



# Biblical Institute of Central America

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

March 2014

... to the Pacific shores of Central America

www.bica.info

From the Caribbean . .



Dear Friends of BICA,

Greetings in the name of our Savior. Jesus is not just our Savior, but He is the Savior of the whole world—thus our task. Remember when you have love for the lost, you are like Jesus. Jesus commanded to take the Gospel to all the world. He said if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. Thanks for loving Jesus. Your reward is now and in the future. We beg for your faithful prayers.

JIM CANFIELD, an elder and a friend, has spent decades working with missions among Latinos. He has been a great supporter of BICA, and he has been a solid friend of mine since 1997. Please read his letter, which is a part of this report.

SUMMER TRIP TO NICARAGUA— Act as swiftly as possible to notify me of your intentions concerning the evangelistic campaign in Jinotepe, Nicaragua. The campaign is June 22-29 (22nd and 29th are travel days). We need to reserve hotel rooms close to the campaign. They go quickly, because many groups go to Nicaragua in the summer. You will fall in love with our students, and you can see first-hand what we do. You can understand what is happening even if you do not speak Spanish.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL — If it is possible, please change the way you get this letter from hard copy (US postal service) to your email address. Send your present home/business name and address to [ted.bica@gmail.com](mailto:ted.bica@gmail.com) and indicate that you want to change to your email address. This will save a lot of money and endless hours of stuffing envelopes. I know you understand. Thanks for your help. When you send your email address, send email addresses of others you think would be interested in receiving the monthly newsletters.

God is still blessing our students, teachers, and directors. Praise His Name! Glory to Him! Remember to pray for us.

To make donations for Honduras and Guatemala, mail to P.O. Box 788, Belton, TX 76513. For donations for Nicaragua, send to Northside Church of Christ, 3401 North 3rd Street, Temple, TX 76501.

Keep us in your prayers.

In Christ,  
George Hall

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Next Month—Where Are They Now? - An update on past BICA graduates and the work they continue to do for the Lord

February 16, 2014

To those who desire to be supporters of Biblical Institute of Central America

My name is Jim Canfield; I live in Rogers, Arkansas, and have served the Lord's Church as an Elder since 1977. Southside Church of Christ has been supporting Spanish language missions for 35 years. We have supported outreach works in Honduras, Mexico, and Ecuador.

My first trip to Honduras was in February 1978, and I have been in that country about 70 times. Most of my travels have been in the States of Cortes, Yoro, Atlantida, and Colon, all on the northern coast a distance of about 280 miles from San Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortes to Trujillo and Puerto Castilla. There were 3 congregations of the Church in this area during 1978, and there were 3 or 4 other locations where families were meeting in their homes. There were two conclusions I reached during this first trip to Honduras. I met several people who showed a desire to learn more about the Gospel message, and I met Harris Goodwin, then Director of Baxter Institute. Harris told me that the American Church needed to prepare to teach the Gospel to Spanish-speaking people in the US. I was 43 years of age, living in Rogers, AR; there might have been 50 Spanish-speaking people in the county. After 10 years, I finally understood what Harris was talking about.

During 1978, the Baxter Institute of Biblical Studies moved from Mexico City to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Baxter provides a four-year Bible degree that compares to our US universities. During the last 35 years, Southside has provided support at times for 14 or 15 different Baxter graduates; some of them finished school in Mexico and some in Honduras. These men were all well-taught. All of them have served the Lord's Church well, Some of those men now live in the US and still serve the Lord's Church, "BUT NOT ALL OF THEM STILL SERVE."

The real purpose of my writing is to talk about the Church in Northern Honduras. I need to get on with the task at hand. The congregations located in Trujillo, LaCeiba, and San Pedro Sula have been the source of physical and spiritual growth in this part of the country. The first preachers that I had contact with were from Mexico; they were teaching the gospel and teaching local native Hondurans to teach the gospel so they could return to their own country. Finally, those Mexican preachers we had supported all left Honduras; the next step - those Honduras preachers that remained took over teaching the gospel and training others to preach. A lot of congregations were planted; several preachers were trained, and much good work was accomplished. I cannot remember the names of each man. "Some of the churches fell by the wayside and SOME OF THOSE MEN FELL AWAY". Those failures did not make me want to stop teaching the gospel.

About 1988, we decided to get more formal with our training. A preacher working in Olanchito, hand-wrote a curriculum I still have in my desk. The first two years this was held at the church in LaCeiba, We invited 12 or 15 people, some just men but a few couples also, to travel to LaCeiba on Friday afternoon each week, study Friday night and all day Saturday, then return to their home church Saturday evening to work there on Sunday. This format was used for 13 weeks; then the next 13 weeks the men from LaCeiba that were teaching went to those churches on weekends to work with the students. After 2 years, this concept was moved to Progreso and repeated. I think we graduated a total of 19 or 20 men and women. Most of them are teachers or leaders in their home congregations today; 3 of them have died, 1 has been killed, and "SOME OF THEM HAVE FALLEN AWAY".

