



Phillips' Forum



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

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A Thief Helps Marcelo

As we worked our way through The Story of Hope with Marcelo and Isaldete it was clear that Marcelo understood the concepts of the Gospel: God created man who then rejected God's right to be leader and Lord. Sin entered the human race with the awful consequences of death, sickness, relational strife, painful childbirth and separation from God the creator. Yet the Lord always offers a path for reconciliation based on the substitutionary death of the sacrificial lamb that culminated in Jesus' death on the cross. Those who willingly decide to return control of their lives to the Lord, acknowledging their sin and seeking forgiveness, are brought into the family as God's children.

Over the last few weeks Marcelo stated that he believed all this, but it just didn't seem that these truths were

personal to him. This week we studied about Jesus' crucifixion and his interactions with the two thieves who were crucified with Him. The final words of the believing thief was "Lord, remember me when you enter your Kingdom" and these words opened Marcelo's understanding. The thief not only understood who Jesus was and that he could restore his fellowship with God, but he asked to be restored... "remember me". This week Marcelo became like the thief. He not only believed, but he acted on his belief in faith. He asked Jesus to forgive his sins and made a commitment to follow Him as Lord and King.

We would appreciate your prayers as Marcelo and Isaldete grow in their faith as well as learn to be godly parents. They now have three children at home, ages 5 months, 3 years and 8 years.

Pushing With Your Belly

It may just be the heat and humidity, but progress comes slowly in our area of the world. Inertia seems not just to affect objects, but every project that is undertaken. The local expression for this is "pushing it along with your belly"- nothing moves quickly, but you can inch things along if you put weight into it.

Recently Chip has been discouraged as he has tried to help organize the work of local health clinics. For the last four months he has not been able to get people together for a monthly meeting geared at following production indicators – and as you might guess people have not been all that productive.

On the other hand, once good policies are established, they also can become "engrained" and yield long-term benefits. Pray for Chip's persistence and patience.

Praise

- Reed and Joy had a wonderful wedding and have moved into an apartment in Philadelphia.
- Joy landed a job in her area of study.
- Some communities along the Içá River are starting to work together on projects.
- Marcelo made a profession of faith this week.

Prayer

- Leadership at Faith Baptist Church to make wise long-term plans .
- Chip to give effective oversight to the Iça River project.
- Our family to be effective in helping with Children's Church in the evenings .

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Sending Churches

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



Reed and Joy Married on March 21st.



Sunday Evening Becomes an Adventure

As a family we have begun to help out with children's ministries on Sunday evenings. In Brazil, the major church service is on Sunday evening, not morning. Chip and Julie Anne have begun to help with the two to three year-olds, while Laurie and Susanna are working in a rotating program that covers four through 12 year olds. We have been delighted to see our girls involved in a ministry where they are investing their lives in others while all of us are being pushed a little out of our "comfort zones".

