



Phillips' Forum



Chip, Laurie, Reed/Joy, Caleb/Emily, Alison, Susanna, Julie Anne

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“Empty Nest” Gives New Options

It was initially a sad day when we looked at our new prayer card – only the two of us will be returning to Brazil. But as we considered our situation, we soon realized how blessed we really are. Reed and Caleb are happily married and Lord willing, Alison will be married in May. Susanna has done well academically and plans to enter college in the fall. Julie Anne has requested to remain with her grandparents in the US to complete her senior year of high school. Although we will miss seeing our children on a daily basis, this new stage of life opens a number of doors for ministry.

First, Laurie will have a freer schedule without home schooling responsibilities. Second, travel will be much simpler and less expensive with only two people. This will give us more freedom to visit communities along the Içá River, teach in national counseling conferences and even travel to give assistance in other ABWE hospitals.

We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we seek the Lord’s leading regarding how to structure our ministry next term. The options are many, and exciting.

Visiting Togo and Bangladesh

A month was barely enough time. We took a month in the fall to visit ABWE’s two hospitals in Togo and then another month after the new year to visit the hospital in Bangladesh. The challenges and opportunities at each hospital are unique, and we found our missionary colleagues working hard to care for patients

Chip spent time working with each surgeon as well as observing hospital operations and team dynamics. Laurie did inventory for the pharmacy, worked with young children (teaching how to make pretzels, playing games and reading books), or encouraging lady missionaries.

The amount of human suffering is staggering, yet it is impossible to meet every need. Each missionary team is emotionally taxed as it struggles with how to meet these needs with minimal physical and human resources.

We are considering making 2 trips a year from Brazil to encourage individual missionaries, help teams work through emotionally difficult issues, and provide relief to the doctors by taking call for them. There is a great need to be a support and encouragement to medical missionaries, especially in their initial years of service.

Praise

- Caleb and Emily are doing well as newlyweds.
- Walls are going up at Faith Baptist Church’s construction project in Santo Antônio
- Alison became engaged to Alan Lang on Christmas Day.

Prayer

- Wisdom as we seek the Lord’s guidance for future ministry options.
- Susanna as she decides on which college to attend.
- Spiritual health for ourselves and our children.
- All to go well with plans for Alison and Alan’s wedding in May.
- For Caleb to find a job in programming after graduation from Liberty.

Furlough Address:

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43 Holbrook Lane
Willingboro NJ 08046
609-676-6921 (Chip-Cell)

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Sending Churches:

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216 Sunset Road
Willingboro NJ 08046

2016 ABWE Annual Report for Missionaries

A. Give a short paragraph summary of your ministry assignment.

Our ministry assignment is to assist the ABFC in developing mature believers in Christ and starting reproducing Baptist Churches. This will mostly be done in our ongoing association with the Amazon Baptist Hospital and Faith Baptist Church in Santo Antônio do Içá.

B. What special blessings and highlights did you experience in ministry during the past year?

Chip completed his Counseling certification and began to counsel and teach counseling.

C. What challenges and/or difficulties did you encounter in ministry during the past year?

We did not face any major challenges or difficulties in 2017.

D. List the 5 key ministry goals from last year's report and rate your progress for each.

(A = accomplished, S = some progress, N = no progress, D = dropped).

Comment about factors that contributed to progress for each goal, or identify reasons why no progress was made or the goal was dropped.

1. Chip to finish his Biblical Counseling Certification.

A S N D Comments: Chip finished his certification just before leaving on furlough.

2. To obtain Brazilian corporate donors for support of the Amazon Baptist Hospital.

A S N D Comments: We finished the process of allowing "tax exempt" donations just before the end of 2016, but in the final analysis the process was complicated and of little financial value to donors. We will need to do more orientation for donors to take advantage of this incentive to donate.

3. Start a dental ministry outreach at the Amazon Baptist Hospital.

A S N D Comments: We have a room prepared and ready (special electric, suction, etc.), but our donated dental chair was not usable. Funds we had set aside to purchase one were needed to cover health related expenses for employees. We are setting aside funds to purchase a dental chair later in 2018.

4. Laurie to teach a cooking class with Bible study for teen girls.

A S N D Comments: Accomplished.

5. To mentor a couple to strengthen the couple's ministry at Faith Baptist.

A S N D Comments: We worked some with one couple who is currently following two other couples.

E. List 5 key ministry goals for the coming year.

1. Visit ABWE's medical works with surgeons during our furlough to explore if the Lord would have us support them in some manner.
2. Chip to renew his medical certification and skills during furlough ministry.
3. Install dental chair and start dental outreach at the Amazon Baptist Hospital.
4. Explore options for continuing community outreaches along the Içá River in conjunction with Every Home for Christ of Australia.
5. Chip to look into possibilities for an M. Div., an MBA, or further graduate studies in counseling.

F. Share a brief story about one of the relationships you began developing this year with the intention of sharing the Gospel (both husband and wife if a couple).

Chip – Oscar is a new doctor that the Mayor has brought into town. He is an atheist. I have had many conversations regarding evidences for a creator. He and his wife were having marital problems, and I used the Scriptures to show him how biblical principles and a relationship with Christ could help him.

Laurie – I met Etelvina on furlough. She is a Brazilian living near us, and we are doing The Story of Hope study together.

G. Share a brief story about a Christian you are discipling, mentoring or training (both husband and wife if a couple).

As a couple we have been working with a number of couples. Gabriel and Telma are a couple we initially met through counseling. Their relationship has stabilized and as we left on furlough we asked another couple to follow them. I have heard reports they are well and we hope to continue working with them up our return to Brazil.