



# Phillips' Forum



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Volume 9 Issue 1

March 2002

## The Lord Blesses Chip's Trip to Brazil in January

The Lord blessed as Chip traveled to Brazil in January. He was able to book a reduced airfare that saved several hundred dollars. In addition, Chip was able to check his luggage directly from Philadelphia to Manaus. During Chip's layover in Miami, he met a Brazilian couple from Roraima, the state next to Amazonas. "Little John" was over 6 feet tall and worked as a lawyer for the mayor. He was open to spiritual things and Chip was able to share the Gospel with him. Chip hopes to visit a medical missionary from the state of Roraima and Lord willing he will be able to meet with Little John again.

Once in Manaus, Dr. Mark Thompson picked Chip up from the airport and filled him in on all the occurrences with the hospital ministry. A number of patients have made professions of faith and our evangelism teams are gaining more experience.

Chip and Mark worked on the hospital accounting and were able to complete 99% of the end of year work. It ended up being a larger job than anticipated since the missionary who was the field treasurer had to unexpectedly return to the US and we had some difficulty tracking all the receipts. After returning to the US, Chip was able to complete the job. They also were able to work on some of the documents needed for the hospital and for Mark's medical license. Unfortunately, Mark had been unable to secure one document since the county clerk has traveled and been unavailable for over a month. We are still waiting for this document. The last word was that it would be ready by the end of March. If that comes through, Mark will travel to Manaus the first week of April. He will plan to process his visa papers as well as papers needed for us to import donations to the hospital.

Please pray that the document will be processed and that Dr. Thompson will be able to start this much-needed paperwork.

Rubie Maybury, a Cedarville College student who graduates in May, is joining our team for a year as a school teacher. Please pray as the Lord provides for her support needs and we work on her visa.

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## Praise

- Safety while traveling on furlough ministry.
- Our children continue to do well in school.
- Chip's trip to Brazil was productive and safe.
- Pastor Jacó and Glorinha had a baby boy.

## Prayer

- Rubie Maybury's visa and financial support..
- For county clerk to process hospital paperwork.
- That Dr. Thompson be able to start paperwork for hospital donations and his own visa.
- The salvation of Maria and Assis.
- Funding for the Medical Missions Endowment.
- Wisdom as we set our vision for the next 10 years at the hospital.

### Sending Churches:

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

# A Visit to An Old Friend

It seemed as if time had stood still. The dogs yelped. The chickens squawked. The white farmhouse stood next to a barn in moderate disrepair. Yet it had been over 30 years since Chip first met Butch and Ruth.

Every weekend Chip's family traveled from the suburbs of Philadelphia into the coal-mining region of eastern Pennsylvania where the family homestead stood for generations. The farmlands had been sold off years ago, but the house, with its eighteen-inch log walls, was as solid as ever. Butch and Ruth worked the farm up the road.

Life was good to them and unlike many small farmers they had somehow prospered. Although they never had children of their own, they raised a foster son. Each weekend as Chip would walk up the road to their house, or later ride his mini-bike, he would anticipate the coarse chatter while milking, or a day of baling hay and putting it in the dusty loft. Butch's tall, strong frame always seemed larger than life. Ruth's warm-heartedness softened Butch's rougher side and always made Chip feel good to be near her.

As Chip grew up and became aware that not all of his friends were believers, he would occasionally bring up spiritual issues. But Butch and Ruth were "good" people and even went to the local parish if the milking got done early. Life was good.

As we walked into the yard it seemed like old times, but it wasn't. Ruth was in the hospital after a

fall. She had deteriorated and it was unclear if she would need to enter a long-term care facility. Butch had lost one eye in an accident, and his other often filled with tears as he told us about Ruth. There was such tenderness under that rough exterior that Chip had never seen before. There was also fear. Although things had been good until now, what would the future hold? Would Ruth suffer? Butch's thoughts focused solely on her.

This time as we began to talk about spiritual issues, Butch was open. Without the business of another cow to milk or another tractor to fix, he began to think about eternity. We talked about Jesus and the comfort and security that He can give. We also talked about the judgment that each of us deserves for sin. That day Butch humbled himself before God, admitted his sinfulness and sought forgiveness in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. WOW.

With Spring and Easter here, it is great to know that we have a risen Savior. He is One who knows our sorrows and lived a difficult life. But also One who already has experienced what is to come. We praise the Lord for touching Butch's life. And we are excited to think that in a few more months we will be back in Brazil with opportunities to share his redemptive love with our friends in the Amazon.

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## Chip & Laurie Phillips

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