

PARAGUAY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

“And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing.” Luke 9:2

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PARAGUAY

Paraguay is located in the heart of South America. It shares its borders with Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. When the Spanish conquerors arrived in 1554 they found it to be inhabited by the Guarani Indians. The population is mainly a crossbreed between Spanish and Guarani. The capital city, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (Our Lady of the Ascension) was founded in 1537.

Most of the population is bilingual, speaking Spanish and Guarani. Spanish is the official language of the country, but Guarani is the heart language. It is said that Paraguayans speak in Spanish but think in Guarani.

The Paraguay River divides the country. The majority of the population lives east of the river that is fertile and inviting. The territory west of the river known as the Chaco, is mostly flat and arid and has many cattle ranches. The Chaco covers 61% of the country but is sparsely populated.

Paraguay is known as the land of lace and legend, land of the harp and guitar, land of peace and sunshine, “A romantic land, with a past full of heroism which has taught it not to complain, to work in the present and smile on the future.”

*From “Adventures in Paraguay – Our Story”
By Frances Skinner*

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CENTRO MÉDICO BAUTISTA LEADING UP TO 65 YEARS OF SERVICE

In 1944, leaders from the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention met in the city of Buenos Aires, and decided to open the work in Paraguay.

In 1948 the Foreign Mission Board acquired land, at that time, in an open area of fields, very sparsely populated in the periphery of Asunción. The construction began immediately and after 5 years, on December 9, 1952, the “Baptist Hospital” was inaugurated in Villa Morra.

It started as a maternity hospital to provide medical services to the public and at the same time teaching women in the area of health sciences in their small School of Nursing.

In 1994, the Baptist Hospital legally changed its name to “Baptist Medical Center of Paraguay” and established itself as a non-profit civil association and also obtained financial and administrative autonomy.

TODAY:

The Baptist Medical Center of Paraguay has a history of more than 6 decades of uninterrupted service to the Paraguayan community. More than 600,000 patients have received attention without regard to nationality, creed or race.

In 2009 the University of Paraguay Baptist Medical Center received its accreditation and has established itself as an important center for the ongoing formation of health care professionals for the Medical Center and the community of Paraguay.

In 2016 a collaborative partnership was established with Samford University School of Health Sciences. This partnership will support mutual learning and teaching opportunities.

In 2017 more than 500 students will graduate from the UCMB joining thousands of alumni who are serving Paraguay through their healing skills.



TO CELEBRATE 65 YEARS OF SERVICE, CMB HAS SCHEDULED THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- Form a choir of 65 voices from hospital staff to perform at various events and to lead the anniversary ceremony in September **March-September**
- Monthly health promotional shows on local TV Red Guarani **March through August**
- Launching of new equipment **(March - September)**
 - Ecography Machine (Sonogram)*
 - Digital Angiogram*
 - Dermatoscope*
- Graduation UCMB (Universidad Centro Médico Bautista) **June 8**
 - There are a total of 544 students graduating -- 79 are nursing. The rest are distributed among fourteen other post-graduate programs*
- Thanksgiving service for lives of transplant patients **July 7**
- 65th Anniversary Thanksgiving Worship Service **Sept 14**
- Reunion of Ex-Medical Residents and Medical Staff **October 6**
- Pink October Breast Cancer Awareness **October (month)**
- International Day of Premature Infants **November**
- Community Clinics serving the poor in 2017

Date	Location	Distance
April 21	Mbuyapey	170km
May 19	Augusto Saldivar	30km
July 7	Simbron	105km
Sept 8	Limpio	25km



WHAT WILL 65 DO FOR THE KINGDOM'S WORK THROUGH THE MEDICAL CENTER IN PARAGUAY?

- \$65** Cover twelve (12) prescriptions through the Community Clinic Service
- \$65** Cover the enrollment fee for one year of Nursing School, Occupational Therapy, or Psychology
- \$65** Cover book expense for one student in Nursing or Occupational Therapy per year
- \$650** Cover one hundred forty-four (144) prescriptions for the poor
- \$6,500** Cover the expense of four Oncology Residents for one year
- \$65,000** Cover the cost of Emergency Room Expansion and equipment
- \$65/month** Cover one year of tuition for Nursing School, Occupational Therapy, or Psychology

65

Join us in celebrating the Centro Médico Bautista 65 Anniversary by supporting this work in one of these ways:

- \$65** per month would be **\$780** per year
- \$65** per quarter -- **\$260** per year
- \$65** per week -- **\$3,510** per year
- \$65** per month (couple) -- **\$1,560** per year`

65

Unlike hospitals here in the States -- in Paraguay, each patient is witnessed to. It's a mission field getting results. Won't you please prayerfully consider what you can do beginning in this celebration year. Collectively we can make a difference in the lives of hundreds of patients daily.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your convenience.

MISSION TRIP 2018



Centro Médico Bautista has invited PBMCF to organize and sponsor another medical mission trip to Paraguay in June of 2018. PBMCF has accepted the invitation and will make plans for the 10th medical mission group to go the third week of June.

An anticipated departure would be June 15 and an arrival back in the U.S., June 25. The exact date may vary a day or two either way depending upon flight schedules and available airline seating, etc.

Once a contract is completed with a selected airline, a fee will be established and sent out through our newsletter, web site, and social media. The fee includes airfare, taxes, visas, local transportation in Paraguay, all meals, hotel, gratuities, etc.

An application will be available in our next newsletter. If you are not able to make such a trip, you can help by offering a scholarship to a volunteer – we have many who are willing to go but just do not have the money to do so. Any donation would be appreciated.

For more information contact Al Hethcock, frausa@sbcglobal.net



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