



Phillips' Forum



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

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Open House Open Hearts

At this year's Open House at Christmas, Chip offered to study with any neighbors who wanted to learn more about the Bible. This month we had our first meeting and were delighted to have 14 come to the study. We are doing a chronological review of the Bible called the Story of Hope and had lively discussions about the existence of God, creation and demons. Please pray that the Lord will touch their hearts as they study the Bible and are exposed to Biblical truth.

Judgment Day Gets Results

This year's Judgment Day presentation was well received. Chip again played a doctor, Laurie served as a guide, Julie Anne was a demon and Susanna ran technical support. At the end we received response cards: 400 want to hear more about the Gospel, 100 want help with addictions and 90 want help dealing with a family member who has an addiction. Please pray as we follow-up on these requests. So far, a dozen people have made professions of faith, and we have only just begun the visits.

Praise

- Caleb has become engaged to Emily Frederick, whom he met some years ago at Word of Life in NY.
- Many have responded to the Judgment Day presentation.
- Medical, radio and counseling ministries are having fruit.
- Içá River project continues to help communities improve.

Fruit From Ministry Overlap

It is interesting to see how the Lord uses many venues to touch people's hearts. Recently a couple from Manaus, G and N, who have relatives in our town, traveled here to have surgery. While recovering, on Saturday they listened to Chip on the radio as he talked about marital strife and offered counseling to those in need. G and N were contemplating divorce and N prayed that she might be able to meet us.

They came to church and Chip was helping with the 2-3 year olds. Laurie had been scheduled to help with 4-9 year olds, but at the last minute was not needed. She entered the sanctuary and just happened to sit next to G and N. N never expected her prayer to be answered so quickly. We set up a time to talk.

While addressing the marital issues G and N were facing, Chip presented the Gospel. G said he has been in and out of churches his whole life, but never made a decision to repent of his sin and follow Christ. Their counseling went well. G decided to accept Christ, and we were able to get them in contact with a good church in Manaus. Pray that they grow in the Lord.

Prayer

- The Story of Hope study to help our neighbors understand the Bible.
- For open hearts as we follow-up on responses from the Judgment Day presentation.
- For G and N to start to grow in Christ as a couple and do well in their new church in Manaus.

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Sending Churches:

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

Ministry Annual Report for 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?

Four of the women with whom Laurie has studies were baptized.

Our oldest son Reed was married to Joy in March and then started medical school in the fall.

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

We did not face any major challenges or difficulties in 2015.

D. List the 5 key ministry goals from last year's report and rate your progress for each.

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.

Comments: Chip and the leadership team met several times to define Mission, Vision, & Goals. He had difficulty encouraging them to keep accountable to their goals. The leadership changed this year and they will begin anew.

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

Comments: The outreach started, built community rapport, helped communities identify areas for improvement and is now accompanying them as they work toward these goals.

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

Comments: This study was started and continues. One of the ladies baptized was from this study.

4. Institute effective management in the county health system.

Comments: A number of initiatives were begun, but county health officials are reluctant to put forth the effort to organize how they manage healthcare. However, monthly tracking sessions have begun with leaders of the county health clinics and mechanisms for feedback were instituted (yearly county health survey and suggestion boxes).

5. Chip to obtain Biblical counseling certification.

Comments: Chip is tracking his counseling hours and in the process of "writing his exams".

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

1. Mentor new Faith Baptist Church leadership team in following through with goals. Chip will try to encourage the development of new men in church to become church leaders.
2. Have an evangelistic Bible study in our neighborhood with contacts from the Christmas Open House.
3. Teach a Growing Kid's God's Way course this year.
4. Laurie to complete current discipleship studies and start others with new believers.
5. Chip to finish his 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 continued our weekly Bible study with Marcelo and Idalzete using The Story of Hope. Marcelo made a profession of faith, and Chip started a discipleship study with Marcelo.

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

Laurie has been discipling Diana, a new believer through the Hospital ministry. Diana works on Sundays and has a difficult home situation. Yet she relates the Lord is slowly changing her life – she fights less with her husband, is less jealous, is faithful with personal devotions and is praying regularly with her children. Diana was one of the four women baptized.

Chip has been studying with Dr. Luis, a believer who moved into town while working on obtaining a Brazilian medical license. He is a relatively new believer and was married this year. They are going over the basics and Chip believes that Dr. Luis has the potential to be a strong leader in the future.