

Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation *Newsletter*

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

A Note from the President – Jane Jones

This newsletter marks an important transition for Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation. In April, after more than 25 years of service to the foundation, Al Hethcock will retire from his position, and we will welcome Gabriela Colmán as our new executive director. In these pages we want to let you hear from scholarship recipients, update you on our mission trip plans, inform you of our new address and phone number, honor Al's exemplary service, and introduce you to Gabriela.

UCMB Students Say Thank You!

Thank you, friends and donors, for investing in the formation of future health care workers in Paraguay. Please consider contributing to the annual tuition cost of a UCMB student this year: \$3,500 for medicine and \$2,500 for nursing.

At our annual meeting, Professor Leonardo Alvarez, rector of UCMB, shared more than twenty letters of appreciation from students who have received scholarships from PBMCF:

"I decided to study nursing in response to the calling that God put in my heart. The scholarship has been a great support throughout these years. My parents have been missionaries [from Brazil] for more than 30 years in Paraguay, and I know that it wouldn't have been easy for them to make all the tuition payments for several years. But, when God calls us to a mission, He also prepares the way." – Julie Aguero da Fraga

Julie Aguero da Fraga, a graduating nursing student at Universidad Centro Médico Bautista, explains that the scholarship she received through funding from the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation was the answer to her prayers for a way to complete her studies.



Scholarship recipients with Leonardo Alvarez & board member Charley Harper

"None of this would have been possible without the opportunity that you offered me to continue developing myself as a professional,"
–Sofía Belén Sánchez Dutra

Sofía Belén Sánchez Dutra, an occupational therapy student, applied for a PBMCF scholarship when her father lost his job during the pandemic and her ability to continue studying suddenly became uncertain. Sofía thanks PBMCF for the scholarship that allowed her to continue studying. She now serves as the secretary for an occupational therapy student association throughout Latin America.

Our Address Change

With the transition of executive directors, our office is also changing. Beginning in April, please communicate with PBMCF through these channels:



Mail:

Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation
1205 S. 8th St., Box 288
Waco, TX 76706



Phone:

(254) 214-7690



Email:

gabriela@pbmcfoundation.org



Website:

pbmcfoundation.org

Mission Trip 2023 | July 15 - July 23, 2023



Mission Trip 2019

We are thankful for the opportunity to once again visit our friends and partners at CMB and UCMB. We invite you to support the mission trip in these ways:

- **Pray** for our team of health care providers and translators as they prepare for the trip.
- **Pray** for our colleagues from CMB who will partner with us in the clinics.
- **Pray** for the four churches in Loma Pyta, Caaguazú, Limpio, and Mbuyapey that will host the clinics.
- **Donate** to support a team member for the \$2500 cost of the trip.
- **Donate** towards the cost of medications prescribed in the clinics and towards the multivitamins, toothbrushes / toothpaste distributed to patients.

GIVE TO PBMCF

PayPal: pbmcfoundation@gmail.com or pbmcfoundation.org

Check: Payable to Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation and mail to:

1205 South 8th Street, Box 288, Waco, TX 76706

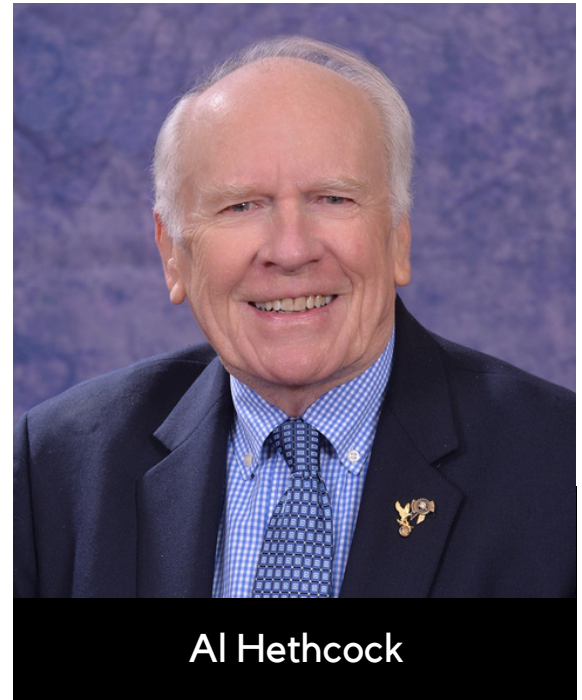
EFT: Contact Gabriela Colmán at gabriela@pbmcfoundation.org

PBMCF is a registered 501(c)(3) and all gifts are tax deductible. PBMCF does not share your information with third parties.



