



Phillips' Forum



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

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An Unexpected Opportunity

At the most recent health council meeting Chip learned of a unique opportunity. The group "Every Home for Christ" in conjunction with the Australian government has a health welfare project geared toward Amazonas, Brazil. Through contact with a nurse in our area they proposed working in our area.

Their goal is to present the Gospel through literature while providing community health and child protective services. We wonder if the Lord brought this group to Santo Antônio at the same time we are looking to target new areas with the aviation program. Does He want us to work together?

The group asked Chip to provide oversight for the project as he would provide a high level of accountability. Although Chip is busy, he has been seeking how the Lord could use him to reach out to other communities.

Aviation is one route. Coordinating specific health projects in communities would be another way to meaningfully help communities develop as we share Christ with them. Also, Laurie's post-graduate training is in Community Health Nursing. As our children are leaving the nest and home-schooling responsibilities are lessening, she could use her expertise to help communities organize and execute their projects.

We would appreciate your prayers as we consider what role, if any, we should play in this partnership.

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Family Ministers at Camp

We are excited. All of our children, including Reed's fiancée Joy, will be visiting this summer and one of the activities we have planned is to help run a week-long adolescent camp. While Susanna and Julie Anne participate in the program, Chip will be teaching, Laurie and Joy will be cooking, and Reed, Caleb and Alison will organize activities as camp counselors.

The Amazon River is especially high this year and the normal camp site is still flooded (the river goes up and down about 45 feet each year). Since camp is scheduled to start in mid-June we are exploring other possible sites for the camp. Please pray for wisdom as we decide where camp should be held.

Fruit from Family Discipleship

This year our church started family-based discipleship where we encourage church families to grow in their faith together. Each month we focus on a different character trait.

For "goodness" we helped others as a family and memorized verses together. For perseverance we encouraged one another to memorize a 13-verse passage of scripture over a month's time. Two families even encouraged their small children to memorize the passages. We love seeing families grow together in their faith.

Praise

- Reed became engaged to Joy VanGraafeiland in February.
- Chip's mom is doing well after his father's homegoing.
- Aviation hangar has been nearly completed and already stores the new plane.
- Caleb and Alison did well during their first year at Liberty University.

Prayer

- Reed has been "wait listed" for three medical schools.
- Wisdom as we consider the new outreach using boats.
- Fruit from family-based discipleship.
- Adolescent camp to impact many lives for Christ.
- Good experiences for two short-termers who are to visit the field this summer.

Sending Churches

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



Reed Graduated from Grove City College

Unexpected Visit Bears Fruit



Chip's Dad is Called Home

The call to recommend hospice was unexpected, although we knew Chip's dad's dementia was worsening and his dialysis was taxing – within a week he presented with anemia and heart failure.

Family provided funds and colleagues approved a trip to the US to see Dad and support Mom. Dad smiled, but could not talk when we arrived; his last words had been "I love you" to Mom.

The Lord was good to allow us to see Dad, honor him with military honors, help Mom through a myriad of funeral details, and also get her home ready for the warm weather season.

It was one of those late night calls one dreads. A youth from a distant village had just arrived at the hospital and the emergency doctor could not deal with the injury. Claudenir, a 21 year old father of three had mangled his hand in a grater. Skin was missing, bones were broken, but the fingers worked so we set out to salvage his hand. It would be a number of weeks of tedious dressing changes, splinting and skin grafting before we would know how functional he would be.

Claudenir's smile brightened my rounds each day and I made it a point to bring him books including the Story of Hope. Each day we talked a little about what he read and he came to understand that God created the world and loved him. But Claudenir also knew how sin damages relationships and came to understand how his sin separated him from God.

When Chip was notified his father was being put on hospice, he told Claudenir he would be traveling and set up one last dressing change. But it rained terribly and Claudenir did not show. That is common and Chip hoped Claudenir would be OK. Later in the morning while Chip was tying up loose ends, Claudenir unexpectedly showed up to inquire about his treatment. Chip reviewed which doctor would continue his care and then asked him again about the Story of Hope book. Claudenir recounted the stories to Chip. When asked whether he believed he was separated or "OK" with the Lord and he said his life was not good with God. "Well what should you do about that? Chip asked and Claudenir replied "I guess I need to ask God to forgive me and have Jesus pay for my sins." Claudenir made a decision to put his trust in Christ and Chip then introduced him to a friend who would help him get started in studying the Bible for himself.

Claudenir lives in a fairly large community in the interior of our county. Perhaps he will be a contact to help us clearly present the Gospel to this village. Please pray that Claudenir will become firm in his new-found faith and a spiritual leader for his wife and children.