



Miami Medical Team Foundation

First Trimester 2004

Year XXI - Nº 1

Father Francisco Santana "Faith in Action Program."

Father Santana was a Catholic priest of Cuban descent. In the early sixties, he was part of a Catholic seminar in Havana. When the Communist party took control of the Cuban government, he was expelled from the island, along with a group of priests and nuns. He relocated to a seminar in Choleteca, Honduras, where he finished his learning and was ordained as a priest December 12, 1968.

On April 12, 1972, he came to Miami, where he did pastoral work in Our Lady of the Lakes, Saint John Apostle, Saint Brendan, Saint Kevin, and Our Lady at the Devine Providence parishes, among others. Also, he served as chaplain of Mercy Hospital.

In the nineties he worked with Archbishop Agustín Román at the Charity Church of Miami (Ermita de la Caridad.)

It was in 1992 that Father Santana called Dr. Alzugaray to discuss sending medication to needy people in Cuba. The Meeting was at the church, between Father Santana, Dr. Alzugaray, and Dr. Mario Soler.

Alzugaray and Soler, members of the MMT, advised Father Santana to set up a system where prescriptions from Cuban doctors would be sent by mail or personal carriers to the Charity Church in Miami, home of the Faith in Action (Fe en Acción) program. Once the prescriptions were in Miami, Father Santana would send them to the MMT who had the medicine packed and delivered back to the church, who would distribute the medicine to parishes in Cuba, where the patients would go to pick up the medicine.

The Miami Medical Team activated the mechanism to respond to Father Santana's medicine request. Nurse Lazaro Verdazco (MMT) started to classify and pack the medicine at Jorge's Pharmacy, a drug store located on Coral Way S.W. 12 Avenue in Miami owned by Jorge Monteagudo. This would occur every Saturday, and so were delivered to Father Santana weekly.

After a few months, Father Santana was receiving hundreds of prescriptions from Cuban patients each month. Dr. Alzugaray informed Carlos Cadenas, the MMT chief Pharmacist, and they met with Father Santana. They advised Santana to get a team of volunteers trained by Mr. Cadenas in the classification and packaging of medications. He was also advised to start a system of collecting donations of medicine in churches and at Mercy Hospital. Faith in Action was invited to join the MMT office on Flagler St. and 15 Avenue, to use the office as a deposit and packaging ground.

Father Santana was able to establish his own operation, helping thousands of Cuban patients over the next few years. Since its beginning, Faith in Action has received 36,000 letters from Cuba, and has sent about 800 pounds of medicine to Cuba on a monthly basis.

Father Santana was also in the Board of Advisors of the MMT foundation. The Faith in Action program has been a remarkably massive humanitarian aid for patients in Cuba for the last decade. We are very proud of it and of Father Santana, who died on January 28, 2004. God bless you, Father Santana.



*Rev. P. Francisco
Santana Carrillo
1941-2004*

Cuban Memorial



Dr. Diego Falcón, Dra. Teresa Martínez, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray,
Dr. Otero, Mario Roque de Escobar and Dra. Ala Vera.
Cuban Memorial. February 21, 2004

Cuban Transition

There was a seminar in "The Cuban Transition: Humanitarian Help", sponsored by the University of Miami, department of Cuban and Cuban American Studies, directed by Dr. Jaime Suchlicki. The program took place at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. on January 16, 2003.

Many personalities, like Andrew Natsios, Administrator U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Adolfo Franco, Assistant Director for United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Roger Noriega, Assistant Secretary of State for Occidental Hemisphere and Ambassador Otto Reich, also many NGO (Non Governmental Organization) were present.

Some organizations were registered with the USAID. This agency distributed grants for humanitarian programs in countries around the world.

The officers of USAID for Latin American and Caribbean countries were present and they were very interested in listening to ideas and formulas to apply in a Cuban transition.

It was good to hear Mr. Adolfo Franco, chief or USAID for Latin America, inform that there are only two Cuban Americans organizations fully accredited for USAID programs: Miami Medical Team Foundation and The Cuban American National Council, Inc., directed by Mr. Guarioné Díaz.

The Miami Medical Team Foundation delegation who assisted to that Seminar was made up of: Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, Dr. Mario Soler, Dr. José Carro, Dr. Jorge Beato, Dr. Josephine Salazar, Dr. Enrique Cepero, Ing. Luis Figueredo, Ing. Rafael Cervantes, and Dr. Claudio Benedí.

After closing the Seminar by Ambassador Otto Reich, the MMT is getting ready; all the programs for humanitarian help and other programs are to be activated within 72 hours of any emergency operation to start the Cuban reconstruction.



Adolfo Franco



Roger Noriega



Otto Reich

Humanitarian work with Municipalities of Cuba in Exile

The Municipalities of Cuba in Exile (equal to U.S. counties) has been organized for 40 years by Cubans that has been arriving on to US territory since the taking over of the government in Cuba by international communism in 1959.

The "Municipalities" maintain together with people in exile, they gather in social parties, help and orient the new arrivals, they monitor human rights violation in their municipalities in Cuba, they help political prisoners in Cuban jails, etc.

The MMT began a humanitarian program, sending packages of medications to Cuban municipalities. The program started with the municipality of Placetas (town located in the geographic center of Cuba). Donation of medicines given to the municipalities in exile is shipped to Cuba and distributed by different church denominations, loches, etc. in the city, to relatives of political prisoners and people in need of the medicines.

