

Introducing Baxter Institute....

THE PURPOSE OF BAXTER

For almost 50 years, Baxter Institute has existed for one primary reason—to provide ministerial training for future ministers and missionaries in a Latin American context. Originally established in Mexico in 1964, Baxter moved to Honduras in 1978. Today there are almost 500 graduates of Baxter’s residential programs, ministers and families involved in a variety of ministry settings all across Latin America and also in the U.S.



The resident training program is a university-level, four-year academic program, and is supplemented with weekend ministry assignments, annual evangelistic campaigns, and a six-month capstone ministry apprenticeship known as PAM. Hundreds are baptized each year by Baxter students as they participate in these activities. In addition to the resident ministry training program, Baxter offers extension courses through the CELO program and provides leadership training through Saturday programs and various seminars and special series. Those who have received training through Baxter number in the thousands.



THE BAXTER CAMPUS

The campus of Baxter Institute has developed as one of the premier sites in Latin America for ministerial training. Two original buildings remain on thirteen rugged acres which were originally a coffee farm. The original buildings are still in use, but the center of daily campus life is the four-story administrative and teaching center which houses offices, classrooms, a computer lab, library, chorus rehearsal room, and on the top floor, the chapel where daily devotional is held. From the chapel, one can see not only spectacular views of God’s creation but also the metropolitan areas which are home to untold thousands whom God loves and wishes to save through Christ. The two-story dining hall and assembly area provide a hub for campus life outside the classroom, with a large 1200-seat amphitheatre adjacent. Baxter provides food service so that single students eat all of their meals in the dining hall; married students eat with their families in their apartments except on special occasions. In recent years, the basketball and soccer court and adjacent physical education center were constructed so students and guests could enjoy a variety of recreational activities on campus.

As a resident ministry training program, Baxter provides resident housing for students on campus. Two kinds of resident housing are provided on campus—18 married student apartments, and a men’s dormitory which can house up to 70 single men in double rooms. (Baxter does not admit single women.) The married student apartments are always filled by student families, and at times, married students have to delay admission because of the limited number of apartments. An anticipated future need is to provide more married students apartments as enrollment continues to increase.



In recent years, Baxter has become a base for US churches involved in mission work. As the number of spring break and summer groups visiting Baxter increased in recent years, new challenges emerged. The men were easily housed in the men’s dormitory, but housing for female group members was a greater challenge. A few years ago, a large storage area under the dining hall was made available for summer groups to meet the need for female housing. The area is not ideal, but is adequate for visitors who spend a week or less on campus, with most of their time spent off campus.

THE CLINIC AT BAXTER

The mission effort at Baxter includes a clinic which sits adjacent to the main campus. The clinic serves the community, and also helps meet the medical needs of students and staff members. The work at the clinic is overseen by a Honduran doctor. The clinic director is responsible for insuring that all medical work done at the clinic meets the requirements of Honduran law and that those who participate are appropriately certified in Honduras. Four years ago, Baxter entered into an agreement with Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) which allows VCOM to use the clinic as a medical mission internship site. This partnership has expanded the work of the clinic through mobile clinics and medical research and care which is internationally-recognized.



VISITING BAXTER

Guests are welcome and encouraged at Baxter. Groups traveling through Tegucigalpa are encouraged to visit campus. With prior arrangements, groups desiring a “day visit” can share a meal with the students. The first point of contact for all groups and individuals wishing to visit campus is Dr. Howard Norton, Baxter President. Contact information is available on the website (baxterinstitute.edu). Baxter also employs a group coordinator who works with on-campus arrangements and details. (Previously, some group arrangements were handled by non-Baxter personnel.) Please note that all groups and individuals must arrange campus stays directly, in addition to contact with those who may be arranging other details of the mission trip. This requirement helps coordinate group visits with campus plans and facility availability, and avoids conflicts. All groups should recognize that the students maintain rigorous academic schedules, and that group activities and interactions with students should not hinder those obligations.

Housing and meals are available at Baxter for visitors. As mentioned, mission groups come to Baxter each spring and summer and use the housing and meals available on campus during stays that average about a week. All visitors should be aware that housing availability at Baxter is not automatic, and that visits requiring overnight lodging must be pre-arranged. Reservations are required, and it is suggested that reservations be made as early as possible due to the large number of visitors. Unfortunately, it is not possible at the present time to provide longer-term housing for those who want to reside on campus. All questions about visits, availability of campus facilities and services, and related areas should be addressed to Dr. Norton.

Groups and individuals who desire to provide medical care in conjunction with the clinic must arrange visits and trip details well in advance. This is required so that groups do not conflict with one another, to insure maximum medical services to all patients, and to meet the requirements of Honduran law and the VCOM agreement and partnership.

The Baxter family, both at the Institute and the Clinic, looks forward to your visit and wants to say in advance, **Bienvenido! (Welcome!)**

