



Phillips' Forum



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New Missionaries

The Lord has directed three young couples to join our field and all are uniquely qualified to work in the Amazon. The husband of each couple is an MK (missionary's kid) and already fluent in Portuguese.

Two of these MK husbands are sons of our colleagues, Tom and Beth Peace. Philip married a Brazilian, Gecila, and is currently raising support in north-America. They plan to use boats in church planting. Lloyd met a short-term nurse at our hospital, Athena, and married her in Brazil! They also are raising support and upon arrival on the field feel called to work in church planting aviation.

The third couple, Jonathan and Bobbie Jo Emsheimer, arrived on the field last month and have begun language and culture acquisition. Jonathan grew up as an MK near Manaus, our state's capital. Their desire is to start a self-sufficient seminary - community where men could support themselves while studying in the interior.

Please pray as each couple faces unique challenges. Lloyd is being evaluated to see if he meets ABWE's rigorous flight standards. Gecila is adjusting to live in the States. Bobbie Jo is learning Brazilian culture and Portuguese.

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Momentous Decisions

This year the Hospital team has been challenged to face some difficult circumstances. Recently three factors have come into focus. These combined factors are forcing our team to reevaluate which medical services are most effective for evangelism and church planting and which ones we can offer. (See the back page for more information.)

The Extremes of Patient Care

In a mission hospital, we often find ourselves asking two related questions. What **can** we realistically do? What **should** we realistically do?

Manassés was delivered prematurely at the hospital about one month ago. He and his twin brother, Manoá did well and his parents took them to their small community several hours away by canoe. However, Manassés caught a very bad viral infection and deteriorated quickly. By the time his parents brought him to the hospital he was blue and not breathing. He was slow to come around, but did respond to treatment. However, his oxygen levels were low and he kept stopping breathing. (See reverse side)

Praise

- The discipleship program at church is starting to bear fruit in new believers' lives.
- Sherry continues to do well and plans to return to the field in February 2004.
- The first of three new couples have arrived in Brazil.
- The Lord continues to give us good health.

Prayer

- Hospital documentation will progress through the "red tape" in Brasilia.
- Medical team to make wise decisions about using medicine to reach the lost.
- Spitiual growth for neighborhood children, Tartaruga, and Valdemilson.
- Funding for the Medical Missions Endowment.

Sending Churches:

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



Hospital Documentation

The hospital documents have been received in Brasilia and are currently under consideration. The Lord has provided a federal senator and federal congresswoman to help push the processes through. Please pray that they are approved quickly.

We also received a letter last month from the Central Bank stating that we had a debt with them of \$20,000.00 dollars. Apparently an expediter who processed a donation of hospital equipment in the past filed the paperwork as a taxable import and not a donation. We are currently appealing this process and would appreciate your prayers that it be resolved favorably.

The Extremes of Patient Care

(Continued) Fortunately we had received donations of an apnea monitor that signaled each time the baby stopped breathing and a machine to help inflate a baby's lungs without using a respirator. Manessés required much attention, but recovered well. Just as he was improving his brother developed the same infection and received the same treatment. Fortunately, both recovered well.

Francisca, at 36 years of age and mother of three small children, is too young to be facing death. She presented with advanced cervical cancer, was transferred to Manaus for treatment, but was too far advanced. Now she needed help in controlling chronic pain.

What a contrast to the flurry of activity needed to treat the premature twins. Chip sat alone, holding her hand, letting her cry, and helping her face the reality of her impending death.

Both families are part of the "Cross Cult", which uses Biblical language, but puts faith in good works rather than Christ's shed blood. Neither decided to trust Christ, but both now clearly understand the Gospel.

Momentous Decisions

(Continued) The first factor is a fall in the value of the dollar by 20%. In the past the dollar always accompanied or beat inflation. This is the first time since we have been in Brazil that it has done the opposite.

The second factor is a mandated 20% rise in the minimum salary. All employee salaries are based on a multiple of the minimum salary. All social tax payments are based on employee salaries. And over 80% of our expenses are payroll. Thus, as our usable income decreased by 20%, our expenses have increased by 20% - a change of 40%.

The third factor is a decrease in our missionary staff. Currently, Chip is the only missionary at the hospital and the task is overwhelming. Our Brazilian staff has been maturing and is constantly taking on more responsibility. However, each time we pass the work that used to be done by a missionary over to a national, our payroll expenses increase. Thus Chip finds himself needing to hire more staff without sufficient finances.

At this time we desperately need each of you to take us before the Lord in fervent prayer. How does HE plan to use this situation for his glory? Is He testing our faith and giving us an opportunity to learn to rely more on Him? Is he using this situation to prompt us to change how we are using medicine to reach the lost for His kingdom? Should we focus more on clinics and decrease hospitalized care?

For hospitalized care to continue, we need an additional \$5,000.00 per month, either through decreased expenses (taxes, duty free donations) or increased income (donations or billing Brazilian government for services rendered). Would the Lord have you to commit to pray more fervently on our behalf during this time of difficulty? Perhaps he could use you to help raise or give additional funds for the Medical Missions Endowment or a one-time gift to sustain the hospital through this time of financial trial. Our goal is to make a concrete decision about our long-term use of medicine by the end of August.

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