



Phillips' Forum



Chip, Laurie, Reed, Caleb, Alison, Susanna, Julie Anne

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Hospital Update

Last November a young pregnant lady named Rosimar was shot four times by her drunk husband. Three wounds were superficial, but one traversed her abdomen and pelvis. At surgery she lost her baby, had some small bowel removed and received a colostomy. As she recuperated in the hospital her initially bitter disposition mellowed as she came to understand that the Lord could use this horrible situation to bring her life long happiness. She went home to recuperate and actively began studying her Bible. We were able to re-operate on her just before Christmas to reverse her colostomy and shortly thereafter she decided to give her life to the Lord. She is now attending church and being discipled in her new relationship with the Lord.

Now that Chip has his license, the hospital has begun to function more normally and we are seeing many respond to the Good News. This year Dr. Mark Thompson arrived on the field. We had hoped that his license could be piggy-backed on Chip's, but that was not possible. Now he is in the same process through which Chip passed. He has already passed a Portuguese language exam and is scheduled for a medical qualifying exam in June. After that, we hope to offer him a work contract through the hospital until his permanent visa is approved. In order to offer a contract to Dr. Thompson, the hospital's documents must be modified. Please pray that this can be navigated quickly.

Praise

- Tartaruga's (Turtle) continued growth as a believer.
- Volunteers helping follow-up patients with a presentation of the Gospel.

Prayer

- Dr. Thompson's license.
- Hospital's documentation.
- Good impact from Marriage and Family Sessions.

Furlough Plans — May 2001

It is hard to believe that last November we completed four years of service in Brazil, and in May 2001 we will be returning to North America for a year of furlough ministry. As we look back over the last four years it is exciting to see all that the Lord has done. There are new believers growing in their faith alongside older believers that are learning how to disciple. There are young couples beginning their families on Biblical principles. Chip has helped Pastor Jacó develop into an effective pastor who is leading a congregation that grew from about 130 to 160 in attendance and baptized 81 believers last year. The hospital is more stable and functioning smoothly.

Soon we will be able to share many more details with each of you personally. As we begin to set up our furlough ministry schedule we would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like us to share about what's happening in the Amazon with their church, prayer group, or other interested organization. We can be contacted at "gphillips@abwe.org" to schedule meetings. Also, if you hear or know of housing possibilities or a good, used vehicle, please let us know.

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of Darby, PA

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Marriage—Family

We have continued to work on developing marriage and family materials for the believers in our area of the Amazon. In November Chip gave a month long, weekly seminar on training children. The Amazon culture is non-confrontational and people tend to live for today instead of planning for the future. This creates a number of difficulties related to raising children. We would like parents to see the need for actively guiding their children's development by confronting bad and encouraging Godly behavior, as well as being a good role model for their children. They also need to understand that how they raise their children now will have life-long consequences for their children. Pray that the young couples in our church will commit themselves to raise their children and live their married lives by Biblical principles.

We also would like to do a weekend seminar for married couples to address issues such as communication, resolving conflict, using differences to complement each other, and promoting Biblical roles for husbands and wives. Pray that this will have a positive impact on the young and old couples alike in our church.

New Millenium

As we enter the new millenium we would like express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your letters of encouragement and reassurances that you are praying faithfully for this ministry. Thanks also to the many who have sent regular support or extra gifts that have made this outreach possible.

From the Perspective of our “Missionary Kids”

Living in the Amazon is a lot different than when we lived in the United States. It is always warm and we have lots of friends. They eat over a lot because some of them don't have much food. On Sundays they take a bath with us and borrow clothes to go to church.

We also get to do a lot of fun things. The other day we got to chase a bat around upstairs—that was until Dad hit it with a broom. And Mom took us for a walk along the river and sank into the mud up to her knees. Everyone, including the Brazilians, laughed as she tried to get out. She finally did, but she never did find her sandals. We have bugs living in the bathroom door that slowly eat the wood, and we were able to get some eggs and look at them under the microscope. We even found a lizard egg and put it in a jar until it hatched.

Sometimes it seems like we live in Bible times when God sent the plagues on Egypt. There are a lot of frogs here, both inside and outside the house (we try to grow them in the bathroom). Mom seems to treat us just about every week for lice. The packages of Kwell are pretty cool because the combs in the box have a magnifying glass so that we can see the bugs. Every once in a while there are swarms of small biting bugs that come through the screens so we have to put out all the lights so they stay away. We also have visits from leaf cutter ants that can strip a whole tree in just one day, so we keep an eye out for them and tell Dad when we find them.