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*Baxter Institute and JMA Clinic
c/o Westover Hills Church of Christ
8332 Mesa Drive
Austin, Texas 78759*

*Instituto Baxter y Clinica JMA
Apdo. Postal 1726
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., Honduras, CA*

Summer 2011

A LETTER TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear friends and supporters of Baxter and the JMA Clinic:

We who are part of the Baxter and JMA Clinic family want to express to you our deepest appreciation for the generous support you have provided during the first half of 2011. At times it seems the needs of our world are overwhelming, but we trust God to provide, and we recognize that he provides through people like you who care deeply about the future of the church and the needs of the poor. We could not train ministers, missionaries, and leaders for the Latin American churches without your faithful participation.

We ask your help in getting the story out. Perhaps you can post your copy of this printed newsletter on a bulletin board at the church building. This quarterly newsletter is also available electronically on the website (www.baxterinstitute.edu) or by email upon request if you want to print additional copies for posting or to distribute to others. By the way, the website also has links to the monthly newsletter which the board receives.

God is blessing us marvelously as we support and encourage Latin American churches through ministry and leadership training. It appears that we will finish this year strong as our PAM students return to campus for the last six months of their studies and as we receive three additional students from Cuba this month. Thank you for helping us in this work, and especially for your constant and faithful prayer support.

ANNUAL GRADUATION TRIP: November 30 – December 5, 2011

News from Baxter



Thank you for your continuing prayers on behalf of Baxter Institute and the James Moody Adams Clinic.

The second quarter of 2011 has been a time of great blessing at Baxter. **Spring break** begins the annual parade of mission groups coming to the Baxter campus, and this year a group from the **Memorial Road church of Christ** poured a new concrete street from the front gate to the administration building. We were also blessed by the work of several other groups during spring break.

Construction, even reconstruction, is always exciting. The work to remodel the building that served as the first Baxter dormitory into **two apartments for VCOM** is almost complete. (You may know this building as the storage building near the front of the campus.) Three new **married student apartments in the CELO building** are also ready. One couple is already in their apartment and the new Cuban students will occupy the other two apartments in the next few days. Finally, the interior work on the **president's house** is almost finished with occupancy anticipated around the end of July.

Speaking of construction, we have a few projects around campus that still need attention, and we are always seeking funds to work with customary maintenance issues. Also, in the not too distant future we need to give serious consideration to increasing the number of married student apartments on campus. Again and again we hear that married students tend to be better students than most of the unmarried. At present, we have more married couples wanting to study at Baxter than we can accommodate. We regret that we have to turn away so many excellent couples who desire to prepare for ministry.

Seminario Baxter was well attended this year with visitors from all of the Central American Spanish speaking countries. Almost 1000 were present for the area-wide worship on Sunday. The keynote speaker was Dr. Robert Hooper, church historian from Lipscomb University, and class presenters included Bob Young, Selvin Monterroso, Miguel Aguilar, Santos Espinoza, Adan Benavente, Bob Miranda, Phil Waldron, Rene Rosa, and David Campos. Bruno Valle presented the concluding reflection.

Please continue to pray for **Lenin and Emperatriz Munguia** as they study at Harding School of Theology in Memphis. Lenin spoke at the Damas de Baxter dinner at **Maple Hill in Lebanon, TN** in April, and is knocking the top out in his studies. Numerous friends made it possible for Lenin to participate in a study tour to Israel earlier this summer.

The **board of directors** is actively involved in several efforts, including an in-depth study of the needs involved in offering a degree that corresponds to the purpose of Baxter Institute. The Baxter committee of the board presented their recommendations to the Executive Committee, and expects to finish their work this calendar year. The Executive Committee met in early June and dealt with several governance and oversight matters.

The number of **U.S. mission groups** that are using the Baxter facilities in 2011 is phenomenal. Over forty groups will stay on the Baxter campus in 2011. Group traffic almost ceased after July of 2009 when the president of Honduras, Mel Zelaya, was forced into foreign exile and the country fell into turmoil. Zelaya returned from exile earlier this year, but the atmosphere is relatively calm; and the groups are back. (Sister Chon served meals to 222 campus guests during a recent week, not counting the students she regularly feeds!)

