



Phillips' Forum



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

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You and Your House

João Mafra has returned to Santo Antônio and obtained employment in our city's education administration. This has allowed us more time for interaction and to observe how the Lord is working in his home. Recently we visited João, his wife Rosalva, and their two children. As we talked about spiritual issues, Rosalva noted that João had presented the Gospel to her and she had made a decision to follow Christ. João will continue to study with Chip and Rosalva will start discipleship with our Pastor's wife. It is a joy to see the Good News begin to spread in a family. Both João and Rosalva are participating in a parenting class as well.

Temporary Hospital Closure

In May the Brazilian government stipulated another increase in the minimum salary (used to calculate employee wages) and at the same time the dollar has weakened, giving us less Brazilian "reais" with which to pay our bills. As of July 1st, we needed to temporarily close the Hospital's inpatient services as we adjust to these changes.

Brazilian law does not allow temporary layoffs, but we obtained permission to decrease employee work hours (and salary) by half for up to three months. Please pray for wisdom as we seek how best to use the hospital resources to further the Lord's kingdom.

Praise

- Our appeal of the \$25,000.00 importation tax and fines from a 1998 donation was accepted and the process closed.
- All of our nurses completed the state-run nursing course.
- Emmy Lou's visa was formally turned down, indicating the Lord has other plans for her at this time.

Prayer

- Wisdom for the medical missionary team as we consider future options for the medical ministry.
- That the hospital's tax exemption be formally considered and approved.
- Ongoing individual and class discipleship.
- Outreach through parenting classes.

Fifty-nine Nurses Graduate From State Nursing Program

The state-run nursing program terminated in June and 8 hospital employees were part of the 59 member graduating class. Chip was honored to be one of the "authorities" who distributed the diplomas to the graduates. In Brazilian culture the "authority" hands the diploma to the graduate's accompanying party, who in turn presents it to the graduate and gives him or her a hug and a kiss. If the graduate bought a class ring, this is placed on his hand as well. Chip also had the opportunity to share the Word at a graduation church service. He shared that nurses need to be competent, caring, of good character and able to help someone face the moment of death. The Gospel was clearly presented.

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Sending Churches:

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

Growing Kids God's Way **Parenting Classes**

This month we started another 4 month series of parenting classes. We are excited for several reasons. One couple who attends was on the verge of a divorce earlier this year. The Lord worked mightily in their lives, and they are starting to rebuild a God-honoring family. It is a great joy to see their boys faces as they sit together as a family at church. João Mafra and his wife are also attending. As she begins her walk with Christ, we are glad to see her interest in putting biblical principles into practice in her parenting. And, five unbelievers, including Sabiá and his wife, are attending. We have been friends with Sabiá and Nelsilene for several years and we have sensed the Lord working in their lives. These lessons start with a strong Gospel presentation and continually stress the Bible as our authority for moral guidance. As we look at the scriptures we can see Nelsilene, especially, starting to question some of the "traditions" she has believed as they fail to match what the Bible teaches. Please pray that these classes will be effective in helping each couple be better parents as well as developing a personal relationship with the Lord.

Emmy Lou's Visa Denied

We were disappointed to hear that Emmy Lou's visa was denied, but we know that the Lord is in control and has other plans for her at this time. Please pray that the Lord provide a teacher for our children for the upcoming school year.

Chip & Laurie Phillips

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Neighborhood/Church Discipleship

"This never happened to me before" related Tartaruga as he returned from a short fishing trip with his wife. They had stayed three days in a small community several hours by boat from Santo Antônio. At meals he asked to say grace and the people asked for him to "talk to them about God." He and Alzeníria had never taught the Bible before, and felt intimidated as they faced about 50 adults and children. But they shared what they remembered, quoted Bible verses they had memorized, and sang a few songs. These folks had never had someone share with them anything from the Bible and they asked for Tartaruga to return. We will now work on helping him prepare some practical Bible lessons that he can share with this group of listeners.

Helping people grow in their faith is at the core of being a Christian. Laurie has worked with our neighborhood's children and Chip has worked with individuals and with a young converts Sunday School class. As we work with these individuals, it is exciting to see some make good decisions and experience the blessing of God in their lives. It hurts, though, to watch others start down a road of poor choices that will end in heartache. What makes the difference? A willingness for each person to submit to the Lordship of Christ in his life.

We ask you pray with us for these new converts that they become firm in their walk with the Lord and fervent in their witness. As we present the Truths of Scripture, it is necessary that the Spirit work in each heart. Your prayers in this regard help build the foundation for successful discipleship.

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