



Phillips' Forum



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

Volume 27 Issue 1

February 2020

Mentoring Families Project Begins

During our last Field Team meeting we brainstormed about how to address cultural challenges we face while helping people mature in their faith. A common theme was a weakness in character qualities that should be taught at home. But in general, parents have a “hands off” perspective and give their children almost total freedom, believing that they are like trees – if left to themselves they will do well.

We talked with our team and local pastor, Jacó, about mentoring a handful of couples who are active in church and have small children. Five couples are participating. It has been a fun and eye-opening experience for all. We are focusing on two main areas. First, each person will learn to change biblically in a problem area of his or her life. Second, we will train and have open discussions on topics that are important for family health.

If parents are to help their children grow in Christlikeness, they need to be growing and have a practical understanding of how biblical change works. Similar to a self-counseling project Chip did in his MABC, each person spends two weeks probing his heart by asking questions about fears, anxieties or conflicts that occur in his everyday life. Then he develops a growth plan based on our studies.

We have been teaching about Biblical change from the perspective of worship. People generally manifest sinful actions and words when a ruling desire of their heart is thwarted. When someone worships or craves something like pleasure, relaxation, respect, appreciation, etc., more than he loves God, he often acts sinfully (cold shoulder, yell, hit, seek revenge, illicit activities, etc.) to get what he wants. Biblical change involves addressing words and actions, but only after one addresses the desires of the heart and brings the person back to worshipping God and desiring to bring Him glory.

After teaching on issues of the heart and biblical change we will now address topics such as the biblical roles of husband and wife, how to instruct proactively rather than just punish, how to use conflict to expose controlling desires of the heart, how to resolve conflicts and promote reconciliation, sex and having fun family nights. Please pray that this will have a lasting impact on these couples, both in their personal spiritual growth as well as in how they rear their children. Our desire is that these children will learn at a young age to love God and desire to please Him with what they do and say. They are the future leaders of our church.

Praise

- Jonathan and Natasha arrived safely and are getting settled into ministry in Letícia.
- Storefront construction progresses.
- Felipe and Ester, the local doctors we study with, are growing in their faith.

Prayer

- Wisdom as we counsel with a number of people.
- Pastor Jacó has started studying “How People Change” with the church leadership. Pray they gain insight into biblical change.
- Continued outreach in the prenatal program. Two ladies accepted the Lord this week.

Field Address

Dr. Gordon “Chip” & Laurie Phillips
Estrada São Salvador, 1086
Stº Antônio do Içá - AM 69680-000 Brazil
+55 (97) 99159-1674 (cell-Chip)
Email: gphillips@abwe.cc



Sending Church

First Baptist Church
216 Sunset Road
Willingboro, NJ 08046

2019 ABWE Annual Report for Missionaries

- A. Give a short paragraph summary of your ministry assignment.
Our ministry assignment is to assist the Amazonas Field Team (AFT) in developing mature believers in Christ and starting reproducing Baptist Churches. This will mostly be done in 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?
As we have begun counseling individuals and couples a number of people have made professions of faith.
- 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 2019.
- 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. Teach Growing Kids God's Way at Faith Baptist Church.
A S N D Comments:
 2. Provide weekly counseling sessions.
A S N D Comments:
 3. Finish construction of stores at Faith Baptist Church (Chip is acting as foreman).
A S N D Comments: Bulk of construction is completed, with flooring, electric, plumbing and storefront windows still in progress.
 4. Facilitate implementation of Soul Care and IHM "Life Balance" in ABWE's hospital works.
A S N D Comments: I perceived that my role in IHM and Member Care is not conducive to this implementation. However, I have encouraged another physician who joined ABWE and assumed Member Care for Western Africa where ABWE has a number of medical works.
 5. (Training Goal) Chip to complete half of his courses for the MABC. Laurie to learn to do obstetrical ultrasounds.
A S N D Comments: Laurie is performing obstetrical ultrasounds, but still feels like she has a lot to learn, especially later in pregnancy.
- E. List 5 key ministry goals for the coming year. Please make one goal related to continued training.
1. Disciple Maria Conceição and Wellington up through the Story of Hope – see "G" below.
 2. Start mentoring five key couples with small children at Faith Baptist Church with a focus of their children being raised in a home that will focus on heart dedication to the Lord.
 3. Teach ABCB modules in Fortaleza and MABC courses at the seminary in Cariri.
 4. Complete construction of stores at FBC and begin renting.
 5. (Training Goal) Chip to complete his coursework for the MABC. Laurie to complete the second module of ENTRUST facilitative Bible study training.
- 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 – I have been developing a relationship with Fabricio, the director of the Brazilian government hospital in our town. This fall he asked for help with his marriage and feeling "far from God." He has made a profession of faith and we began a series of discipleship studies.
Laurie—Cassiane is the teenage daughter of a lady I disciplined. I have been getting to know her by having her and a cousin over for games and going out for snacks - now we are going through a discipling book at her request. She has not yet made a clear decision to trust Christ, but I will continue meeting with her. She has begun attending the teen meetings at church.
- G. Share a brief story about a Christian you are discipling, mentoring or training (both husband and wife if a couple).
Maria Conceição is a young woman who needed surgery. She heard the Gospel and accepted the Lord at the hospital. Then, Laurie started a discipleship study with her. Her husband, Wellington, expressed interest in the Gospel and Chip met with him. This past week he made a profession of faith and as a couple we have begun to do a series of discipleship studies with them.
- H. Share a brief story about a person or couple for whom you are praying and encouraging towards a missionary career with ABWE.
We do not have anyone actively pursuing a missionary vocation with ABWE at this time.