



Biblical Institute of Central America

A Two-Year Bible School - to prepare preachers and church leaders

From the Caribbean . . . to the Pacific shores of Central America

July 2009

Dear Partners,

Peace and joy in Jesus! God overcomes Satan, but Satan still has power. Pray for us—especially my family. Heaven will be so much better.

Good news from the fourteen students and staff in Honduras. In May, they had 102 baptisms and 90 restorations. Then in June we had—baptisms—Bendeck 7; Delicias 5; Sabana, Yoro 1; Astillero 3; Tela 7; Choloma 3. That was the weekend's work. In campaigns: San Juan Pueblo 27 baptisms. June total—56 baptisms. Restorations for June—58. Restorations are as important as baptisms. Grand total: 114 saved by 14 students.

If you have been watching the news, you would have seen news about the troubles in Honduras. The president has been kicked out of office. This has been followed by much unrest. We have had to cut back some on evening door-knocking, weekend travel, and possibly campaigns. One teacher from El Salvador chose not to come to Honduras to teach. Pray for BICA, the church, and the country, please.

BICA Guatemala had a good June. They went to the western part of El Salvador. The students were placed in four different cities for the week of campaign work. In Ciudad Real—14 baptisms; Ahuachap—12 baptisms; Santa Ana—9; Chalchupa—11 baptisms. That's 46 saved in one week. Another 17 were saved on weekend works. The total saved in June was 63 baptized plus many restored (numbers not available).

The report from Nicaragua has been late arriving. Director Dr. Erick Garcia's report has been delayed because of a severe illness of his baby girl. She has been in the hospital many days. I will have more later. Pray for them. I am very pleased with the school in Nicaragua. It was started in January 2008.

The Southern Baptist Convention held in Kentucky just released their projections for the Baptist church in the USA for year 2050. They indicated that if they follow their pattern of the last fifty years, the church will decrease by 50%. Wow!! To change and prevent this, they were told: (1) They must become evangelistic (2) They were mainly older white members—they must reach out to other ethnic groups. I would think that all churches under the umbrella of Christianity would have similar projections. If we lose 50% of our membership in the USA, we will be close to going out of existence. Missions from the USA will have little funding, etc. We MUST fall to knees for repentance and have serious renewal. We MUST motivate and equip our members with serious preparation. Too many methods simply do not work. It is a DEVIL'S LIE that people in the USA are not interested! Where are the evangelists? I cry as I think about my children, my grandchildren, and my country. We MUST be like Jesus in Matthew 9:35 ff. He was moved by COMPASSION for the lost. Let us listen to Jesus and pray for workers. People sharing the Gospel save people. Programs do not save people. I plead with you to find someone, some way to reach/teach the lost! God has promised to provide all our needs! See Phil. 4:13, Eph. 3:20,21; II Cor. 9:8. Mark says that "all things are possible to those who believe". I am literally becoming ill as I write this. We cannot stand idly by as the church dies before our eyes. May God have mercy on us. Please help us, God! It is not enough to say, "Yes, the church is going down". We MUST take strong positive action that is effective. Name the number of people and churches that you know that are really reaching the lost. Pray, pray, pray! Rise up! God bless you!

The World English Institute (WEI) is a way to do mission work with your computer at home. Consider the possibilities! We can target cities in Central America and do follow-up. Using your computer, Internet connection, and World English Institute's teaching website, you can obey the Great Commission by reaching into 193 of the world's 195 nations to teach the gospel. People come to WEI's teaching website to study English because it is free. WEI uses lessons from the Bible to illustrate grammar lessons so students learn the Bible as they learn to read and write English. While audio of the Bible lessons helps students learn to pronounce English words, the seed they read is being watered. Contact BobTowell@aol.com or JRTowell@aol.com for more information.

In sad news, we have recently lost two of our most promising students. Melvin Gonzales, who graduated last year from BICA-Guatemala, was shot to death on the way home from church. Jairo Carrillo of Guatemala, who was a student in 2006-7, was killed in a head-on collision on July 20. Please pray for their families.

Last month there was a mix-up on the June 2009 newsletter. Many were mailed the 2008 letter—apologies!

Pray powerfully and often for us.

In Christ,

George W. Hall

Information about the deaths of two BICA graduates

Melvin Gonzales (graduated last year from BICA) was killed last night in an assault. He was returning at 10:30 from the church service (he was preaching that night). He was walking to his house and two men assaulted him and killed him with a gun. Melvin was single and he was doing a good work in the church of Escuintla (50 miles south of Guatemala City). Melvin is the one that we were asking work with us in BICA but he said that he had an agreement with the church in Escuintla and he wants to respect that.

Melvin Gonzales, 31 years old, single, graduated from BICA in 2008, excellent evangelist, leader and preacher. He was starting a tienda and preaching in Escuintla where he was doing a good work.

Please pray for the security in Guatemala.

Jairo Carrillo, 27 June 1980 - 20 July 2009

He was baptized in 1999, a member of the Church of Christ in Zone 7, Guatemala City

MECHANIC, Student of BICA in 2006-2007

In the institute Jairo was one of the top students, great preacher, great teacher, good with people, excellent mechanic. He worked for the church in Amatenango Jutiapa. He was working with the owner of the largest carpenter shop of the town, and he was the preacher of the church there. Since he was working with this church, the congregation has grown by 55%.

He is survived by his wife, MAGDALENA PONCIO (they were married by George Hall last November) who is 26 years old and a school teacher. She is the daughter of the preacher of the COC in Santo Tomas La Union, Suchitepequez (south of the country) -brother Aparicio Poncio-. She was baptized in 1998, a student in BICA in 2007-2008. She is a good leader of women, excellent for evangelism, and a good children's teacher in the church.

Note regarding emailing newsletters:

Please provide email addresses for missions committees, elders, and anyone in your congregation interested in missions. We can add those to the email list to receive the monthly BICA newsletter. Please send the email addresses to ls_huff@yahoo.com for addition to our email directory.

Thanks for your help in spreading the Good News to Central America.

