

MESA Worldwide



A NEWSLETTER OF MESA, A DISTRICT 6600 PROJECT, #15

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2006
Findlay Ford, 4 PM

Highlights of the September 12th Meeting

Warehouse Location: The September 12th **MESA** meeting was held in the new warehouse location, a large 200 x 100 foot facility with three loading docks and two small offices. The location lacks some amenities such as heat and bathrooms, but the price is right, and we are all greatly appreciative of having a functional facility we can call our own.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Heinrich (St Marys) reported that donations continue to come in from the Rotary Bike Tour, \$22,788 since July 1st. Total cash assets now are \$46,570, putting us in good financial condition during our current fiscal year. Major expenses during this period was the completion of two wells in San Lucas, El Salvador (\$8000); shipment to Mongolia (\$5615); and warehouse rent (\$1000 for two months).

Director of Operations: Andrew Timothy (Sylvania) took over duties as **MESA** Director of Operations from **Ron Stoner** (Bowling Green) on September 1st. Ron reported that the ambulance sent to San Pedro Sula, Honduras has been received; the fire truck sent to Guatemala is now there; and, the container sent to Mongolia has also arrived at its final destination. New shipments include two to El Salvador, and one to Belize. Please see story below for details about the transition, and Andrew's near and long-term goals as the new Director of Operations.

Country Reports:

Mexico: Eloisa Robredo our contact with the Taramahura Indians in Mexico has been replaced. At this time we are unsure of how this will affect ongoing projects.

Belize: Father Bob Haas is planning four additional container shipments to Belize in his ongoing efforts to improve their education system. In addition to school supplies and equipment, 2000 feet of fencing will be sent to Belize in order to provide security for one of the schools.

Guatemala: Two containers are scheduled to go to Guatemala: one containing bicycles and computers, with the other food, through the organization **Food for the Poor**.

El Salvador: A container shipment, organized by **Bob Ruehl**, is planned for Maquilishuat full of medical equipment and supplies to outfit a new clinic.

Zimbabwe: **Father Bob Haas** has raised \$32,000 for a clean water project, and another \$9000 for one in **Zambia**.

Uniendo Conference: **Randy Diehl** volunteered to head up a committee to plan activities for the upcoming Uniendo Conference, to be held in San Miguel, El Salvador, January 20th – 22nd. MESA has several ongoing projects that we can work on during the extended stay portion, as well as possibly visiting several recently completed projects. More will follow on the conference as more information develops.

An Interview With the New MESA Operations Director

Six weeks into Andrew Timothy's tenure as the new **MESA** Director of Operations, we sat down together and he talked about his vision for the future. Replacing Ron Stoner would be 'a hard act to follow', but Andrew has the advantage of now having a permanent warehouse location, something that Ron has not had these past two years. Andrew said that he was very appreciative of the help that Ron has given him to during the transition period. Andrew followed Ron around for two months prior to taking his new position, and these past six weeks Ron has been there whenever questions arose as to how to get something done.

When **MESA** got its new warehouse, we had a wonderfully big empty box. Amazingly, with the help of Bob Ruehl and Ron Stoner, it got filled up in short order. One of Andrew's immediate objectives was, and still is, is to get everything inventoried and then sorted by category. Part of this process will be the evaluating each piece of equipment in order to determine if it is operational, and of value, before being shipped to its final destination. Another priority objective is to clear more space by shipping out or disposing of non-**MESA** related items, such as pallets of bicycles and computers that are taking up valuable space.

Part of the process of getting things up and running is outfitting his small warehouse office. That meant finding a desk, computer, storage cabinet, filing cabinet, copy machine, fax, phone and Internet service, heat, carpet, and supplies. With almost everything donated, thus keeping costs at a minimum, we are ready to continue the **MESA** mission. Please note the new warehouse address and telephone number:

419 842 4555

Andrew Timothy, MESA Warehouse

218 Mechanic Street

Waterville, OH 43566

Bringing the warehouse up to an efficient operating status, although an immediate concern, is only a part of the picture. The mission of **MESA** is to send medical equipment and supplies to end-users. To efficiently meet this goal Andrew has the objective of placing an inventory list of all products in warehouse on our **MESA**

Website. In this way anyone, anywhere in the world can have a direct knowledge of what we have on hand. The web page will not only contain information on inventory, but will act as an information guide on:

How to donate materials and supplies;

Access information on past and scheduled shipments;

Key personnel: A directory of not only **MESA** and worldwide Rotary contacts, but also other organizations that we work with:

The history and development of **MESA** as a source of much needed medical supplies and equipment throughout the world.

