

# PARAGUAY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION

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

## News From Paraguay



The Paraguay Baptist Medical Center has long been committed to forming health care professionals to serve throughout the country of Paraguay. Beginning with the nursing school, family medicine residency program, the formation of the university, the oncology residency program the goal has been to prepare professionals who can serve throughout the country, especially in areas with limited health care available.

The most recent dream of the University has been to add a medical school to the University. This huge undertaking been planned diligently, funds saved, and construction launched. Because of requirements of the local government the plans had to include an underground parking structure in addition to the needed for classrooms, labs, and audiovisual space.

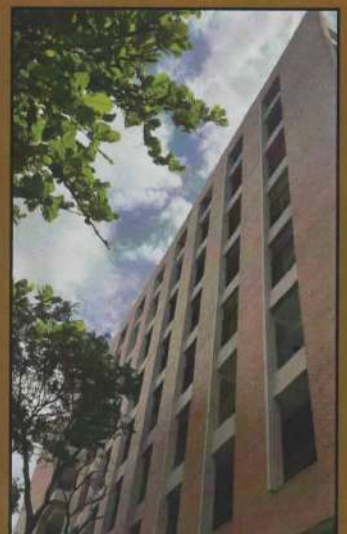
With 2020 bringing a world stopping pandemic, the impact of slowing construction and economic resources was profound. Classes were slated to begin in mid-2021 and with close to 200 applicants the University remained hopeful that the program would be successfully launched. Due to the ongoing economic crises the actual number of students who began classes this July was twenty-two. Whether 22 or 200 the medical school construction must be completed to a degree to allow for adequate learning.

They are in need for additional funds to complete the laboratories, the morgue, and the audiovisual studio (necessary for the ongoing requirement of virtual classes). The university has a proven track record of preparing health care professionals who make an impact on the entire country of Paraguay, who provide health care in areas of greatest need in rural Paraguay, who provide quality and advanced levels of care in urban settings and who impact the lives of families with a holistic approach especially attuned to the spiritual needs of patients.

*Janes Jones*

If you are interested in joining in this special project, please feel free to contact the foundation for more information or to send your gift. Donations may be made via check to Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation - 4101 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Suite 305 #175 - Arlington, TX 76016 or via Paypal Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation.

### Medical School Under Construction





# I support Paraguay Baptist



In June 2002, I had the privilege of going on a mission trip to Asuncion, Paraguay as a part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Centro Medico Bautista (CMB) by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in 1952. I had already been a part of the newly formed Foundation and had heard a lot about the medical center in Paraguay, but it was not until I was able to be in Paraguay as a part of a mission trip and see the wonderful work of the hospital firsthand, that I began to be passionate about the mission of the Foundation. While there I helped with the dental and eye clinics, and I saw the desperate need of the people for the most basic medical care. The hospital staff accompanied us each day as we conducted community clinics and were always caring and compassionate. They often referred patients to the hospital (CMB) for further care knowing that there was no ability to pay for the help they would receive. God's word was shared both verbally and through actions at each clinic.

The Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation (PBMCF) was formed to be a fundraising tool to aid the hospital after the support from the SBC was turned over to the local churches. Many Baptist hospitals throughout the world were not able to sustain their ministry after SBC support was discontinued. But thanks to the generosity of many I have watched as the hospital continues to thrive and become a beacon of quality medicine in a country where that is scarce. Although times have been tough throughout the world, CMB continues to serve anyone who comes through their door with the healing power of the love of Christ. It is CMB's strong commitment to its mission, that spurs my ongoing support through giving of my time and financial support to it through Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation.

*Shirley Cravens*

## COMMUNITY CLINICS SERVING THOSE IN NEED!





# Medical Center Foundation.



Debbie and I began serving on the board of The Paraguay Baptist Medical Center and University in January, 2020. We consider it a privilege to support the work of the Medical Center and University with monthly donations and, through our work with the Foundation, we encourage others to donate to this life giving ministry.

My parents, Leland and Betty Harper, arrived in Asuncion, Paraguay in 1952. The Baptist Hospital was nearing completion. It would soon provide one of a kind care in a country without adequate medical facilities. The hospital opened Dec. 8 of that year and Dad served as its first administrator. Mom (an RN) began working in the hospital as well as the nursing school that was soon established.

They would spend the next 30 years in this rewarding ministry as the hospital and nursing school slowly grew to the state of the art Baptist Medical Center and University that we know today. During that time they also helped plant several churches and raised 3 boys.

I loved growing up in Paraguay, and most of my memories center around the hospital. I remember walks to the hospital office with Dad at the end of a day to help count the day's receipts and close the books. I doubt I was really that much help, but I will never forget those walks. On the way down I usually got to flip the switch for the lighted outdoor sign. One summer Dad suffered a heat stroke as a result of an all day church picnic. This necessitated a lengthy hospital confinement. I remember visiting him daily from outside his window because hospital regulations required visitors to be at least 12 years old. During my teenage years Mom initiated a version of the old "Candy Striper" program. I still remember the pink and white pin striped shirts we wore as "Voluntarios" while working in the various departments of the hospital. Both houses I lived in growing up were within sight of the hospital. The "Hospital Bautista" was front and center all my life, literally and spiritually. The ministry of the Hospital and the wonderful people that worked there shaped my life in more ways than I can describe. Serving with the Foundation has refreshed many of these memories, and allows me to give back to this ministry that has always meant so much to me.

*Charles Harper*

**YOUR SUPPORT IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE VERY LITTLE HEALTH RESOURCES**







The students Thank You for your  
prayers and financial support

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