



Phillips' Forum



Chip, Laurie, Reed, Caleb, Alison

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Preparing to Move

Laurie Visits SAI

Laurie recently made a trip to Santo Antônio do Içá (SAI) while the fourth of six work teams was at the hospital site. She was able to explore SAI and learn about the availability of various foods and supplies. We now have a good idea of what we need to take with us when we move.

Laurie was also able to gain personal experience with the difficulty of travel in the region. As with the last trip with a construction team, there was some difficulty securing boats for the return trip. This boat arrived later than anticipated and the group got off to a late start. About 1-2 hours from their destination, night fell and they were caught in a storm. They lost all visibility and spent the night on the shore of the Amazon in the rain.

This was the third construction trip with which we have helped. On the first trip one of the boats broke down and half the construction team visited a local

Hospital Dedication

February 14th is the date set for the dedication of the hospital's new addition. There will be a number of visitors and such events are usually well attended by the community.

Please pray the Lord will use this event to further the Gospel. We will clearly present the plan of salvation as well as our plans to help the community's health.

village while the one working boat was able to complete the remaining leg of the trip twice. There was good weather and the river was at a high mark, so traveling at night was safe. On the second trip one boat broke down, but they were able to secure a second boat. However, the river was at a low point and it was overcast, making night travel precarious. Chip spent the night on the dock of the Federal Police check point. This trip Laurie spent the night literally on the sandy banks of the Amazon. Looking at this trend, I'm glad we

Praise

- The Koch's received FUNAI visa clearance. Planned arrival is December 10th.
- Chip's medical license is being processed.
- The children continue to adjust well.
- "Public Utility" has been approved on a state level.

Prayer

- Portuguese language exam for Chip-- Dec. 12th or 15th.
- Processing of medical paperwork for licensing.
- Plans for our move to the hospital site in January.
- "Public Utility" approval for the hospital on a Federal level.

will be living in SAI and not have to make the return trip when the last team comes down in February!

However, it does point out the difficulties with mixing Amazon travel and a compact American timetable. We need to really bathe this team's trip in fervent prayer.

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Sending Churches:

First Baptist Church
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of Darby, PA

Learning to Wait and Give God the glory

At times it can get frustrating with the amount of time it takes to “get something done.” To process documents you often have to make several trips to the same office and you often have to wait...for the bus, for the secretary to arrive, for the boss to arrive, for the electricity to come back on. The reasons can be countless. And then after waiting you often find out you have been sent to the wrong place or person

But we have been learning much through this process. As Chip was relating some of his woes to our language teacher she commented “Isn’t it great to know you have no control over any of this? You are forced to rely totally on the Lord.” How true that is. As we shared in our last Prayer Letter, at times the Lord uses tough situations to place us in just the right spot to present the Gospel. This week Chip had to take a taxi to get between closely timed appointments. The taxi driver commented that life is “much better” in the US and Chip was able to explain that even though people have more “things” in the US, they are not happier. True happiness only comes with the Peace of a personal relationship with the Lord. Chip was able to explain the Gospel, give him a tract and invite him to church. He said he and his wife would come this week.

We have also been learning to use our time well. While waiting alone, we have cards with Bible verses and grammatical construction to memorize. When other people are around we try to open conversations to practice our Portuguese. We are learning to redeem the time.

Contacts Build With Licensing Process

There have been no major changes in the status of Chip’s medical licensing. As you recall he was able to submit his documents in September and has been waiting to start the process of certifying examinations (written Portuguese exam, oral Portuguese exam, written medical exam). The dates for these exams constantly change and it does not appear that the process will be finished before our anticipated move to the hospital in January.

Chip has been exploring other temporary credentialing options. He met with the President of the Regional Medical Board for the State of Amazonas. It appeared that the Lord had been preparing the way even before Chip arrived. The President of the Medical Board is a surgeon and works in the area of trauma (Chip’s former specialty). When Chip was traveling out of town the last time, Caleb fell and cut his chin. This President was the doctor that had stitched up Caleb. In addition, the President recently completed a trauma course called ATLS. Chip is still an instructor for this course and that opened up some common ground.

The President explained that the interior jungle regions of Brazil have a big problem with poorly qualified foreign doctors who work illegally. If the medical board makes an exception in Chip’s case, these other doctors will demand the same treatment. Thus he stated Chip can do nothing at the hospital until he is licensed. However, the President said he would personally try to expedite Chip’s process in the University of Amazonas.

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