

# A MEMO for Summer 2009

*Let your light so shine  
before men that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in Heaven.  
Matthew 5:16*

**It's time once again** to give you a report on what is happening to MEMO-Cuba. My mind is in a whirl, as usual, but I will try not to forget anything.

In our Spring letter I said we would be packing another container on March 28th, and one was to be sent from Kelowna B.C. as well, and a team was to travel to Cuba on April 24th. Done! Done! & Done!

## **And, now for the "Report".**

We are so thankful to know that the containers are arriving safely, and the team was able to see equipment and supplies being used at their destinations.



Dr. Vergidis consulting with Cuban Oncologist

Dr. Vergidis (Chief of Oncology at Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Centre) was interested in exploring collaboration between oncologists in Santa Clara and Thunder Bay, with a view to enhancing cancer care in the entire Villa Clara province. His reaction was very positive and it does appear that this too will happen. He was very excited and said, "People in Canada have no idea of the impact on health care MEMO-Cuba has had in Villa Clara province."

As they travelled to the hospitals, met officials, saw many changes, and heard requests expressed for other help, he also was impressed with the many miracles (note I didn't say "coincidences") he was observing. He also saw the room that the Varian Simulator we shipped (mentioned in last newsletter) will be installed.

Since returning, Dr. Vergidis is contacting other cancer centers in Winnipeg and Ottawa to find "retired" equipment which could be used in our Cuban hospitals, and is arranging to bring Aurora here for training to enhance her skills in reading mammograms, and in program management.



Dr. Vergidis plans to return to Cuba with Jerome in November and bring a nurse along to train the Cuban nurses in how to insert "pic lines" for patient treatment. (More about this later, but I do want to remind you that people who go on a MEMO-Cuba team are volunteers and pay their own way.)



Cuban chemotherapy patient with painful IV site

I think we can safely say we have been given a new enthusiast, who has discovered there ARE miracles and he wants to be a part of them.

**The other person in the April team,** Ruthann Johnson, a lab engineer, was able to find all the "bugs" in the lab system at Placetas hospital. She was able to harmonize the various equipment for best results for all areas of the hospital. She was so very much appreciated by the staff!



MEMO-Cuba team member, Ruth Ann

**Now for the Breast Screening Program.** With the new clinic all set up and ready to operate, they were having a 'practice run' on the first day. A nurse who was to work there was the first 'patient' and guess what? The mammogram showed an early, treatable cancer! A life is saved by a coincidence? I think not!



Dr. Vergidis & Dra Aurora Reading mammograms in new Cuban clinic

Dr. Aurora is now busy working at both the Placetas Mammography Clinic and the Mobile Mammography Program (riding her electric scooter to the place the mammogram trailer is located). As this is all new and we want women to come, they are given a t-shirt as a reward. Aurora reads mammograms and consults about follow-up treatment for positive findings.

At this time, chemotherapy in Cuba is administered in the peripheral veins, so the patients are not only feeling sick from the chemo, but endure painful I.V. sites in their arms. Once they are able to put a pic line permanently into a central vein, it will remove some of the misery of their treatment.



**Final news** - Another container was shipped on June 13th and this was special in more ways than one. Erwin Stuka, (the X-Ray consultant from Alberta, who worked in our first big shipments five years ago) had pulled a trailer of equipment to Thunder Bay for us. It included two mammography film processors and a very useful ultrasound machine. This will be used for further diagnosis of positive mammograms.



Dra Aurora in the new Mammography Trailer in Cuba

So, we had lots of 'stuff' to fill a container to ship - but - we had been told we had to have the money first, and we didn't. Here comes another "coincidence"!



Dr. Vergidis & Dra Aurora outside new Breast Screening trailer in Cuba

Leaving a restaurant after a meal, we heard a voice call out. It was a young man who had been in our youth group over thirty years ago! We talked a while and discovered he didn't really know about MEMO-Cuba, and we didn't know he was with a local engineering company. The result was that on June 13th, another container was packed and shipped by MEMO-Cuba with the management and staff of Cook Engineering not only paying for the shipping, but doing the work of packing. I think they quite enjoyed it, and it was such an encouragement to us!



Cook Engineering Employees pack container

So, I can sum up by saying God is good, we are still seeing "MEMO Miracles". Thanks for standing with us, and keep looking for more miracles in your life too! We are!!

*Maureen Harvey*

**For MEMO-Cuba**

## Give the Gift of Love to Cuba!

**\$1.00** will buy one x-ray film. (Without x-rays, doctors cannot make diagnosis to give proper treatment)



**\$4.00** will pay for the 4 x-ray films needed for one mammogram. (Without x-rays, no mammograms.)

**\$10** will buy 50 pairs of surgical gloves. (Without surgical gloves life-saving surgery cannot be performed)

**\$20** will buy one day of lab tests (20). (Without lab tests, doctors don't know what is going on chemically inside the body)

**\$50** will pay to ship one wheelchair. (Without wheelchairs, patients remain bedridden.)

**\$100** will buy \$1,000 worth of antibiotics. (Without antibiotics, many infections will cause death)



**\$200** will buy a week's supply of x-ray film developing chemicals. (Without developing, an x-ray film is useless)

**\$350** will pay one month's operating costs for Grandma & Grandpa's House. (Without support, these forgotten elderly will suffer.)

**\$600** will ship 3 comfortable hospital beds. (Without comfortable beds, patient's suffering is increased.)

**\$9,000** will ship an entire container of life-saving medical equipment to Placetas. (Without shipping, equipment is wasted)

**You can designate your gift to go to any of these needs directly**  
(Without your help, it won't get done)

Please make cheques payable to **EFCCM** and mail to:

MEMO Cuba, 380 N. Court St.,  
Thunder Bay ON P7A 4X1

OR

EFCCM, P.O. Box 850, Langley Stn.  
LCD1, Langley BC V3A 8S6

**\*\*Enclose a note directing donations to:**

MEMO Cuba #2-5055

Phone/Fax: (807) 345-6455

Website: [www.memocuba.org](http://www.memocuba.org)

Email: [infomemo@tbaytel.net](mailto:infomemo@tbaytel.net)

Official tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.

To donate by credit card, please call (604) 513-2183.  
If you would like to receive future letters by email, please notify us at [infomemo@tbaytel.net](mailto:infomemo@tbaytel.net)

