



Phillips' Forum



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Bible Studies Bear Fruit

We love to open God's word with friends and acquaintances so they can learn how the scriptures orient us while also offering practical solutions to the difficulties we face. In general we study with three types of people.

The first group knows little about the Bible but is curious. We normally start teaching with *The Story of Hope* which goes through 40 narratives that highlight the "big picture" including why we suffer and God's solutions to our problems. Last week as Sinete studied with Laurie, she came to understand her need for a Savior, repented of her sins and decided to follow Christ with her whole heart. In another study, Chip is about half way through *TSOH* with Marcelo, who now understands that he won't gain God's favor by doing good deeds, but rather by deciding to put Christ in the forefront of all he does. It is wonderful to watch as the Lord opens people's

eyes to His truth through His Word.

A second set of individuals present in crisis. They may be believers or know little of the Bible. These sessions help people learn the practical side of Christianity. Being a Christian is not just "fire insurance" but learning how to have a wonderful life by glorifying God and helping others. Some people put the Bible into practice and effectively address their problems – it is never easy, but it is rewarding. We love to see the Lord put lives back together..

The third group of people have already decided to follow Christ but don't quite know how to put it all together. For these folks we do focused studies like *Growing Kids God's Way*, teach classes in Sunday School, and present topics of interest to gathering of couples. Many have come through counseling and are now growing. As we help organize activities for families, it is delightful to see couples begin to flourish.

Içá River Project Initiated

Our whole family accompanied the project team on its first trip. While Chip and the team met with community members, Laurie and the girls taught groups of children about creation. The communities are excited to have help. Right after this trip Chip has an unexpected contact with a leader in Sustainable Community Development for the state of Amazonas. He are interested in helping us guide these communities toward economic growth and stability. Pray that the project will produce practical benefits for the communities and give us opportunities to share Christ.

Praise

- Iça River outreach has started and is being well received.
- Reed has been accepted into medical school at Temple University.
- Leaders at Faith Baptist Church are starting organize ministries with short and long-term goals.
- Sinete made a profession of faith during her Bible study with Laurie.

Prayer

- Reed is getting married on March 21st.
- Safety for the Içá Rover project team as it makes weekly boat trips to visit these communities.
- For Marcelo to realize his need to make a personal commitment to Christ.

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Sending Churches

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

Ministry Report for 2014-2015

A. Give a short paragraph summary of your ministry assignment.

Our ministry assignment is to assist the ABFC in developing mature believers in Christ and starting reproducing Baptist Churches. This will mostly be done in our ongoing association with the Amazon Baptist Hospital and Faith Baptist Church in Santo Antônio do Içá.

B. What special blessings and highlights did you experience in ministry during the past year?

Mara received the Lord while doing *The Story of Hope* study with Laurie. Chip has an unexpected meeting with field leaders from Every Home for Christ (Australia) which has developed into a partnership to reach communities for Christ along the Içá River.

C. What challenges and/or difficulties did you encounter in ministry during the past year?

We did not face any major difficulties in 2014, though Chip's father was promoted to Glory in April.

D. List the 5 key ministry goals from last year's report and rate your progress for each (A = accomplished, S = some progress, N = no progress, D = dropped). Comment about factors that contributed to progress for each goal, or identify reasons why no progress was made or the goal was dropped.

1. Teach Growing Kids God's Way class

A S N **D** Comments: Pastor Jacó taught this class.

2. Start family-based, narrative discipleship at Faith Baptist Church

A **S** N D Comments: Chip presented the program in January and helped run it for about 4 months. We traveled to the US in April for Chip's Dad's funeral and during our absence the program stopped and we did not reassume continued leadership for it on returning.

3. Laurie to teach evangelistic Ladies' Bible study with *The Story of Hope*

A S N D Comments: Laurie did two evangelistic studies. One lady, Mara, accepted the Lord.

4. Complete hangar construction with Lloyd Peace

A S N D Comments: Construction completed in September.

5. Sponsor 4 couples' nights at Faith Baptist Church

A S N D Comments: There is now a core of about 4 couples that help organize and run these events. One event was done while we were out of town.

E. List 5 key ministry goals for the coming year.

1. Mentor Faith Baptist Church leadership in the process of setting and following up on goals.

Chip will try to encourage Family Based Discipleship as a goal.

2. Start a community development outreach project in communities along the Içá River in partnership with Every Home for Christ (Australia).

3. Laurie to start an evangelistic Bible study in São José.

4. Institute effective management in the county health system.

5. Chip to obtain Biblical counseling certification.

F. Share a brief story about one of the relationships you began developing this year with the intention of sharing the Gospel (both husband and wife if a couple).

As a couple we started a weekly Bible study on Tuesday evenings with Marcelo and Idalzete using *The Story of Hope*. Idalzete has made a profession of faith, but has not grown. Her husband was interested in the Bible and came from a background mixed with Mormonism, Catholicism and various sects. We are now half-way through *The Story of Hope* (Jesus' birth and baptism). This week Marcelo recounted having watched the modern release of *Pilgrim's Progress* and in his recounting of the story we perceived that he understands the Gospel and has not yet made a personal decision for Christ.

G. Share a brief story about a Christian you are discipling, mentoring or training (both husband and wife if a couple).

Laurie is discipling Diana who was saved through the hospital's pre-natal ministry. She is faithful in her studies and often recounts how her life is being changed by Biblical truths. Her husband is not saved as of yet. Chip studied with Billy earlier in the year, but after traveling in September and October these times of accountability were not restarted. Billy has shown a lot of growth in self-control and addressing issues Biblically rather than emotionally. He works as a lab technician in the state hospital and his reputation there has been steadily improving. We will be restarting after the New Year.