News from Baxter

We have two **faculty additions** as we enter the last half of the year. **Santos Espinoza** is now an official member of the Baxter faculty. He was an outstanding student while at Baxter and graduated as the valedictorian of his class. We are grateful to God that he accepted our invitation to join us in this work. Also, **Melissa Dodson** will be assisting Gloria Perez in teaching English to our students. She and her husband, Roberto, are exemplary young missionaries. Both graduated from Oklahoma Christian University.



The **annual evangelistic campaign** of our Baxter students, supported by several of our faculty members, was just completed in **Santa Rosa de Copan**. Our students assisted Phil Waldron, Rene Rosa, and several other Honduran brothers and sisters. The evangelistic fervor of this year's student body is incredible, with several involved in regular Bible studies and teaching, resulting in dozens of baptisms.

Our entire student body will be on campus for the last half of the school year. Students are returning to campus after the evangelistic campaign and our fourth-year students who have been completing their PAM missionary internships are returning to campus from such places as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, and various Honduran cities. **With the arrival of three more Cuban students, our total 2011 enrollment for the four-year program will reach 64 students. We are aiming for 75 students in 2012.** The students will work almost non-stop for the next five months, interrupted only by the annual Youth Rally in September and a brief fall break the week after.

It is time to make graduation plans! The 2011 graduation trip will occur **Wednesday, November 30 to Monday, December 5**. Details about the ground package will be available on the website soon—we anticipate that costs will be similar to past years. Remember that each guest makes their own arrangements for travel to and from Tegucigalpa. Generally, the sooner you book those air tickets, the better the deals! Miguel Angel Varela Mejia, Baxter's controller, has confirmed that the Baxter board and other guests will be staying at the **Hotel San Martin** during graduation activities. The banquet and graduation will be in the Hotel San Carlos where these two events were held last year.

We appreciate the tireless efforts of our board members and many other supporters who encourage us by their example and dedication. We appreciate the efforts of Mark Brewer and Neil and Annabelle Lawrence as they and others work to transfer Damas de Nashville investment funds to the oversight of the Baxter board. Tim Maxcey and Bob Young recently spent several days on campus as part of a mission group from the church in McAlester, OK. Board members visit campus, travel on behalf of Baxter and the James Moody Adams Clinic, and sacrifice in many other ways to support this work. We appreciate the many small and invisible things that our board members do for the Baxter Institute, the James Moody Adams Clinic, and churches of Christ in Honduras.

The Lord is blessing the work here at Baxter. We have a great leadership team that starts with our board and carries through to our faculty and staff. We are blessed with faithful friends and supporters. May the Lord continue to give all of us the wisdom, strength, and courage we need to further the work of the Lord in Latin America.

Notes from the Board

Compiled by Bob Young, Chairman

Congratulations to First Lady, **Jane Norton**, on the publication of the new book, *Look, We're Missionaries!* Jane and Mary Nelle Kreidel, both members of the Sao Paulo mission team, have compiled and edited a book of stories about the work of the wives who were on our mission team.

We extend our sympathy to board member **Tim Maxcey** in the death of his mother. Tim went directly from the mission trip (mentioned above) to Lubbock where he was able to be with her during the last few days of her life. Services were July 1 at the Greenlawn church in Lubbock.

The **JMA Clinic committee**, chaired by Jerry Brooks, Austin, Tex., meets quarterly to provide oversight for the work at the clinic. VCOM had a medical mission group on campus in April and again in June. The first group worked in the villages of western Honduras. Dean Sutphin was on campus before and during the campaign of the second group.

New pictorial directories of Baxter employees and clinic employees are online at the website: www.baxterinstitute.edu.

We regret that there is not more information from the **JMA clinic** in this issue. The nutrition program is operating near capacity with a short waiting list. Patient counts remain steady, and the opportunities to reach out to those in need in various areas of Honduras continue to grow. The JMA Clinic, in conjunction with VCOM, provided special relief and assistance to the Honduran government during the Dengue plague outbreak earlier this year, and also during the severe flooding.



This overview of the valley in which Tegucigalpa is situated reminds us that there are millions of lost souls in the great metropolitan areas of Latin America and around the world. Pray the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth workers into the fields which are white unto harvest!

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