom Clinic and in Tutulepeque where Cecilia is working. They are eager to get started. They still need approximately \$1400 a month pledged towards their support. If churches receiving this would like to host Eduardo for a fundraising event or if individuals (or churches) feel that they would like to contribute, please contact Eduardo at [eduardopulin@yahoo.com](mailto:eduardopulin@yahoo.com) or their website, [www.pulindelgados.ca](http://www.pulindelgados.ca), or send to the EFCCM address below stating account # 2-2361.

Now, here we are looking forward to spring - new life, new surprises and of course, ever more MEMO miracles. Are you "expecting"? We are! I write this report with great gratitude both to God and to all of you who encourage and support the work of MEMO - by your donations, your prayers, spreading the word, volunteering and just being there. We are all part of an amazing adventure and need each other.

Blessings,

*Maureen Harvey*

for MEMO

If you would like to receive future letters by email, please notify us.

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## **Sending Donations**

Address: EFCCM  
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Phone: (604) 513-2183

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