The Southside Church was talking about expanding this concept when in the early 1990's George Hall approached us with his idea for starting BICA. We decided to provide some financial support for this idea. The first campus was located in Progreso, Honduras, and now in Guatemala and Nicaragua. These three schools have taught and sent approximately 364 teachers and church leaders back to local churches in various countries in Central America. I know of one couple taught in Guatemala that is doing a great job leading a congregation of 175 people in Mexico City. I do not know the name of very many of those men and women. I doubt that George Hall knows the names and faces of all of them. We do not provide the schools with funds that would pay for a tracking system to keep tabs on these people. I would not want my support money used for that purpose.

I stated earlier that my experience was mostly in Northern Honduras. In 1978, three congregations, today probably 65-70 congregations, some with Elders, most with some kind of official leadership. A lot of them meet on Sunday with over 100 people. I understand that stats tell us the average size of an American Church of Christ is about 100. During the last 10 years, I have seen great growth in the maturity of the Northern Honduras churches. I remember a lot of weekend campaigns when we thought 8 or 10 responses was great. Now it is not unusual for one of BICA's campaigns to produce 40 to 50 baptisms. If we could look into the future 5 years from now, I'm sure some will be lost again, but it is great that some will be walking with Jesus in Eternity. To date, 364 or more workers have been added to the field. I know of the work some of them do; my knowledge of people tells me that many others do good work as well. I would be amiss if I did not think "SOME OF THEM HAVE FALLEN AWAY". You know Jesus lost 8% of his first twelve. The methods used going back to 1978 have not changed a lot, but experience adds maturity to methods. George always promotes II Timothy 2:2 as our guide. That method worked when Paul wrote it, and it works now. As long as we use that scripture, growth will abound. Often our experience at home clouds our vision when the numbers seem too good to be true. God forgive us when our action gets in the way of God's Spirit.

## INSPIRATIONAL STORY ABOUT A STUDENT OF BICA AND A THIEF



Luis Carrillo, the student presenting the Good News to the

During the last evangelistic campaign in the Downtown COC, our students were knocking doors in very dangerous neighborhoods. It was the case of LUIS CARRILLO; he is a student of second year. He was going to present a Bible study in a house of the zone 3 (this zone is known because there is a place of selling of drugs). Carrillo was walking with a classmate of first year. A guy –member of a gang- with several tattoos was stopping them and with a bad voice he said: STOP AND GIVE ME YOUR MONEY AND CELL PHONES!!!!

Our students were giving it to him, and also started to talk with him. Carrillo was telling him, "OK HERE IS OUR STUFF." He said, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY TERRITORY?????" Carrillo said, "WE ARE EVANGELISTS AND WE ARE GOING TO PRESENT A BIBLE STUDY TO A FAMILY IN THE NEXT BLOCK." And Carrillo added, "DID YOU HEAR ABOUT JESUS???" He said, "I DON LIKE HOW PEOPLE IS COMDEMNING ME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!!!!!" Then Carrillo was starting to present him the GOOD NEWS!

The gang member was giving his attention to our student. There were minutes of terror for our students and also of compassion for this young man, destroyed by Satan. After 20 minutes approximately, the gang member said, "HERE IS YOUR STUFF BACK. NOBODY WAS TALKING TO ME IN THAT WAY. YOU ARE GOOD GUYS. CONTINUE LIKE THAT. PRAY FOR ME." And he went away ....

Sad and nice story because the gang member was close but lost.... Our students were happy, because they were presenting the Gospel maybe to the most needed person that day, and also because they recovered their money and phones!

### **GUATEMALA CITY - REPORT OF RESULTS OF FEBRUARY 2014:**

From ROBERTO ALVAREZ, Director

**Monthly Evangelistic Campaign in Downtown COC, Guatemala City:** The church in the Downtown of Guatemala City has two years of being established. BICA Guatemala has a big part in this congregation through the evangelistic weekend work and campaigns. On these 24 months the church has 140 members and is a solid new church. The results of the campaign are marvelous for us, considering that the area is 100% catholic (we have 48 catholic churches in the downtown!)

#### **TOTAL RESULTS IN DOWNTOWN COC, GUATEMALA CITY:**

**11 BAPTISMS  
2 RESTORATIONS  
554 CONTACTS**

**WEEKEND EVANGELISTIC WORK:** The students and the small churches are so glad about their work every weekend. Thanks to God every year we have more and more requesting for students, but we have not enough students to help each congregation! Is a good problem! Some students are traveling 6 hours to arrive to the place where they have their responsibility of weekend. All the efforts are for the glory of God!

#### **RESULTS OF THE MONTH:**

**14 Baptisms  
996 Contacts  
35 Restorations  
19 disciples for teach others**

**Total of Baptisms of FEBRUARY----- 25**

**Restorations of FEBRUARY----- 37**

**Contacts----- 1,550**