

# ASOCIACIÓN

## A M I C U S

### Baxter Institute & JMA Clinic Newsletter

Vol. 4, Issue 2

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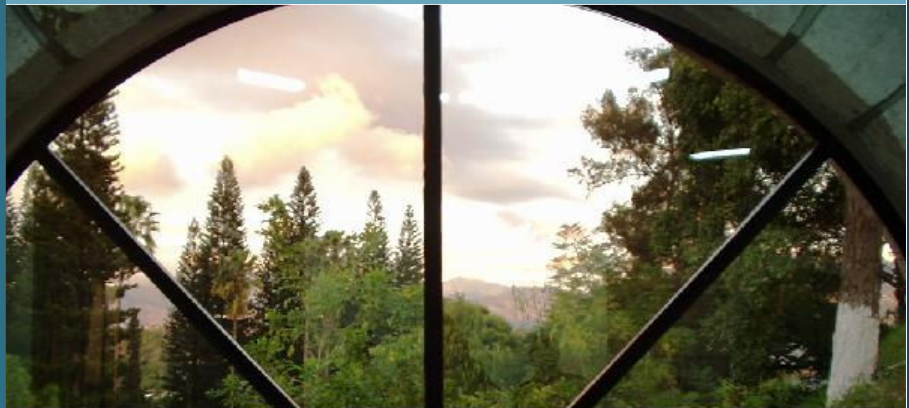
##### **Centro de Recursos: Punto de Misiones**

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**Dear Friends,**

This is the last newsletter for the Steve and Jeanne generation at Baxter Institute. We love you all and hope that you will keep Baxter and the Clinic in your prayers. We will miss being here in Honduras, but we will miss the brothers and sisters in Christ that we have had the pleasure of working with for the last 5 years. We love the students, staff and faculty of Baxter; the staff and medical professionals at the clinic; and getting to know and love so many of our supporters from all over the United States. May the Lord bless our efforts to expand His kingdom!

Blessings,  
Steve

***I just want to put in my two cents, if I may....***

These past 5 years have been full of new experiences, joys, sorrows, opportunities to learn and awesome opportunities to serve and meet some of the most incredible people in the world. I will never ever forget the students, faculty, staff and children of Baxter Institute and JMA Clinic! And I will never forget those people I've met from the U.S. because of our being here. We came to serve and to bless and to do the will of God. I feel we've received much more than we've given and I thank God for His blessings.

Que Dios les bendiga,  
Jeanne

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**Looking Ahead at Baxter** by Howard W. Norton

Baxter Institute has fascinated me since I first stepped on to the campus in Mexico City in the early 1970s. At the Pan American Lectureship in 1978, all attendees visited Baxter's new campus in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Only a visionary like Harris Goodwin, Baxter's first president, could have seen the potential in that heavily wooded, mountainous, former coffee plantation. Today, churches and missionary groups from various parts of the Western Hemisphere think of Baxter's campus as a spiritual oasis and a center of Christian learning in Spanish for Mexico, Central and South America, the United States and Canada. What an amazing place!

On June 1, 2009, I will officially become president of the Association Amicus which includes the Baxter Institute of Biblical and Cultural Studies and the James Moody Adams Clinic. My task will be that of my predecessors (Harris Goodwin, Calvin Henry, and Steve White) who imitated the example of Jesus Christ by being involved in a holistic ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing. Another North American brother who looms large in the history of Baxter Institute is Dan Coker who is considered to be the leading scholar in Latin American Studies among churches of Christ. All these men set a standard of excellence that calls out the best in all future leaders of Baxter.

As we look ahead, we hope Baxter Institute will always be a servant of the Lord's church. With the help of God, faithful administrators and dedicated faculty will strive to make decisions and take actions that contribute to the well-being of the body of Christ. Our prayer is that Baxter personnel, students, and alumni will use their knowledge, talents and influence for the saving of souls and the building up of local congregations wherever they go.

A major goal in 2009 is to increase enrollment significantly for the 2010 school year. To do this, we will need the help of Baxter graduates and friends who can point us to potential students in their geographical areas.

Faculty and staff will follow up on these recommendations as we search for the most qualified students in our region of the world.

Another major goal will be to serve as a resource for friends and former students of Baxter Institute who are on the front lines of the battle between Jesus Christ and Satan. When these soldiers of Christ look around for other Christians who can help them in their struggle for the souls of men, we want them to think of Baxter as a place where there are people who can and will nurture and encourage them in their task.

