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July 2011

A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

[Note: the following is edited from Howard's report to the Board of Directors.]

Greetings, Friends:

We are enjoying July 4 as we work today on the campus of Baxter Institute. Jane wore a bright red T-shirt this morning with a big "USA" across the front. We love the United States of America and are grateful for all the blessings we have received by being born in that great country. We pray that God will always bless America and use her resources to bless others around the world.

- We have completed the first half of the 2011 school year. First-, second-, and third-year students are on their way back to Tegucigalpa after completing a successful one-week campaign in Santa Rosa de Copan.
- Fourth-year students who have been on the PAM internship program for the first half of 2011 are gradually returning to campus from such places as Guatemala, Nicaragua, Colombia, and various Honduran cities.
- We are expecting three more Cuban students to arrive on Friday, July 8. This will bring our total 2011 enrollment for the four-year program to 64 students. We are aiming for 75 students in 2012.
- We will remember 2011 as the year groups returned en masse to the Baxter campus. At one point during this past week, hermana Chon was feeding 222 people besides our students. This is good for the Baxter economy, but we must take a serious look at how many additional people we can serve effectively after caring for our students.
- Drs. Budd Hebert, Mike Oliver, and Al Frazier of Harding University have arrived to provide two different seminars on business practices to our students. They are accompanied by a number of other team members who will be helping with the seminars.

- I will be teaching a one-day seminar on July 8 entitled “The First Year of Your Ministry.” It is designed for graduating seniors who have just returned from PAM and will be leaving Baxter after December 3.
- Santos Espinoza is now an official member of the Baxter faculty and is completing his second day in this new role. 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.
- 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.
- The 2011 Pan American Lectureship will be in San Jose, Costa Rica, October 30 – November 4. Travel days will be October 29 and November 5.
- July is a challenging month for our financial operation because it is the month when Honduran law requires us to pay a fourteenth salary to all our employees. Meeting two payrolls in one month is not easy.
- 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. I’m sorry that we have to turn away so many excellent couples who desire to prepare for ministry.
- We appreciate the efforts of Mark Brewer and Neal and Annabelle Lawrence as they and others work to transfer Damas of Nashville investment funds to the oversight of the Baxter board.
- Bob Young recently spent several days on campus with fellow members from the church in McAlester, OK. We appreciate the many unheralded things that our board members do for the Baxter Institute, the James Moody Adams Clinic, and churches of Christ in Honduras.
- Jane and I hope to be in the president’s house by the end of this month. The cabinet maker and his team are busy at work.
- We extend our sympathy to board member and friend Tim Maxcey in the death of his dear mother.

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.

Grace and peace,
Howard W. Norton
July 4, 2011

