

ALL EARS



EARS inc.

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No. 4

October 2005

For those reading for the first time.....

EARS Inc. is an Australian based interdenominational Christian organisation comprising audiologists, audiometrists and allied health professionals. EARS Inc. is dedicated to serving, and addressing the needs of those affected by hearing impairment and deafness, who live in the developing world, irrespective of nationality, race, gender or religion.

The work of EARS Inc. aims to provide ongoing training and support to local workers or health clinics, hospitals, deaf schools and mission groups in developing countries, to empower them with the necessary skills and equipment to rehabilitate people with hearing loss. The aim is to help people help themselves and others.

Did you know?.....

- The EARS Inc website at www.earsinc.org is up and running thanks to our volunteers.
- EARS is keen to receive second hand hearing aids (Behind The Ear and Body aids) which are still in good working order, so that they can be refitted overseas. We also take hearing aids that appear dead but have useful parts (so as long as the dog nibbled it and didn't eat it we'll take it).
- Donations of second hand equipment (audiometers, tympanometers, insertion gain machines, ultrasonic cleaners, otoscopes etc.) in good working order is also most highly valued and appreciated.

EARS Inc. is going through a very exciting phase at present. Donna Carkeet has just moved to the Dominican Republic for four years.....our first long-term placement overseas. This will also be the first time our training will provide a recognised qualification. However, there is still much to organise and Donna needs our support.

News from Donna.....the Dominican Republic update.



In the previous newsletter Donna explained the program we are running in the Dominican Republic. If you missed it let us know and we will forward you a copy. The project comprises three things: 1. Clinic at Dr Elias Santana Hospital; 2. University training program; and 3. Ear mould laboratory and hearing aid manufacturing. Before Donna left the UK she wrote the following:

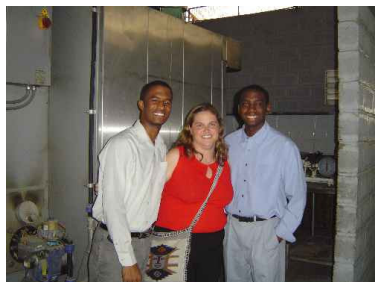
Well it is finally here, the time when I need to pack up all my things and move to the Dominican Republic. I have been in limbo waiting for so long that it will be strange to go somewhere I intend to stay for a longer period than six to eight months. I am a bit nervous as it is going to be a huge challenge and I am not sure of exactly what will happen.

I leave London on the 10th of September and arrive in the Dominican Republic on September 11th. I am feeling a little apprehensive about living there even though I have been there many times. This time is different. I want to make friends and make a home there. Initially I will be living in the hospital which will save me having to get a lot of stuff straight away. However it also means not having a lot of independence, so this will be an adjustment. As the hospital is quite far from the city I will be more isolated and it will be a bit hard to get out in the evenings without my own car. On the positive side I will be close to work meaning I can sleep in, always a plus!!

I am also anxious about relying on donations and gifts for my own support. I have always been self funded in the past so this is an incredibly difficult area for me.

In the next few months I will be focusing on language learning and course development in a full time capacity rather than just in my spare time. I will be involved in meetings with the University and various organisations around the Dominican about what we are doing. We will also begin to recruit our first few students. All in all there is a lot to do.

The front quarter of the ex-pizzeria building is now being used. It has an extra office following the renovations last November. Further renovations are still needed for more space when funding becomes available. More equipment is also needed in order to run all of the training modules in the course. This is being sourced and I am continuing to negotiate with companies over better prices for our project. More funding is needed for the purchase of the equipment and the building.



The guys I work with are incredible and I would hope and pray that they continue to be as passionate about the project now that we are so very close to starting. They have put a lot into this project and they are relying on EARS and

our partner organisation MMI to pull together the needed equipment, supplies and personnel. As an organisation EARS has never really done anything this large and I would say we are all walking on new but exciting ground.

I will let you know after I have been there a few months what new adventures and insights I am having.

Donna has now arrived safely in the DR. She is in the process of having Spanish lessons and meetings galore to achieve our goal of starting the university course in January 2006. She sent the following update:

Well this week has been a bit crazy. I arrived Sunday night in the DR. On Monday I met with Joel & Edison at the hospital clinic, Nicole and Janice (hospital directors), and my Spanish teacher. I began classes Tuesday and am doing four hours a day at present (will see how we progress).

I saw one little girl with the best parents this week. She unfortunately has two broken hearing aids and the parents are thinking of how to buy her another set. She is doing well but her progress will go backwards if this is not fixed.



I am very impressed by how much Joel and Edison are doing to try and promote the program here. They are coming across some large hurdles at times but seem very happy to continue on. We are still waiting on any word regarding the funding from CBMI. It will be difficult for MMI or EARS to have sufficient funds without CBMI's assistance, unless some large donations come in unexpectedly. We can pray for this.

EARS is still trying to raise my support so I continue to pray for my own faithfulness. I am

feeling very humbled this week. The constant failure in ability to communicate despite continued efforts in Spanish is frustrating. However the ability of the guys to make time to go over things is great. I am also incredibly encouraged by Miguel (our clinic technician) who, despite having the lowest wage of any of us, is still paying for his travel to the electronics course four nights a week (completing it in his own time). This costs him over 10% of his salary. However the skills he has gained are invaluable to us.

