



## Biblical Institute of Central America

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

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

November 2010

Dear Saints of God,

As always, greetings in the name of the Holy One. Good things are happening because our good God is extending grace. Praise is in order.

Laura Huff, our beloved servant, dislocated her ankle and broke two bones in the same leg. They put in a metal plate and screws. She will go through a series of casts, boots, etc. Now she is in a wheelchair and uses crutches and a walker. They are looking to late January when she can return to normal. Prayers please. She gives her time to several mission efforts, including typing this newsletter.

David Romero, Assistant to the Director, has resigned in order to continue his education. He desires to become a self-supported missionary. He and his wife, Kimberly, are really nice people. God bless! This position needs to be filled. The man needs to have a passion for the lost and the ability to raise funds. Call me at: 281-252-4444.

I should be leaving on Thanksgiving Day and returning on December 12, having gone to graduations in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Basically all of January, I will be teaching a week-long class in evangelism in each school. Be thinking about joining me in a week-long evangelistic campaign with the students in May or June—details later.

You know the story about the Good Samaritan. Today, the two men who passed by the man who was half dead would be prosecuted criminally for their gross neglect, and rightfully so. Thank you for not passing by “The Walking Dead” (spiritually) in Central America. As you think about their “lostness”, your heart is moved by compassion, and you have put your money where your heart is. God always blesses the givers. Thank you! Remember us at the end of the year giving. We always have extra expenses like graduation and vocational expenses. All of our vehicles are old and need repairs and tires.

Reports are in from Guatemala. Roberto Alvarez is doing better. Many members of the local church where he is have life threats to extort money. Horrible! Now for tremendous news! A week-long campaign was held in Villa Hermosa, San Juan, Sacatepequez. The church had almost 50 members. We had 31 baptisms, plus 2 restorations. That is around 60% growth. On weekends in October, 52 baptisms with 42 restorations. Thirteen are being taught to teach others. In total: 83 baptisms, 42 restorations, 582 contacts. All glory to God!

Now more excellent news from Honduras for October. BICA went to four places in Ocotepeque for their campaign. The students spent one day in Lucerne, where 13 were baptized to start a new church. One of the new sisters has two houses. She offered one house for church meetings. Another day, BICA worked in the little town of Zenzenti to establish a house church. Nine were baptized. Two days, two new house churches started. Glory to God! Then, two days the 26 students worked in San Francisco with 7 baptisms and 23 restorations. In San Marcos, two days' work produced 17 baptisms and 19 restorations. The weekly total: 46 baptisms, 42 restorations. Then, in weekend works, we worked with 14 churches, having 29 baptisms and 48 restorations. Monthly totals: 75 baptisms, 90 restored.

Erick Garcia reports from Nicaragua that in house churches, there have been 8 baptisms. In weekend work: 36 baptisms and 12 restored. In a campaign, 22 baptisms, 8 restored. Total: 66 baptisms, 20 restored. In addition to the evangelistic work, a group of students are building a house for members in Granada who suffered loss. BICA is also distributing food to help 140 families. A quick November update: A new congregation was established in La Paz. In the 9 counties of Carazo, there are now 7 congregations, resulting in 9 baptisms with more pending. This was not a campaign, just a small group of students working in the afternoon after classes for three days.

Our students work so hard day and night because they have vision and passion. This cannot be bought, but taught. They suffer hardship because of compassion for the lost.

An updated BICA Fact Sheet is included with this newsletter.

In Christ,

*George W. Hall*

**From the Caribbean . .**

**... to the Pacific shores of Central America**



# BIBLICAL INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL AMERICA

## FACT SHEET

*From the Caribbean . .*

**Two year Bible school to train preachers/leaders - Additional vocational training when needed.**

**Low Cost** - Food, housing, clothing, etc. according to local standards. Approximately \$285/month for single students and \$395/month for married students.

**History** - The first class started in February 1998 and graduated in December 1999 in El Progreso, Yoro, Honduras, C.A. A sister school in Guatemala City, Guatemala, opened in January 2004. A second sister school was added in Jinotepe, Nicaragua, in January 2008.

**Activities** - Students attend class 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday - Friday. On the weekends they do practical work. Saturdays are filled with door-knocking and training others to do Bible studies in area churches (II Tim. 2:2). Sundays provide opportunity for preaching and song leading. Every year each school conducts ten one-week campaigns. Every student also participates in starting house churches. Upon graduation, each student will have had 600-700 home Bible studies. Yearly, the campaigns, along with the weekend work, produce 1700-2500 baptisms. Each student is recommended by his home congregation.

### **Staff -**

- George W. Hall - Executive Director, limited teaching, fund raiser, coordinator of special group missions (i.e, teen service groups, medical missions, campaign workers, etc.)
- William Racancoj - Director, Honduras, day-by-day operations, teaching. He has an assistant.
- Roberto Alvarez - Director, Guatemala, day-by-day operations, teaching. He has an assistant.
- Dr. Erick Garcia – Director, Nicaragua, day-by-day operations, teaching. He has an assistant.
- Classroom teachers - A unique approach has been taken in this area. The schools have no resident full-time teachers. Approximately 80 different teachers teach in the three schools. They eat/sleep at the school facilities. One subject is taught weekly; therefore, only one teacher is needed at a time. For example, a preacher will teach Mark for one week; then he returns home and another teacher will come to teach another class. Only their expenses are paid.

**Facilities** - The Institutes are housed in modest homes. There is one classroom, bedrooms (one for guest instructors and others for single students), and a kitchen/dining room. Married students live in rented homes.

**Vocational Training after Graduation** - Dependency upon the U.S. dollar has caused multiple problems. Dependency kills dignity, faith, vision, sacrifice, etc. When preacher support and buildings are funded from the U.S.A., a “welfare state” is produced. Typically, the preacher is paid three times the average salary. He becomes the “pastor” who is not accountable to the local church. The church is weak - never mature. Our concept is to “teach them to fish, not to provide fish”. Upon graduation, vocational training is provided to those who need a trade. Graduates are not placed on U.S. support.

### **Contact Information:**

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### **BICA:**

**Honduras:** APDO 14; El Progreso, Yoro; Honduras; C.A. (Overseen by Belton Church of Christ)

**Guatemala:** APDO 73; Correo Central, Guatemala City, Guatemala; C.A. (Overseen by Fairmont Park C/C)

**Nicaragua:** PO Box 0155, Jinotepe, Carazo, Nicaragua, C.A. (Overseen by Northside C/C; McDermott Rd. C/C)

**(Guatemala)**

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George Hall, Director

*...to the Pacific shores of Central America ...*