Baxter Missions House

A very special lady, Opal Baxter, died on April 23, 2011 at the age of 103. Born in Kirbyville, Texas, in 1907, Mrs. Baxter graduated with a B.A. from Harding College in 1932 while the School was still in Morrilton, Arkansas. She went on to earn a B.S. from the University of North Texas, and the M.Ed. from the University of Houston. She served as a teacher and a librarian in five different Texas schools during her thirty-seven-year career in education. In 1995 she moved to Searcy, Arkansas, where she became a member of the College Church and built a new home on Market Street, across the street from Harding University.

Mrs. Baxter was a world traveler and an avid supporter of missions. This is why she left her house and estate to the Harding University Center for World Missions. Her expressed desire was to honor her husband, the late Paul Madison Baxter, by providing her house to be used for visiting missionaries. The current plans of the Center for World Missions are to upgrade our Visiting Professor of Missions position by moving our visiting missionaries into the Baxter House and starting to offer them a monthly stipend during their time at Harding. Interest from the $390,000 Baxter Estate endowment will provide the funds for both the stipend and the future maintenance of the house. In the years to come, we hope to tell all of those who live in the Baxter House the story of the remarkable Christian woman whose vision and generosity have made all of this possible.
On the third floor of the McInteer Bible Building, you will find the Harding University Counseling Center. There, each day, our staff of six professional counselors provide a wide range of free services to the students, faculty, and staff of the University. Because of the private nature of counseling, this important work goes on year after year without much fanfare or recognition. However, the Counseling Center has a tremendously important role in carrying out Harding’s spiritual mission.

We want to let the larger Harding family know about a new resource that has recently been developed by the University Counseling Center. To augment their on-site services, they have expanded and enhanced their online presence. In addition to serving the local Harding community, they are offering this information-rich resource to alumni and churches around the world. Information on professional counseling and nine specific areas are presented for ease of access and availability of resources: Anxiety/Panic, Depression, Eating Disorders, Family Problems, Grief/Loss, Homesickness, Stress, Test Anxiety, and Time Management.

Individuals who access this website will find practical descriptions of concern areas, suggestions, and additional resource links for further study. Four areas of need receive specific focus and have detailed resources outlined: Depression, Anxiety/Panic, Eating Disorders, and Grief/Loss. The self-help menu is not limited to these areas, and persons needing information and/or services on other concern areas can email (counseling@harding.edu) or call for additional assistance. All requests for information, assistance and scheduling concerns are addressed promptly by the counseling staff and are handled with strict confidentiality.