



Phillips' Forum



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

Volume 17 Issue 2

May 2010

A Move in the Future?

Health care delivery in the Amazon is improving each year. Several years ago a government hospital was built in our town and has functioned well. At that time, the missionary team at the Amazon Baptist Hospital shifted gears to focus on prenatal visits rather than hospitalized patient care. We were delighted to be able to minister to nearly all families in the area through contact with pregnant ladies – and to do so at a much reduced cost.

Recently, a government survey team visited our county to evaluate health care delivery in the interior. One of their suggestions was to return all prenatal care back into the government's basic health care system. They were pleased with our program, but felt it necessary to encourage further development of their own system. Our county is not ready to assume this role, but we foresee this happening in the next two years. Our team has also noted that the county now has two fairly good Peruvian surgeons. Please pray that the Lord will give us wisdom as the medical team adapts its ministry to this changing context. Some have suggested focusing on dental care. Others have suggested traveling medical clinics.

As our family has been observing these changes, we once again began asking ourselves if the Lord would have us move to another location for ministry. Chip's surgical skills are not needed as much, though they are a benefit to the community and the presence of an American doctor is very reassuring to our missionary colleagues. Chip finds himself asking how he can be the best steward of the training the Lord has given him. He has two main strengths. One is his surgical training, which took 12 years to obtain. The other is fluency in Portuguese and cultural adaptation to Brazil which also took about 12 years to develop. We see two general options unfolding before us. One would be to focus on Chip's surgical skills, involving a possible move to Togo, West Africa where ABWE is building a new hospital. However, we would have to learn French, a tribal language and a new culture. The other would be to move to a different area of Brazil, and capitalize on our knowledge of Brazilian culture and fluency in Portuguese. However, medicine would have a less prominent ministry role. Please pray for us as we seek the Lord's direction and plan a survey trip to Togo later this year. Also, write us if you have any thoughts.

Field Address:

Dr. Gordon & Laurie Phillips
Est. São Salvador, 1086
69680-000 Santo Antônio do Içá – AM
Brazil
Email: gphillips@abwe.cc



Praise

- "Approval" of tax exempt status.
- Electrician helped wire the Skirrow Memorial.
- Reed will visit us during his Summer Break.

Prayer

- Development of narrative discipleship materials.
- Ongoing Gospel presentation to patients.
- Tax exempt certificate to be published.
- Wisdom in planning future ministry options for the hospital and our family.

Sending Churches

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

Tax Exemption Delayed

Although the tax exemption status of the hospital has been “approved” we are still waiting for the certificate to be signed. After any formal process is approved in Brazil, the decree is published in the Federal Daily Journey. Upon being published it enters in vigor. Lord willing our certificate will be published this month and we can then use the exemption to decrease our monthly tax burden.

Medical Team Visit Canceled

For the last year Chip has been working on arrangements for a medical team to visit our area. We were excited about their helping to open a new town to the Gospel and also make new contacts for small outreaches in nearby towns. It looked as if all was falling into place and local mayors were even helping to defray the group’s expenses.

However, one week before the group’s arrival, Chip still was unable to get formal approval from the regional medical board, even though the approval was requested several months earlier. After several trips to the regional board and finally meeting with the board itself, the request was denied and the trip canceled at great financial and emotional cost. Please pray for grace in the lives of those affected.

“Bad Vibes” Bring Us An Electrician

Chip – You’re needed right away – at the bank! An American tourist got “bad vibes” on a river boat and got off in our town. Chip helped James use his ATM card, and discovered that he was an electrician. James helped Chip wire the Skirrow Memorial Sunday School rooms and we were able to clearly present the Gospel to him as he shared several meals with us. Pray the Lord will use this contact to bring James to Christ.



Cícero is baptized in a local pool after having made a profession of faith. He is the husband of Raimundinha, one of our nurses and one for whom our staff have prayed for many years.

Dr. Chip & Laurie Phillips

Mailed in U.S. by:

5715 State Route 2067

Susquehanna, PA 18847-7452

Return Service Requested

Missionaries to Brazil with ABWE, Intl.

Non Profit. Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1
Gibson, PA