

Rationale for Ministry Emphasis Change

Here is an overview of what we considered in evaluating medical ministry options. We faced major changes in three areas:

Healthcare Changes: The Brazilian government has started hospitals in nearly all of the major town in the Amazon, including ours. As each new hospital opens less people from that town seek medical care at our hospital. We perceive a need to offer different medical services to again attract people from a larger area.

Spiritual Changes: Brazil as a country is much more open to the Gospel than it was when the Amazon Baptist Hospital began. Although medicine greatly helps draw people to hear the Gospel, it is not needed to keep the field open or get visas.

Financial Changes: Brazil's economy has strengthened with a resultant decrease in the value of the dollar and there have been government stipulated increases in employee pay. Even with increased donations the hospital has had difficulty meeting its financial obligations. We firmly believe the Lord requires ministries to function within their budgets. So, we perceive a need to decrease our expenses, which unfortunately involves layoffs.

Church Growth Changes: The Hospital outreach has been effective and there are now "believers" in most of the larger communities in our region. However, followup has been difficult and spiritual growth slow, resulting in weak churches. We perceive a need to increase our discipleship efforts and focus our use of medicine to stimulate church growth, not just evangelism.

Proposed Ministry Changes

To effectively address these changes, the following ministry changes are being implemented.

Hospital changes to clinic status: This will not only decrease operational costs, but will allow us to again reach out to a larger geographic region. The new outreach program will focus on three areas.

- 1) Eye clinic - eye glass distribution will continue and we will start to offer simple eye surgeries
- 2) Laboratory - offer exams for AIDS & cholesterol, that are not available in the state medical system.
- 3) Dental clinics - we would like to set up dental clinic and invite Brazilian and American dentist to offer care on a rotating basis.

Move a mission plane to hospital site: This will allow Chip & Dr. Thompson to do medical care in other towns where churches are starting. Medical care will provide contacts and the local church can follow-up with discipleship.

Doctors to volunteer in other hospitals: Since our hospital can function without doctors present, Dr. Thompson will move to a nearby town, and volunteer in a government clinic, and Chip will volunteer surgical care in our town's new hospital. Both of us will assume more active leadership roles in the local church.

Radio outreach: Chip has been offered time on a new government radio station to do both medical and Bible programs.

Cost: The cost of this transition, including moving a plane and setting up a dental clinic will be about \$80,000.00. If the Lord leads you help, please send your gift to account # 0730301-002, Medical Transition Fund.

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Address Correction Requested



Phillips' Forum



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

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Change in Hospital Ministry Promotes Unity

Laurie and I are very grateful for the many responses we had to our request for ideas about how best to use our medical training to serve the Lord - either here in Brazil or in another country. As we put the possibilities before the Lord, we were delighted to see how He began to use this situation for the futherance of the Gospel.

One outgrowth of our seeking advice from others has been a greater unity among both missionaries and nationals. In October Brazilian pastors and missionaries from all over this region came to help us plan a new direction for the Amazon Baptist Hospital. Their ideas were great and they encouraged us to develop in the areas of dental and laboratory care, while decreasing surgery and hospitalizations. As everyone met and fellowshipped, we saw how the Lord used this time to unify our national brothers. They started to dream about how they could help out each other in evangelizaiton, discipleship, and leadership training. In the long-run, this new spirit of cooperation will greatly increase the effectiveness not only of the hospital ministry, but of all the outreaches in this area.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Lord has been very good to us and the ministry of the Amazon Baptist Hospital this year. We have seen medicine used to reach the lost with the Gospel, promote a spirit of unity among national co-workers, and help strengthen local churches. Your faithful prayers and financial support have been used of the Lord to accomplish this. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry.

As this year draws to a close we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas. As the new year begins, may the Lord richly bless you. We are looking forward to see what great things He has in store for each of us

New Ministry Direction Set

On the back page is a detailed accounting of the changes planned for the Hospital ministry starting in 2006. This will be a major

transition for us and the hospital and we need you paryers as we seek the Lord's guidance. Thank you for being a part of our support team.

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Praise

- The Lord has provided a new direction for the medical ministry in the Amazon.
- Increased unity among national and missionary workers in our area.
- The Lord has begun to provide equipment for the new ministry emphasis.

Prayer

- That the Lord provide the resources for the hospital ministry transition.
- That Chip and Dr. Thompson will be able to intergrate easily into local government hospitals.
- Wisdom as we implement the new medical program.
- That Chip and Pastor Jacó will have good ideas as they revise the church's discipleship and leadership training programs.

Sending Churches:

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