I have had a meeting this week with a Spanish Audiologist who is going to start several clinics here. He would like to have students from the course and to sponsor students on the course. He would also like to order from our earmould lab which would be a good source of income. Meeting with him gets very complicated as he has no English.

I had a meeting with the University about the program and I have some adjustments to do prior to the submission being accepted by the ministry. Some more information needs to be accessed and the adjustments will take some time, however my being here facilitates this.

Donna needs our support urgently!



In the initial stages of this project there are a lot of unknowns, especially with finances. At present there is not enough funding to provide Donna with an income. Donna has committed to living in the DR for four years to establish this project but is currently there on faith

alone. Please help us raise enough support for Donna to continue working on this fantastic project.

Our goal is to raise \$2000 dollars per month for the next twelve months to cover Donna's living expenses. Could you please prayerfully consider supporting Donna by donating a regular monthly contribution to the EARS Inc. Overseas Aid Fund (donations are tax deductible)?

If you are able to commit to regular support for Donna here's what you need to do:

Step 1: Contact EARS Inc. to register as a supporter of Donna and to provide your details for your tax deductible receipt. We will provide you with our bank account details.

Step 2: Go to your bank and ask to set up an automatic debit from your bank account or credit card account on a monthly basis.

Step 3: Provide them with our account and BSB numbers. It is important to have your name sent with the bank remittance advice (so receipts can be issued). It would help us if payments were transferred early in the month if possible.

Step 4: Your tax deductible receipt will then be sent automatically each month.

BALI

Sandra & Reyne Bellekom just got back from visiting the Sekola Deaf School in Bali. They have lots of interesting and exciting experiences to share, which will feature in our next newsletter.

AGM

The AGM was held on 28 May 2005. The meeting mainly involved update reports on several projects. No major changes or decisions were made. If you didn't get a copy of the minutes and would like one please let us know.

Email addresses

It would help us save significant funds in postage if we could email out the newsletter. If you are happy to receive the newsletter via email please email Judith Francis, the editor, at j.r.francis@bigpond.com. Many thanks.

Volunteers Wanted... **Find a job that's right for you!**

Administration/ Promotion

This is our biggest area of need within Australia. We need to be able to communicate better and in order to do that we need volunteers.

We are still blessed to have Jim Bambery assisting us. But there is a need for someone who can assist with some of the tasks such as record keeping and consolidating our membership details.

Hearing Aid Technicians

With all circuit board components now sourced and purchased for the production of around 200 solar powered body level hearing aid, we require volunteers with soldering skills to solder 'insert by hand' components in to the circuit board.

We also require technicians willing to travel and teach in many of our current projects. So if you are planning a holiday abroad, why not volunteer a week or two in another country? It is a great way to get to know another culture.

Solicitor

The EARS Inc constitution needs to be fully reviewed by an appropriately qualified legal representative; with any amendments from previous board meetings and AGM's officially adopted, written up and presented.

Project Officer

This is needed in order to comply with Commonwealth Government overseas aid guidelines, as part of the wider group of Christian organisations known as Co-Aid. We need to submit project planning proposals for each separate site that EARS Inc volunteers support. If you know what a log frame is or if

you have experience in project proposal, then maybe this is just the retirement project or hobby you were after!! We have only got one project through the process so far, but this was definitely slowed down by our inexperience and lack of time.

Audiologists/Audiometrists

As usual there are dozens of locations requiring an Audiologist/Audiometrist to support them in their hearing clinic or mould making facility. Further on-site training is vital, to ensure the skills of those already trained are maintained and improved upon. This is particularly important when diagnosing hearing loss in children.

Those listed below are just some of the opportunities available at this time.

- India- this project requires another training visit in order to ascertain that standards are being maintained.
- Dominican Republic- there is a need for guest lecturers for the audiometry course there. There will be ongoing opportunities for supervision and training as well as specialized lecturers.
- Papua New Guinea- ongoing training for those trained this year by the team. Also other locations as they expand the project.
- A few Pacific Islands near Australia such as the Solomon Islands, Kiribas & Vanuatu have also requested assistance and opportunities may be available next year.
- There are also opportunities in Africa.

To register interest as a volunteer please contact Judith Francis on 07 5502 9540 or at j.r.francis@bigpond.com.

EARS Inc – Membership

MY DETAILS:

Title: ___ Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode _____

Ph: () _____

Fax: () _____

Email: _____

I would like to receive regular newsletters.

I would like to be a prayer supporter.

I would like to be a financial supporter of EARS Inc.

I would like to support Donna Carkeet in the DR on a monthly basis.

I PREFER TO GIVE BY:

cheque / money order
(please make payable to EARS Inc. or Ears Inc. Overseas Aid fund for tax deductible donations)

I will arrange for direct debit with my bank. Please provide me with the EARS Inc. account details.

Please debit my credit card:
(Note: this is not for tax deductible donations, please contact EARS Inc. if you would like to make a tax deductible donation)

Bankcard / MasterCard / Visa

Card Number:

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Expiry Date on the card: ____/____

Signature: _____

This payment / authorisation is for:

A single gift of \$ _____

A monthly payment of \$ _____