PBMCF Appreciation for Al Hethcock – Jane Jones, President

Al Hethcock has served as the executive director of the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation since its inception. Al partnered with Marlin Harris to establish the foundation as a resource that would support the Centro Médico Bautista in Asunción, Paraguay. Al has poured so much of his life into all the stages of foundation development to bring us to this day. Although Al will be leaving his role as executive director, we are confident that he will continue to support the work in Paraguay for the simple reason that Al and his beloved wife Peggy fell in love with Paraguay and the work of the medical center so many years ago. They traveled multiple times to Paraguay to provide training and to support the hospital board, to assist the hospital in forming its own foundation, to provide marriage enrichment training to numerous families, and to travel with the foundation on medical mission trips. On these Al was always there in the middle laughing, giving directions, and building relationships. Each time Al and I go anywhere together in Paraguay he knows someone and he greets him or her with a hug and a big smile.



PBMCF board members share these words of tribute for Al:

Neal and Gail Buchanan (Tennessee): Al Hethcock is a caring, competent, compassionate and Christ-like man. I cannot think of a better tribute to a man than that given by William Shakespeare in Julius Caesar, Act V, Scene 5. To make this apply to Al, I have taken the liberty of paraphrasing this tribute, making it read present tense instead of past tense. “His life was (is) gentle; and the elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up, and say to all the world, “This was(is) a man!”

Dr. John Chapman (Tennessee): Al was always very dedicated to the work of the Foundation and to the annual board meeting in Dallas. He and Marlin Harris for many years made a good team in helping the success and growth of CMB.

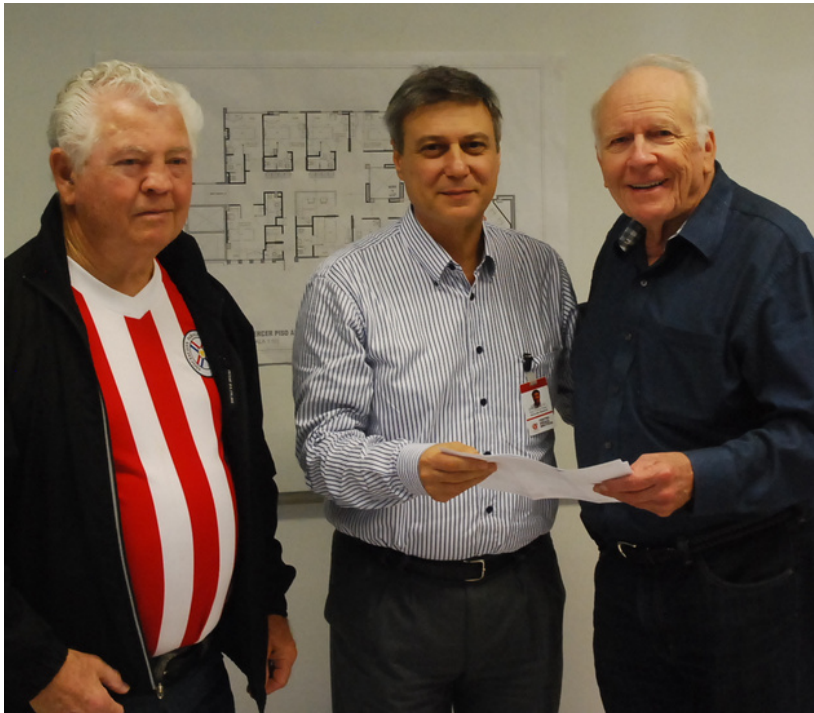
Shirley Cravens (Oklahoma): I remember that when the foundation first started Al asked me to come on the board. He believed that to reach a broad audience with the message of the foundation we needed to have board members all over the country and I was from Arizona. I especially appreciate how Al took Marlin Harris’ vision and made it what it is today. I am thankful for Al’s passion for the ministry and how he’s been faithful to the ministry for so many years even during discouraging times.

Charley and Debbie Harper (Missouri): Debbie and I began serving the board of the PBMCF January 2020. At that first annual meeting we didn’t know for sure how effective our service would be and felt we had so much to learn. From the very start Al welcomed us and made sure we knew we were part of a great team. He answered many questions and made us feel we brought something to the table. The comfort level with which we have served is due in large part to his leadership and we will both miss him a great deal.

