



## Biblical Institute of Central America

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

<http://www.bica.info/>

June 2010

Dear and Appreciated Co-Workers,

Greetings! May God bless His family. Someday we can gather together in eternity to reflect upon how God blesses us to be a blessing to others. Thank you for your concern for the lost. As always, praise and glory to God. I thank God that he allows us to work in this field (BICA).

The song proclaims, "You Gotta Have Heart..." So true, especially in God's work. I know, I know. I have been on the heart idea for awhile. It is because it is the principle thing. No heart, no fruit. For example, suppose you have two boys who play baseball. The first just goes through the motions. He just shows up. The boy just does not have his heart in it. The second is totally different. He is obsessed day and night with baseball. He buys baseball magazines and goes to baseball camps. Constantly, you see him with ball and glove, etc. Both claim to be baseball players, but only one will in reality be classified as a player who succeeds.

In the Biblical Institute, we teach our students to be filled with passion and love for the lost. It works! They have hearts for the lost. They amaze me as they form their personal vision to reach the lost. In God's Word, we hear things like: "with my whole heart have I sought thee"; "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he"; "a man after God's own heart". The cross tells where God's heart is. God says, "Give me your heart". Individuals and churches have hearts. We must examine ourselves to see where our heart is. Thank God for those of you who have a heart for the lost of Central America.

Thanks for your many prayers in regard to my health. My PSA (prostate health indicator) was 7.8. In two weeks, it went down to 3.5 (That's good.) Thank God! The doctor said that we need to watch it closely.

Lord willing, nine of us will be going to Nicaragua for an evangelistic campaign for June 7-13. I leave on May 31. I am writing this on May 27th; therefore, my May reports are very incomplete. In Guatemala, we report May 1-20. In Teculután, we had 21 baptisms, plus 11 restorations. On weekends, the students leave the school at 5:00 AM Saturdays and return Sunday nights. For May 1-20 on weekends, we had 22 baptisms, 22 restorations, and 31 disciples (those who are being taught to teach others.) Guatemala's twenty-day total was: 43 baptisms and 33 restorations. In Ocotlán, Nicaragua, 21 were baptized.

Because Laura Huff, the one who graciously produces this report, will be on another service adventure in June and part of July, the July report will be about two weeks later than usual.

Keep our beloved students in your prayers. Truly, they are mighty warriors for Christ. They work far beyond the call of duty.

Please forward this report to our brethren. So many who support this do not get the reports. Perhaps you can email reports to the church offices and to members.

In Christ,

*George W. Hall*

May 30 message from Roberto Alvarez in Guatemala regarding devastation from the Pacaya volcano eruption and the tropical storm:

Thank you for your concern about the situation in Guatemala. Things are really difficult. This afternoon we were making a visit of some of our members in Pinares who could be affected by the situation. We have 3 families that their houses were damaged, and they lost all their goods. Also 6 families are living in areas with a great risk. About the BICA students, every one is fine, thank God. We canceled the evangelistic campaign for this week because the roads are too damaged. We need food, all kind of things for houses etc.

(Not only did the volcano do a lot of damage, so did the tropical storm.)



**Report from David Romero, Associate Director of BICA**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 16 adults, including my wife and I, from the Edmond church of Christ spent a week-long mission trip in Nicaragua. This is an annual trip that a group from Edmond has been making ever since my wife and I began our mission work in 2005.

Every year has been different, and every year has been very special. As our trip was nearing, we received word that the BICA students in Nicaragua were in serious need for tents. The last couple of gospel meetings had been especially difficult for the students and staff as they traveled to remote areas where there were few accommodations. Many became sick from the heat and bug bites. We purchased six ten-person tents that will keep the students cool at night and less of a meal for bugs and mosquitoes. This small help will go a long way to assist these students in their service for the Lord.

In our desire to develop a stronger relationship with the Edmond congregation and BICA, two of the elders that came on the trip, visited the school in Jinotepe, and had the opportunity to sit down with the director, Dr. Erick Garcia. I believe it was a very productive visit as the two elders had the opportunity to see and hear first-hand what BICA is all about. I want to encourage everyone, elders, deacons, or any member who has a desire to fulfill the Great Commission, to make a trip to any one of the schools, ask questions, and you'll see immediately the passion and the truth that is being taught and shared by BICA.



**From a supporter:**

So far, \$5000 total has been raised from 2 different individuals for 2 - 50,000 gallon/day water filters/pumps. We need approximately another \$5000 to ship an 8 by 8 by 40 container from Abilene to Guatemala City. The items to go inside of the container are 10 plastic 50 gallon barrels, 2 water purification systems, about 1/4 filled with good, used clothing, about 1/4 filled with medical supplies. We still need food, household items, and cash to buy items in Guatemala City.

The tropical storm caused a 10-story building to sink into a big sink hole. See attached photo (below) (The Guatemalan government on Monday posted on its [Flickr feed a photo](#) -- an actual photo, no editing -- showing a wide, gaping sinkhole with no discernible bottom, inarguably the most remarkable image so far after Tropical Storm Agatha swept through the region and killed at least 199 people.)

Go to this link to see the damage caused by the volcano. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmrVLHSS4mc>



I am going to Abilene to help gather supplies. I will also go Guatemala City, if needed, to help distribute materials, give instruction on water purification assembly and operation, and deliver money to Roberto Alvarez, the director of the Biblical Institute of Central America (BICA).

Here is a brief summary of the tragedy the people of Guatemala are experiencing...again. On last Thursday evening, a volcano located about 15 miles outside of Guatemala City transitioned into full eruption. This volcano's relatively mild activity has been chronicled over the past few hundred years, but Pacaya has had few full eruptions. This event rained ash and cinders in a 60 km radius. Hot lava rocks fell on eastern Guatemala City and nearby communities. By God's grace, there was surprising little loss of life; however, it paralyzed a city and, temporarily, the international airport. While Guatemala City and surrounding villages were cleaning up the cinders, Tropical Storm Agatha unleashed torrential rains which caused numerous mud slides, blocking every major highway (and most minor ones) in Guatemala. Every major river south of the Central Highlands flooded and 15 bridges were destroyed, including the new one at Scaplas. Commerce stood still as the large 18-wheelers that move cargo up from the coastal ports were mired in mud up to their cab windows. There has been tremendous loss of dwellings, almost exclusively among the poorest sector of the population. Those whose homes consisted only of 4 poles in the ground wrapped in plastic sheeting and covered by three pieces of tin roofing, no longer have even that. Families were devastated. Guatemala does not have the resources to recover by itself from this tragedy. The poorest of the poor will somehow find another 4 poles; some plastic and a piece of tin or two and they will begin to subsist yet again on a bowl of beans and a few tortillas. When you give thanks the next time, please remember these, and countless others like them, who will remain invisible to most of the world. (borrowed text)