



## For We Care Outreach Network Society

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May 2009

Newsletter

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

In this part of Alberta spring has finally arrived, trees show signs of new life and the grass is slowly turning green. It has been a long time in coming and we are all glad to see new life. Year after year we get to experience this same miracle.

I wanted to let you know of a few news items and keep you posted on upcoming STM trips.

We had our Annual Meeting in Red Deer at the Wiersma's residence. One of the items on the agenda was the question of where FWC should be heading and what FWC should be doing. We had a lengthy discussion under the direction of Ken Boschman from Leduc. The consensus was that FWC has an important purpose and that we continue what FWC has been doing. Due to the time restraint we were unable to decide if we should change the direction. It was decided to keep our focus on the same type of projects that we have been involved in for the last number of years.

In the meantime, Wolfgang Rochow has undertaken to research the most effective way of enhancing our official Objects (the stated purposes under which we were granted charity status) and is currently interacting with the Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency in this regard. Enhanced Objects will empower us to respond to new ministry opportunities if and when they come to our attention.

### **Board News**

I would like to especially thank Alex and Johanna for allowing us to meet at their house and for hosting the meeting. It was excellent. Thank you also to the Rochow's for the food. Board elections were also part of the annual meeting. I would like to introduce the new Leadership Team:

Wilfried Kopp: Director, Chairman

[wilf.kopp@forwecare.org](mailto:wilf.kopp@forwecare.org)

Ron Klettke: Director, Vice Chairman

[ron.klettke@forwecare.org](mailto:ron.klettke@forwecare.org)

Ann Caine: Director, Secretary Treasurer

[ann.caine@forwecare.org](mailto:ann.caine@forwecare.org)

Dwight Paras: Director, Field Director for South America

[dwight.paras@forwecare.org](mailto:dwight.paras@forwecare.org)

Elsie Kerber: Director, Donor Relations

[elsie.kerber@forwecare.org](mailto:elsie.kerber@forwecare.org)

Peter Caine: Director, Webmaster

[peter.caine@forwecare.org](mailto:peter.caine@forwecare.org)

Johanna Wiersma: Director

[johanna.wiersma@forwecare.org](mailto:johanna.wiersma@forwecare.org)

Elmer Reimer: Director, Travel Arrangements

[elmer.reimer@forwecare.org](mailto:elmer.reimer@forwecare.org)

Wolfgang Rochow: Board Advisor, Acting Treasurer

[wolfgang.rochow@forwecare.org](mailto:wolfgang.rochow@forwecare.org)

If you would like to contact any of us, feel free to do so through the website or directly.

I would also like to thank Brian Kirschenman for looking after the Treasurer position during his time on the board. His input and wisdom will be missed.

### **Creative Writer Needed**

The Board is currently looking to have a creative writer either as a member of the Board or in an advisory role. If you feel you could serve in that position please contact us.

## **FYI**

You can now make donations using our website via Canada Helps. Visit [www.forwecare.org](http://www.forwecare.org) and click on support. However, there is a 3% fee that we will have to pay. Consequently, you can save us that cost by making your donation by cheque or money order, mailed to our address, if you don't mind.

## **Brazil**

Dwight has set the dates for the next Brazil trip with a small change from previous years. You will notice that the dates have been changed to February. It was suggested that we try this time of the year to avoid the rain that we typically have in November. We will be working on the second floor of the third dorm at the Drug rehab Centre. The dates are February the 13<sup>th</sup> until March the 6<sup>th</sup> of 2010.

Please contact Dwight if you are interested in taking part so that he can start the preliminary planning for the trip.

## **Cameroon**

Ron is still contemplating sending a team to Cameroon; more information will follow within the next couple of months.

## **New Projects**

We have contacted the CBMIN office in Ontario about the Chagas project which we are looking to get involved in.

The Chagas parasite is found in the homes of the poor who, because of cost, use thatch on their roofs. At night, these bugs come out and bite, infecting people with their feces. This disease has very limited treatment options, and often leads to a shortened life span. For those who live with Chagas, heart disease, and malformation of the intestines is common. Can you imagine putting your children to bed at night knowing what lurks in your home?

It is our hope to help make these Adobe (mud) houses bug proof by providing new roofs and filling all the cracks in the walls as well as providing a concrete floor. This all together costs less than \$500 a house.

I am hoping to arrange a team to visit Bolivia to work on this project; more details to follow in the next few months.

## **Chagas Facts**



Adult *Rhodnius prolixus*, a kissing bug.  
WHO/TDR/Stammers

Once infected: over the course of many years, serious chronic symptoms can appear, such as heart disease and malformation of the intestines. If untreated, the chronic disease is often fatal. Current drug treatments are generally unsatisfactory; it can shorten the life of a person by up to 15 years.

Chagas disease occurs exclusively in the Americas, particularly in poor, rural areas of Mexico, Central America, and South America. It is estimated that as many as 8 to 11 million people are infected.

As we continue the work in different parts of the world let us pray that God will use this to build his Kingdom.

God Bless,

Wilfried Kopp