Gail and Jerry Joule (Texas): Under Al's tenure as Executive Director, the foundation has grown significantly and touched the lives of countless people in Paraguay. Through his connections with hospitals in the U.S.A., Al was able to secure donations of essential medical equipment, such as pediatric ventilators and hospital beds. The foundation contributed to the development of a top-of-the-line oncology department and helped refurbish the CMB Community Clinic. Al also helped organize multiple mission trips, which gave medical care to thousands of people in underserved areas.

Several words stand out in these testimonies: faithful, caring, dedicated, vision, welcoming, inspiring, team. Al is all these things. He has led us well on this first part of the journey and PBMCF will continue to feel his influence for the years to come. Well done faithful servant, well done.

Note from the Emeritus Executive Director – Al Hethcock



Gail Joule (L), Ernesto Simari (C), Al Hethcock (R)

It has been my honor and privilege to serve our Lord as the Executive Director of the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation. My journey began in 1996 after meeting Marlin Harris, Centro Médico Bautista hospital administrator. As a former hospital administrator and then a fund development consultant, I worked with Marlin Harris and the CMB staff to get the medical center recognized as a charitable institution by the Paraguayan government and to create a non-profit foundation in the United States with the sole purpose of supporting the ministry of CMB. For that, I am so thankful.

I will continue to support PBMCF as long as the Lord will allow me to. However, change can be good for an institution – and in this case, it will be.



Gabriela Colmán (L) & Al Hethcock (R)

"Twice, Al has visited my home, carrying with him heavy boxes of files from the last twenty-four years of the foundation's history. As we have sat on the floor together organizing these records, I have marveled at Al's dedication to the ministry of PBMCF for over more than two decades and his strong ethic of service."
– Incoming Executive Director, Gabriela Colmán

Meet Incoming Executive Director – Gabriela Colmán

At the annual board meeting in January, it was a privilege for me to accept the invitation to serve as the next executive director of the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation. For a few months this spring, Al Hethcock and I are sharing a transition period in leadership of the foundation.

Centro Médico Bautista and Universidad Centro Médico Bautista are two ministries that have been significant in my family. My husband, Alfredo Colmán, was born at CMB. His father, Salomón Colmán, was the first accountant of El Buen Samaritano, the private insurance company established by the CMB, and his mother, Elda de Colmán, was the first female chaplain at CMB. My grandparents, James and Peggy Bartley, served as IMB missionaries in Uruguay for close to 40 years. They cared greatly for the work of medical missions in neighboring Paraguay.



I grew up in Waco, Texas and completed my undergraduate education at Baylor University. After studying in the CASAS program of Semilla Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala, serving as a short-term volunteer with the Mennonite Central Committee in Honduras, and living at Jubilee Partners, an intentional Christian community with a ministry of hospitality to refugees, I felt called to the work of adult education. I returned to Baylor University to complete an M.S.Ed. I then worked as a housing and credit counselor at a neighborhood nonprofit, a community college instructor, and finally as director of Continuing Education at Baylor University.

Alfredo Colmán and I have two delightful and spirited sons, and we are members at First Baptist Waco where we worship with a small Spanish-language congregation within the larger church.

I am now pleased with this opportunity to support the work of CMB and UCMB. It is my desire to seek with you God's will for our spiritual kinship with our brothers and sisters at CMB and UCMB and to discover how our partnerships can continue to further God's work of healing and transformation in Paraguay and in each one of our hearts.

Board Members:

Jane Jones, Foundation President (Oklahoma City, OK) | Dr. David Algea (Millington, TN) | Joe Ball & Vicki Ball (Shepherdsville, KY) | Dr. Ben Bedford (Evanston, IL) | Neal Buchanan & Gail Buchanan (Nashville, TN) | Dr. John Chapman (Kingsport, TN) | Shirley Cravens (Eufaula, OK) | Michael Crouch, DPh (Birmingham, AL) | Dr. Gary Draper & Mary Draper (Springfield, IL) | Charles Harper & Deborah Harper, Secretary (Poplar Bluff, MO) | Rev. Gail Joule & Jerry Joule (McAllen, TX) | Jerry P Joule, Vice President & Cassidy Joule, Treasurer (McAllen, TX) | Robert McGough, DPh (Poteau, OK) | Dr. Alfredo Colmán (Waco, TX)