



Phillips' Forum



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

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Furlough Allows For Evaluation

In August we will begin a year of furlough ministry in the US. As we look back over the last four years we are encouraged to see all the Lord has done. It is also great to have an opportunity to step back and reevaluate the ministry in our part of the Amazon.

The medical ministry has been full and has touched many lives. Surgically Chip continues to work jointly between the Amazon Baptist Hospital and the government hospital and treats patients from 5 nearby counties. The pre-natal outreach has been praised by local and state authorities and continues to allow us to present the Gospel to women from virtually every family in the area. Each week people make professions of faith.

Time spent with families and couples has shown fruit. Organizing retreats, seminars, movie nights, romantic dinners, teaching parenting classes and counseling is hard work and as we run from one activity to another it is easy to question if it really makes a difference.

Yet as we look back we have seen God work in a number of lives. The day

we left Santo Antonio a patient who was on mandatory bedrest at home for a complicated pregnancy disobeyed orders and made a "reverse home visit." She and her husband cried as they related how the Lord used these various ministries to save their marriage and help them start growing in the Lord.

We also have looked back over the many children's activities Laurie has done in our neighborhood. Though some have drifted away from the Lord, a handful is doing well and continues to grow spiritually and keep active in ministry.

For several years Chip has been doing a radio program on Saturdays. We initially wondered if people listened, but recently many have mentioned that they do. On the program he teaches about a medical topic and also presents a spiritual truth along with the Gospel. We may never know the impact of this ministry, but at least we know that people listen and are exposed to the Word.

Praise

- The Lord has provided land for the aviation program.
- Many continue to hear the Gospel.
- We are seeing families grow as they put the Bible into practice in their lives

Prayer

- Safety as we travel on furlough ministry.
- An easy transition for our girls as they enter a traditional school setting.
- Wisdom for the ABWE board as it searches for a new president.
- Chip's entering American medicine and taking his surgery recertification exam in early December.

Preparing for Aviation Outreach

The Lord has provided land for a plane hangar next to the county airport and we were able to clear, level and fence it in before leaving on furlough. When Lloyd Peace our mission pilot returns from his furlough, he hopes to build the hangar and start aviation based outreach that will support small congregations in other towns and allow presenting the Gospel in remote villages. Upon our return to the field we hope to partner with Lloyd. A number of communities have requested visits for either medical clinics or teach the Bible.

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Sending Churches

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

Our Family In Transition

Furlough is a time of transition for all of the family, but this time it has been especially difficult for Alison. Over the last 3-4 months she had been counting the days – not because she wanted to travel, but because she wanted to cherish every minute with her friends. She will enter 12th grade and then college so it may be a while before she returns to Brazil. We had known that Ali was active in youth ministries and the worship team at church. But when we attended a going away party and multiple youth shared about her impact in their lives we gained a whole new perspective of our daughter.

Julie Anne and Susanna are looking forward to attending Baptist Regional Schools this fall. Reed will be junior at Grove City College and Caleb has requested to do a second year at Word of Life in NY before deciding on a career choice.

Laurie is looking forward to a year without homeschooling and being able to invest her time in other areas. Chip has been offered a job as a Trauma Surgeon at the Reading Hospital where he worked last furlough. He is in the process of updating his medical credentials online and will need to take a recertification exam in surgery later this year.

Students Visit

On the month before leaving on furlough, we had two students visit who are interested in pursuing medicine. This kept things busy as we were winding down for furlough, but it is always a pleasure to invest in the next generation of possible medical missionaries.

Narrative Discipleship Joins Parenting Classes

We have become increasingly aware of the impact of parenting on spiritual growth. In our area's culture, most children "raise themselves" and are given minimal limits. As teens and adults this presents as attitudes that disregard authority, tend toward laziness, and are fixed on immediate gratification. These traits greatly impede both spiritual growth and professional development. Along with the pastor of Faith Baptist Church we are working on a coordinated discipleship program that addresses both character and spiritual development.

Part of the program will include the narrative discipleship that Chip has been focusing on. But we have appreciated the need to help new converts develop the character qualities that normally would be taught in a stable home situation. Please pray for wisdom as the on-field team continues to work on this project.

Funding Ministries

The Lord has given our ministry team a wonderful relationship with local politicians. This is an election year and administrative transitions can be cumbersome. The last mayor partnered financially with the Amazon Baptist Hospital to help us provide prenatal and surgical services to the community. There is only one viable candidate to be the next mayor. He sought out Chip, asked his advice on organizing the county's health system and promised to continue with funding. Please pray that the Lord will keep open this funding option for the Hospital Medical ministry outreach.

Dr. Chip & Laurie Phillips

Missionaries to Brazil with ABWE, Intl.

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