



# Phillips' Forum



Chip, Laurie, Reed, Caleb, Alison

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## Here at Last

### Move to SAI Goes Well

Our move to Santo Antonio do Ica went very well. The majority of our luggage was sent up to the Hospital site by boat and arrived the evening before we did. We flew from Manaus to Tabatinga (border with Colombia) and waited two days for a boat traveling down river. During this time our children were able to play with some old friends and Reed (7 years) was able to visit with a girl to whom he proposed marriage last year. She had said that she needed to grow up first.

The boat trip lasted about 20 hours and was jam packed. We slept in "bunk hammocks" where in the same area you tightly hang one hammock close to the ceiling and another is hung loosely close to the floor.

We arrived during a major downpour and were met by a number of hospital employees. It was a good feeling to finally walk into a house that would be home for a number of years.

The house had been recently cleaned so we started unpacking and working on some repairs. Then the last construction team arrived.

### New Wing Dedication

About one week after our arrival in SAI, the final construction team arrived. This team was able to complete the bulk of the hospital construction.

On February 14th there was a dedication service that was attended by about 300 persons from the three municipalities the hospital services. Some local politicians gave words of encouragement. A group of the city's school teachers sang a chorus, and several Brazilian pastors from Manaus that serve on the hospital's board of directors were also able to attend and give a clear gospel presentation.



was scheduled to go on US Ministry about 2 weeks after the construction team left and the Koch family was to arrive in early March. Because Chip needed to go to Manaus to help the Koch family get settled in and oriented to Manaus, he worked hard to make the Manaus trip a multipurpose one. He did a partial inventory of the hospital to be able to buy needed supplies. He evaluated the construction to be able to buy the remaining supplies to finish the construction. And he spent much time with the leaving couple to be able to assume their responsibilities.

## Prayer

- Children's adjustment to SAI and homeschooling.
- Wisdom for Chip as he assumes hosp. leadership.
- Bible studies with Dr. Jose and Dacio.
- FUNAI and visa approval for new missionaries on their way to Brazil this year including a nurse, pilot, and teacher.
- Outreach to our neighbors.

## Getting Started-Overwhelmed

Soon after the construction team left, Chip assumed the administrative leadership of the hospital. It had been operating with short-term help for about 2-3 years and many details had been left unattended. In addition two other things occurred. The couple who had been "holding things together"

## Getting Settled

For the last week we have been able to start developing a little routine. Laurie had a tough time while Chip was out of town. The electrical wires entering the house fused and the ground wire became "hot" turning the house from 110 to 220volts. Laurie noted that the lights became really bright and then nearly every appliance burnt out, including the computer that was "protected" by a battery back-up (also burnt out). Chip received a list of model numbers from Laurie and bought a number of fuses and replacement parts. Now the house is basically back to normal. Laurie starts her day early and homeschools Reed and Caleb during the cooler morning hours. The remainder of her day is spent in various tasks or visiting.

Chip's schedule has continued to be erratic, but at least it is presently confined to one city. The hospital maintenance man is on vacation this month so Chip has begun to get a real insider's view of the hospital's physical plant. His first day covering maintenance included unclogging two shower drains, filling up the gravity feed water tanks two times, trying to rid the sterilization area of ants, buying supplies in town, and working on completing the new building's construction. Medically, Chip did an emergency appendectomy in a 14 year old who subsequently recovered well. While Chip was in Manaus his medical documents were OK'ed by the medical school so the end is in sight to receive his license. PTL.. In the interim he is only permitted to care for patients with emergencies.

Apart from the hospital and maintenance of the other mission buildings, Chip has become involved in two activities. It has been hard for him to set realistic limits as there have been many requests for help from the local church in Santo Antonio do Ica (SAI) and congregations in two neighboring towns. For now he will help organize Faith Baptist Church's music ministry and have Bible studies with two men in SAI. One man is Dr. Jose, a peruvian physician who has worked in town the last several months. He traveled to Manaus last month on the same boat as Chip. They had many opportunities to talk. Jose is not yet a believer, but is interested in learning more about the Bible. The other man is Dacio, the police officer who "accepted the Lord" last October. Since that time there has not been much of a change in his life. However, he too is interested in learning how to study the Bible. Please pray that the Lord will work in these men's hearts so that they may know Him in a vibrant and personal way.

There have been many other changes in our lives- some sad and others happy. We hope to get back into a more regular prayer letter schedule now that we are settled and will share more with you all next month.

Thanks so much for praying for us. Surely it has been the Lord who has sustained us through these many changes over the last several months.

(If possible, Mom, Put our signatures here as " Chip & Laurie" )