



MEMO Cuba Miracles Winter Report



MEMO Cuba Newsletter
February 2011

Here we are again - using that same heading. I hope you aren't getting tired of "Miracles" - I really don't know what else to call it...*IT IS MIRACULOUS!*

After sending our last newsletter we had a marvelous holiday in Hawaii for 10 days.



Rest, relaxation, beautiful scenery and enjoying the company of our daughter & husband and our oldest great grandson (all of 2½ yrs). What fun! We returned home rested to celebrate Christmas, catch up on correspondence and answer the constant calls and emails reporting donations of equipment and supplies to be picked up - and then our computer crashed! That gave us a bit of anxiety as at first we thought all those files of information were lost. (Please note it really is important to back up everything!) All was saved however and within a week we had a new

computer and were up and running again.

About those phone calls regarding **equipment donations** - by the end of January, Jerome had summed it up like this, "donations varying from an ultrasound machine to an anaesthetic machine, to blankets, wheelchairs, office furniture, linens which we use for packing...we now have **two** tractor trailer containers completely full, our warehouse is **full**, 12 hospital beds are stored outside and enough furniture and equipment to fill **another shipping container** in a vacant area of a local hospital.



We're full to overflowing!

To top it off, at the end of April, we are booked to receive 10 dental suites from the local college's school of dental hygiene. *We must* send a container to make room for all these things.



Why we're sending new dental equipment!

But here we go again! We need \$9,000 to ship a container ASAP!

Meanwhile, another team is preparing to go to Cuba. This team will consist of six members and we are excited about the prospects.

1. Dr. Tim Wollin (Alberta) the urology professor, who travelled with the team in November, will return bringing

- valuable urology equipment to teach prostate surgery.
2. Dr. Struan Vaughn, also from Alberta, will be evaluating dental needs in the area. We want the dental equipment we are getting to go to the appropriate places.
 3. Karen Parker is a nurse with wound care experience. She will teach the proper use of the sophisticated dressings we are given to ship to Villa Clara. A Cuban nurse here in Thunder Bay is working with her to prepare a teaching CD and booklets in Spanish to leave in Cuba for ongoing education.
 4. Once again nurse Jean Enarson from Alberta is going to record the needs discovered (maybe she can exceed her 17 pages recorded last time!).
 5. Fran Friesen of Thunder Bay is a photographer who will be recording everything

photographically for MEMO promotion in Canada.

6. And then of course, there is Jerome and whatever he does.

News Flash!!! February 6/11

Jerome wrote, "I have been struggling to have faith and not worry (about finances). Really, from a human perspective the situation looks pretty bleak. But I have just received an email from a church in Alberta saying a motion was passed to send \$9,000 to assist with the shipment of containers." **ANOTHER MIRACLE!!!**

We've also heard that women are travelling from the eastern provinces (some several days) to be examined at Aurora's clinic.



It is functioning well!

The longer term vision would be to establish several more mammography clinics throughout Cuba.



This woman's life was saved by mammography.

But for now we are looking forward to the team going in March, then returning to pack and ship the next container, continue to gather equipment and warehouse it, find funds for another container.....and on and on.

In some ways, we are not so much planning, as following, as new opportunities pop up and needs are supplied. We have so much to be grateful for and often share with people the following quotation:

“Even if we are not specifically led to sell all and live with people in poverty, we still must weave our lives with theirs. For even as we relish our temporal blessings, we hold these goods with open hands. We’re not in love with the stuff, but with its Creator. This means we are free to enjoy God’s gifts, free to share them, free to come, and free to go.

We don’t make a nest and perpetually rest in the soft cushions of our comforts. We leave them and go to those who are uncomfortable.

Going to places that are uncomfortable, among people in real need, is a great antidote to the complacency and complaints that so easily creep into a consuming lifestyle.”

Radical Gratitude

By Ellen Vaughn

We trust you are inspired and encouraged by all this news and I want to remind you that all of you are a part of what is happening through MEMO. Your interest in telling others, volunteering, giving as you are able and your prayers do make a difference, and we thank you. We anticipate seeing the miracles continue AND a few more containers being shipped over the warmer months.

Blessings,

Maureen Harvey
for MEMO Cuba

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