



Phillips' Forum



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First Fruits

Doing Business on the Amazon, Two men accept the Lord

This month Chip spent two weeks with a construction team from the US that was building the hospital. He was their translator, logistical coordinator, and medical backup. The Lord proved his faithfulness many times.

GETTING TO THE BOAT: Chip flew to Tabatinga (border of Columbia and Brazil) and met the construction team at the Letícia, Colombia airport. Letícia and Tabatinga allow free travel between them without ID checks. We hired three Brazilian trucks to carry the 20 team members and baggage. Two of our trucks got delayed because the Colombian taxi drivers had a fit that 20 people were riding on trucks. They called over the police and said it was unsafe. Finally after about an hour of haggling we were allowed to proceed with all the people on one truck and all the baggage on the other! It seemed this compromise allowed the policeman to "save face" with the

taxi drivers. Debating in Portuguese is tough enough, but it was an experience winning an argument with someone who spoke Spanish.

FINDING A BOAT: We got to the ferry uneventfully and started the 18 hour trip down river to Santo Antônio do Içá (SAI). Normally we take the ferry down river and use speed boats from SAI to leave. I had learned that both speedboats in SAI (10-12 people each) were broken so at each stop going down-river I inquired about the availability of other boats...nothing. For the next few days we looked for other options and finally found two Peruvian boats who would make the trip for us. (Con't on the other side)

Praise

- The Lord provided all the funds needed to complete the hospital construction.
- Two men accepted the Lord during Chip's recent trip to the hospital.
- The children continue to adjust well.

Prayer

- The Koch's still await FUNAI visa clearance.
- Processing of medical paperwork for licensing.
- Children's club that meets each Saturday at our home.
- Spiritual growth of the men who accepted the Lord.
- "Public Utility" approval for our hospital.

Becoming a "Public Utility"

We are attempting to become a "public utility" within Brazil. This declares that we are an institution that serves the public and exempts our paying Brazilian Social Security tax-- 40% of our current payroll expense. This process requires the actual passage of laws at the municipal, state and federal levels. We have secured the municipal law and are beginning the process of petitioning the state of Amazonas legislature. Please pray that the Lord would expedite this process.

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Sending Churches:

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New Life Baptist Church
of Darby, PA

First Fruits

(con't)

By Wednesday (leaving on Sunday) we learned that the Brazilian police would not allow them to enter Brazilian waters and I started to try to negotiate this obstacle. The mayor and vice mayor of SAI were out of town. Thursday we went to the local police to seek their help. The officer there was the uncle of a girl I had operated on during my last visit to SAI. She had come to Manaus for a "follow-up" and I had met him in Manaus. His hammock had been next to mine on the ferry to SAI the week before. He started the ball rolling and although he was not able to get clearance, his commander tentatively secured 2 boats for us for \$2000 each (normally 1600 for two boats- the mayor lets us use his boats for the cost

of gas). We countered with \$2500 and awaited a response. We went to cash money from a local merchant, and he only had \$3000 so that was all the money we had for the boats.

SOLDIER ACCEPTS THE LORD: While waiting at the police station a new soldier came on duty and we began talking about spiritual issues. He had arrived in SAI from Manaus that day and was on his first shift. Three hours later he accepted the Lord! I have to believe the Lord had all these delays and problems so that we could meet this man and present him with the Gospel.

MORE NEGOTIATIONS: The next morning we started from scratch with a new set of police officers and by noon we reportedly had 2 boats for \$2500. However, upon further checking there was only one boat (15 people). I made contact with the driver and we settled on \$2200 for the one

boat. The Lord provided a smaller boat for us in SAI for the remaining 6 people for \$800...equalling exactly the \$3,000 we had.

WORKER ACCEPTS THE LORD: After the last workday at the hospital we had a time of sharing between the American and Brazilian workers. A couple of Americans shared their testimonies and the local pastor presented the Gospel. One worker made a decision for Christ!

TRIP UP-RIVER: On the way out of SAI, the motor of the larger boat broke and we lost several hours securing another boat. However, it got dark and the smaller boat (w/o lights) lost sight of the larger one and we ended up spending part of the night at a police station and finishing the trip in the AM. Our 6-8 hour trip became 24 hours, but I still arrived the Tabatinga airport 2 1/2 hours before my flight left.

Laurie: Laurie is starting the nursing licensing process and preparing her documents. The School of Nursing is not under the university so we are not sure what this process will entail.

Medical Licensing Update

Chip: Chip's documents are all ready to be submitted on September 14. Last week Chip went to the university and confirmed that everything was in order.

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