



Phillips' Forum



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

Volume 8 Issue 3

October 2001

Dr. Thompson Gets New Visa

Dr. Thompson's family returned to the US in August and were granted new visas in September. They are now back in Brazil. Unfortunately, the permanent visa process is again starting a "time zero" and will hold up his medical license process for another 3 years or more.

One highlight of the Thompson's unexpected return to the States was our being able visit with them for a time of encouragement and strategic planning. The current visa difficulty has presented new challenges for Dr. Thompson's licensure. Just before returning to the US, Dr. Thompson received the encouraging news that his medical paperwork had all been approved. The only further requirement for licensure was a permanent visa -- and this process is now delayed.

One possibility is to have a sister Brazilian mission offer Mark a work contract. Chip had looked into this a few years ago. It requires a whole new set of paperwork that includes a special petition for work eligibility since normal missionary entrance visas are limited to "religious" work.

We would appreciate your prayers as Chip tries to guide this process from the US.

How is the Hospital Ministry?

We are hearing good reports from the field. Although there have been a number of challenges, as with Dr. Thompson's visa difficulties, the Lord has blessed the faithful presentation of His Word. Sherry, our Canadian midwife, has had a continual string of deliveries. A number of these mothers have made professions of faith.

Dr. Thompson and Carolee are training evangelistic teams to present the Gospel to inpatients and do follow-up visits after they are discharged. At times the training process has seemed slow, but we are seeing fruit both at the hospital ministry and in Faith Baptist Church. A number of these believers are passing their training on to others at Faith Baptist. We have especially seen responsiveness as visits have been made in homes.

Praise

- Reed, Caleb, & Alison are doing well in school.
- The Lord is providing new financial & prayer support.
- Safe, uneventful travel by car and air as we report to churches and individuals.
- Dr. Thomson's family has been granted new visas and are back in Brazil.

Prayer

- Dr. Thompson has new administrative responsibilities due to colleague's recent return to the US.
- Tartaruga's continued growth as a believer.
- Salvation of Maria and Assis.
- Hospital's long-term financial stability.
- Chip's preparation for his surgery exams on Oct. 19th.
- Wisdom as we set our vision for the next 10 years at the hospital.

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Sending Churches:

First Baptist Church
of Willingboro, NJ
New Life Baptist Church
of Darby, PA

Furlough Events

We continue to keep active between presenting the hospital ministry to churches and individuals, maintaining a home, and Chip's trauma call schedule. The last time he was on call he was asked to assist on a C-section, so he was able to gain a little more OB experience.

In September we visited the Brazilian Baptist Church in Philadelphia where we had attended before going to the field. What a difference! Not only had the church grown some, but we realized how much WE had changed. We could talk, preach, and present the work with relative ease. It was a great reminder of how far the Lrod has brought us over the last 4 years. We even had one man yell out as he recognized a friend's picture in our slide presentation.

We have been trying to find ways to help out in our sending churches in the face of a constantly changing travel schedule. Would you believe that a Brazilian couple just started attending First Baptist Church in Willingboro and wants to take a membership class...in Portuguese?

We also had a surprise phone call. Maria, with whom we did an evangelistic Bible study for a year, called from Brazil to see if we were OK after the terrorist attacks. Please pray that the Lord may use the events in our country to show Maria and Assis their need of the Savior.

On Wednesdays Laurie and I have begun to work as assistant leaders in the AWANA club where Reed, Caleb, and Alison attending. It is great to see them excited about studying the Word and to be involved in an activity as a family.

School News

Reed, Caleb, and Alison are all attending a local Christian school and doing well academically. We had some concerns about their adjustment to a structured classroom setting. Reed and Alison fit right in. Caleb has had some adjustments to make, but seems to be taking the transition in stride.

Both Reed and Caleb requested to learn to play instruments. Reed is studying the piano and Caleb the flute. It is impressive to see how quickly they are picking things up.

Schedule for 2001

October

- 3 Whiting Bible Church, Whiting, NJ
- 3-7 Faith Baptist Church, Hamilton Square, NJ
- 9 Chapel, King's Christian School
- 13-14 New Life Baptist Church, Phila, PA
- 18 Cinaminson Baptist Church, Cinna., NJ
- 19 Recertification exam in Surgery
- 27 First Baptist Church, Van Wert, OH

November

- 3 S. New Milford Baptist Ch, SNM, PA
- 9-11 Wesley United Methodist Church, Erie, PA
- 14 People's Baptist Church, Teays Valley, WV
- 18 Bible Center Church, Charleston, WV

December

- 2 Primrose Bible Church, Primrose, PA

If you would like us to present at your church or to your family or group, please contact us.

Chip & Laurie Phillips

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