Other facets of **MESA** that Andrew said he would like to address is the donation process; having a ready supply of volunteers to help with the many different functions that are part of the **MESA** operating process; partnering with other Rotary Clubs and agencies, and making better use of Uniendo in order to have our capabilities and resources more readily available to those in need.

Thank you Ron for all those years you devoted to **MESA** as Operations Director, and our best wishes for Andrew as the new Director.

Mel Honig, Editor



Getting ready to sit down to business in last **MESA** Operations Meeting in 'new' warehouse.

Testimonials from the Villagers of San Luis, A Two Well [MESA/Toledo Rotary](#) Project

David Constante: I am 53 years old and live in San Lucas. Before the donated well we had to haul our water from a water source by the shore of the river. There was a non-profit organization called Luxemburgo that tried to create a water system, but there was no luck. Over time, the consumption of water was increasing and the water level was decreasing due to the population. There is a cemetery near the community. When it rains a lot, the water from the corpses enters the water that we drink. Intestinal diseases such as cholera are common in this community. We tried knocking on several door at governmental organizations in trying to fix the water problem, but had no luck. To get the water buckets across the river, the women in the community had to work together by forming a human chain to pass the buckets across. My kids were dragged down the river due to the strong currents before. To get across the river, it takes 20 minutes. The major problem in this community is the problem of the roads that are made of clay. The roads are slippery when wet, and many fall with there water buckets.

Noemí Barrea: I am 53 years old. There is supposedly water in the community but to get the water you have to be ready to receive it between 5:00 am and 6:00 am. There is only water for one hour. Often we got nothing and had to wait until the following day to retrieve water, and they charged the community \$1.00 monthly for the well water which we didn't even drink. Also they say that that well is drying up. We have two springs, but the bad thing about them is that when the river's level is high they are buried under the strong-flowing river water. Before I used to walk a quarter mile to haul water, now it's in front of my house! I myself go get water every day in the afternoon and at my age, that was getting very difficult because it's so far away, and now I have a well very close to me and now it won't be hard to get water. I make about 5 or 6 trips a day to haul water. The water comes out of our new donated well immediately and is safe to drink. During the rainy season months, when we used to see that the skies were dark we would run to haul water knowing that the water would soon be contaminated by the rising river.



Saturnino Hernández Valencia: I am 42 years old. I'm the president of the community and its local development board. I give thanks to God for having been benefited by this well because we've been needing water for a long, long time. We used to drink contaminated water because we had no access to healthy water. Sometimes we would collect rainwater for consumption and to carry out our housework, but as a consequence our children suffered from diarrhea, fevers, and other illnesses caused by contaminated water. God is so merciful that He saw our need and He heard our petitions, and He used you guys to make it possible for us to have access to drinkable water so that we would not have to suffer more due to the lack of this vital liquid.

Bernardo Morales: I am 51 years old and my testimony is that we suffered for lack of water in the rainy season as well as the dry season because our only source of water was the Pululuya river in which we have made some water-gathering holes along the river's bank, to obtain water from there. When the river's level rises the water catchments holes were contaminated, and in the dry season the animals, such as pigs, cows, etc, would get the water holes dirty because they drink water from there, and sometimes they would urinate or defecate in the water. Up above our village they have made a garbage dump which also contaminates our river. Now, with the drilling of the well, we will not have to drink this contaminated water because the well water is clean and healthy. There were many times in which we knocked on the doors of other organizations, hoping they would respond to this great need for water that we had, but nobody listened to us. But thanks to God, you were touched by our Lord Jesus Christ to help our community and we are very grateful for that help.



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