The MMT donations of medicines to Cuban municipalities have a value of more than \$120,000. They had be sent to the following municipalities:

Villa Clara province:

Placetas, Santa Clara, Camajuaní, Sagua la Grande, Esperanza, Santo Domingo

Sancti Spíritus province:

Sancti Spíritus, Trinidad, Yaguajay, Remedios, Caibarién, Fomento.

Ciego de Avila province:

Ciego de Avila, Jatibonico.

Cienfuegos province:

Cienfuegos, Vueltas, Rodas, Encrucijada, Manicaragua.

Matanzas province:

Matanzas, Jovellanos, Colón, Aguada de Pasajeros, Perico, Cárdenas, Martí.

Pinar del Río province:

Pinar del Río, Consolación del Sur, Artemisa.

Also, medications were sent to Honduras for aid victims and to El Salvador.



Placetas Central Park, a remembrance for Placetas people in exile.

Radio Martí

The MMT continue with the weekly medical broadcasting to Cuba. The program lasts 20 minutes and is presented by Dr. Manuel Alzugaray and Angel De Fana.

Each week there is an invited lecturer. It is a very dynamic presentation, including the lecturer and medical capsules with the latest news in the world of medicine.

Lecturers during the year 2003:

Lecturer	Specialty	Name of Conference
1- Dr. Mario Soler	Ortopedic	Antinflammatory Medication Reconstructive Orthop Surgeries for Osteoarthritis
2- Dr. Carlos Alonso	Rheumatologist	Rheumatoid Arthritis Osteoporosis
3- Dr. Jorge Beato	Internist	Diabetes Coronary Disease
4- Dr. Hernández Falcón & Dr. Miñoso de Cal	Ophthalmologist	Glaucoma Diabetes Retinopathy
5- Dr. Antonio Yong	Ent	Dizzyness Loss of Hearing
6- Dr. Enrique Cepero	Dentist	Stomatology Dental Reconstruction
7- Orlando Orrego	Prosthetist	Orthetics Prosthetics
8- Dr. Mirta Florín	Pediatris	Perthe's Disease Slipped Proximal Capital Epi- physe Hepatitis A and Byler Disease.
9- Dr. Orlando Silva, Jr.	Oncologist	Breast Cancer Oncological Treatment
10- Dr. Luis Reina	Neurologist	Headache Peripheric Neuropathies
11- Dr. Manuel Hernández	Respiratory	Sars and Dysphnea
12- Dr. Mariano Fondevilla	Internist	Alcoholism Addition in General
13- Dr. Valdés Castillo	Psiquiatrist	Psycho-Organic Dysfunction
14- Armando Quirantes	Prostetist	Prothesis, Generalities
15- Dr. Favio Castro	Plastic Surgeon	Plastic Surgery (breast, buttocks, etc.)
16- Dr. Víctor García	Dentist	Endodoncia
17- Dr. Eduardo Zamora	Internist	Precordial Pain High Blood Pressure
18- Dr. Yazmin Zamorano	Podiatrist	Pathology of the Foot
19- Dr. Heriberto Cabada	Psychatrist	Psychology of Repression, Psychology of Totalitarism
20- María Lugan	Physiotherapy	Physiotherapy: General Concepss



MMT medical facilities in Cuban Memorial.



Cuban Memorial

Organized to honor the victims of the Castro communist regime, still in Cuba. Over 10,000 crosses were planted in the soil to represent the victims. The crosses had the names and date of death of those lost. The Memorial was kept for 4 days over a long weekend, and was visited by thousands of people, not only friends and relatives of the deceased, but people from other countries, suprised by the number that have died under Castro's regime. Every year the MMT has a first-aid tent set up in case of emergencies. They have radio contact with an ambulance in case a patient requires more help. We are very grateful to Raúl Medina, of AMC Medical Transportation, who lent two stretchers to the MMT.

The MMT volunteers were:

Dr. Manuel Alzugaray
Dr. Diego Falcón
Dr. Teresa Martínez
Dr. Eduardo Otero
Dr. Ala Vera
Dr. Mario Soler
Dr. Jorge Beato
Dr. Pablo Monzón

Nurse: Rodolfo de Céspedes.

Logistic:
Mario Roque de Escobar
Arturo flores
José Rubio
José Carro
Luis Hernández

February, 2004

Non-Profit Organization

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American Board for Certification in Homeland Security (ACFEI)

This American Board is the legal instrument in organizing, teaching and gathering expert personnel in all branches of society; from medical doctors to members of the armed forces, police, FBI, etc. The President of the MMT, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, was certified and classified in Level III (maximum qualification) during the year 2003.

Also, Dr. Alzugaray attended a seminar in Homeland Security in Phoenix, Arizona, in October 2003. During the seminar, Dr. Alzugaray presented to the ACFEI Executive Committee the previous seminars attended in Miami by members of the MMT as well as the work in El Salvador during the dengue fever epidemic in 2002. The Executive was very please to know about the MMT preparedness and experience.

It is advisable that members of the MMT (from doctors to logistic personnel) apply for Certification. The MMT could be the only organization certified as a group in the country.

The next Seminar in Homeland Security will be in Washington, DC, on May 2004.

Write and ask for your application, we will provide help in filling it out:

Certified Homeland Security
2750 East Sunshine
Springfield, MD 65804)



Miami Medical Team
Foundation