Still another major goal of Baxter will be to promote brotherly love and unity among churches of Christ in the areas we serve. I am a strong believer in the importance of biblical teaching and have spent my life attempting to be a faithful proclaimer of God's word. I must confess, however, that just standing for sound doctrine is not enough to build churches that honor God. The church in Ephesus is proof positive of this fact. Without love and unity, no congregation will ever be able to measure up to the high standards Jesus Christ has set for the church.

Finally, looking ahead at Baxter reminds us of the great need we have for continued spiritual and financial support from churches and individuals who believe in Baxter's mission and future. We are in a difficult time financially as a nation, but our brotherhood is perfectly able to maintain

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every good work in which we are engaged if we will practice generosity --- even to the point of sacrifice. We are praying that friends of Baxter and Latin America will especially stand by us at this time as we attempt to deal with decreased giving and increased costs associated with this time of transition.

We believe in the future of Baxter Institute and continue to be fascinated by this oasis of hope in Latin America.

--- Howard W. Norton (May 20, 2009)

## Despedidas by Steve White

Despedidas is a Spanish word that means a celebration of leaving and farewell. That is a tradition probably in all cultures where people leave home, work or any group of friends. We are in our last week at Baxter and so far we have had 3 "funciones de despedida". The first was a meeting arranged by Bob Young as Chairman of the Board in which many of the employees, graduates and students were present and Jeanne and I were both given nice plaques to remember our years here at Baxter. We cried when our friends got up and said very nice things about us and it was difficult for both of us to say anything about our love for each of them and how grateful we are for the 5 years here.

The second "funcion de despedida" was in our apartment. Many of you remember the "No Borders" group that sang so well at graduation. Well, they are back without Jeremias or Allan, but they asked us to give them a time when they could come and visit us in our apartment. We chose Wednesday night, May 20, at 7 pm. They came with the group and a couple of extras. We sat down and Elmer Huertas told us that they wanted to give us a gift as we leave, but like Peter and John in Acts 3, they didn't have any silver or gold, but would give us what they did have. We had a short devotional and then they gave us a private concert in which they sang about 6 songs and in the small apartment it sounded like Heaven. After they sang, each one had something to say about me or Jeanne and it was wonderful. Jeanne had one more request and that was to allow her to sing with them. They learned one of my favorite songs to sing to us, "Thou O Lord art a shield about me" from Psalms 3:3 and it was even better with Jeanne's great voice included. All of our students are special to us, but that was extra special!

On Thursday, May 21, the students planned another "funcion de despedida" for us in the devotional room. We saw a slide show of different pictures of Jeanne and me over the years and they had prepared a video by going around campus and interviewing students, faculty and staff and asking them to give us their thoughts and words of encouragement. That was very special. After that video, they also had some "out takes" that were hilarious. We enjoyed lots of hugs and then some refreshments and it was a wonderful event. I told them that I was very thankful for their friendships and their love and that I was especially happy that they were having these farewell parties while we were still here instead of after we left!!! At least that says something! :)

As far as I know now, we are having 2 more "despedidas". I don't know what will happen or how they will surprise us but I do know that we are

very blessed and that the work of Baxter is being done by the finest people on earth. Each one of them has said that they want us to return and be with them again, but if that doesn't happen, we will see each other in heaven.

Paul said in Phil. 2:2 "make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose." For us, make our joy complete by supporting the work of the Association Amicus, the Baxter Institute and the JMA Clinic. The works being done are changing the world.

## Help...

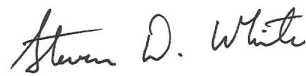
As many of you know, Honduras has some very unusual labor laws. One is that employees are paid 14 salaries per year. They get an extra month's pay in June and in December. The idea is to help poor people but the burden of two salaries in June and December is very difficult for many of the mission groups who work here. We would like to ask those of you who can to send a little extra for June so that we can make sure that our employees are treated properly. In the 5 years that I have been here, we have wondered if we would make it, but the Lord has always come through for us. We are trusting in Him, but he works through you! Always keep us in your prayers.

Love,

Steve

Thank you for reading this Newsletter. Please pray for the work here in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and all over the world.

**God Bless You,**



Steve White  
Association Amicus

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