



Phillips' Forum



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

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Stay in Brazil!

We continue to be amazed at the Lord's leading in our lives.

Those who have known us over our last 14 years in Brazil know that things have been very different from what we expected—but God's hand has been evident. For instance, it took years for Chip to get a Brazilian medical license—but during that time, he was able to learn the hospital's administration and to work in the local church. Early on, the field administration fell to Chip—and the Lord used this to develop Chip's leadership skills. Over the years the Brazilian government improved health care in our area, so less of Chip's time was needed medically—but with more free time, he could work in ministry without being overrun by patients. Yet Chip often wondered if the Lord would one day lead him to a more traditional medical missionary work.

Recently, some ABWE colleagues asked Chip to join a medical team that planned to open a new field in northern Togo, West Africa. He pondered if the Lord were leading us in a new direction. We began to pray and accepted an invitation to visit the Togo hospital construction site in August—planning to travel through the US and have family watch our children while we traveled to Togo. Around this same time, the Brazilian government began seeking surgeons to practice in the interior of the Amazon. They contacted Chip and offered him a two year position. His missionary work at the Amazon Baptist Hospital would not change and he would be paid for the volunteer work he already does at the government hospital. Chip's "salary" would be dedicated totally to ABWE's ministry projects. ABWE approved.

The Togo group postponed our survey trip from August to Sept 4, when a medical group planned to visit Togo. However, on Sept. 1 Chip was notified that he had to appear in person in Brazil by Sept. 3 to accept the government position. Chip got the next flight, hoping to leave a day or two later and still make it to Togo. However, the Brazilian process took over a week, and the Togo trip was missed. As we looked at this in retrospect, we could see how the Lord had directed. The Lord had the Togo trip postponed, allowing Chip to receive the call from Brazil and be available to accept this position. And He also had the time frame in Brazil prevent us from visiting Togo. God was opening one door while closing another.

We have peace that the Lord wants us to stay in Brazil to minister. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we consider some exciting new aspects of ministry that could include using medicine to work with indigenous tribes, coordinating short-term medical trips from Brazilian churches to Portuguese-speaking Africa, and short-term mission trips from Brazilian churches to the Amazon.

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Praise

- The hospital saves about \$1,500 monthly in taxes.
- Extra "surgical" income will allow us to finish a number of projects.
- Direction for future ministry options in Brazil

Prayer

- Reed has started his first semester at Grove City College in Pennsylvania.
- Caleb started his Senior year of High School at Baptist Regional.
- Wisdom and ability as Chip works on the narrative discipleship project.

Sending Churches

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

Reed Starts Studies At Grove City College

On August 26th, we dropped Reed off at Grove City College. A few weeks later we visited Reed and saw that he and his friends like to both play and study hard. Grove City College is a Christian liberal arts college. The campus is lively, yet the students seem serious about their studies. Reed is majoring in biology, but his favorite class is Japanese.

Caleb Does High School At Baptist Regional

This year Caleb will live with Laurie's parents and finish his senior year of high school at Baptist Regional School in South Jersey. He has joined the Cross Country team and we were able to see two of his meets this month. He is considering a career in teaching.



While in the US we were able to learn how to "Redneck surf" behind a speed boat in Georgia with some of Chip's family, as well as get together with Laurie's extended family at Ocean City New Jersey.

Alison Makes Jewelry

Alison learned to make jewelry from friends she met traveling on river boats in Brazil. She has become quite adept at this craft and she now has a number of people giving her orders. As we visited in the US, Alison was the one who counted the days until we returned "home".

Susanna and Julie Anne Enjoy their Cousins

For Susanna and Julie Anne, the biggest highlight of our visit to the US was being able to see their cousins. They were especially glad that we extended our stay while planning to visit Togo. Yet, like Alison, as we neared departure time for Brazil, they were really excited to be going home to play with their friends again.

Dr. Chip & Laurie Phillips

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