



# Mission News

Mission Activities of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Volume 5 – July 30, 2010

## Mission Aid Cloverdale – Brazil

### Looking for a Mission Aid Worker

In 2009 the missionaries sent Mission Aid a request for a Mission Aid Worker. Since then Mission Aid has approached the supporting churches in Western Canada and USA, in order to gauge the willingness to embrace this project. Recognizing the need for a foreign aid worker the churches show a readiness to support this project.

### How can you help?

Mission Aid is committing approximately an extra \$ 100,000 to our current budget of \$ 240,000, making our annual budget \$ 340,000. Unlike the work of Mission Surrey, which receives finances through membership assessments, Mission Aid depends on donations either from the churches or privately.

We thank you for your support also with this new project we have adopted!

### History

Mission Aid has been supporting the Mission work in Northeastern Brazil since 1972. Shortly after Rev. C. VanSpronsen accepted the call to the mission field, an urgent need was felt to fulfil many social demands that he was unable to attend to. At this time Mission Aid Cloverdale was asked to focus time and resources on Brazil. Since then Mission Aid has supported:

John & Ardis Kuik	-	1972 – 1982
Gerrit & Aafke Glas	-	1981 – 1993
Jan & Truus Souman	-	1982 – 1988
Jake & Darlene Kuik	-	1989 – 1999

Working side by side in both word and deed, has allowed the work to have a more rounded approach. Praise be to God for blessing these endeavours!



**Why do the Missionaries need help? Are there really no qualified locals to do these tasks now?**

Good question. Although Mission Aid already does have a very capable full time local worker: Sergio Moreira, there are many tasks which he is unable to fulfill. Sergio presently is involved in a Seniors program, furthering the education of church members, and setting up small business ventures.

**The foreign aid worker would be able to :**

~ coach and bridge the gap between Canada and Brazil

~ coach Brazilians in their local context

~ have a good understanding of the purpose and goals of projects going on

~ help co-ordinate the reformed schools to work together, and have a common ground. Mission Aid currently supports 3 Reformed schools

~ organize events at CLIRE. This is a fabulous reading center in down town Recife (city of 3 million). Here is where many lectures are held, selling of books and translation projects are organized

~ organize events at the Aldeia Training Center. This is an amazing 12 acre property with several buildings. Aldeia hosts many seminars and retreats, including the Annual Teachers Workshop (attended by over 50 reformed teachers) by Mission Aid. With a large swimming pool, and soccer field it is a super location for many events.....

~ help with the accounting, budgeting and reporting back to Canada

## I WANT TO APPLY!

Great we would love to hear from you!

### Requirements:

- ~ Must be a confessing member of a Can. Ref. Church.
- ~ Have a good understanding and knowledge of what it means to be Reformed, and a willingness to grow in this area.
- ~ Be willing to make at least a five year commitment.
- ~ Understand basic business, accounting and administration principles.
- ~ Work independently as well as in cooperation with others, showing self discipline and initiative.

Please send your resume, letter, references and letter from your local Church (concerning your church status) to:

**Mission Aid Brazil**  
Box 34228 17790 no. 10 HWY  
Surrey, BC V3S 8C4  
[missionaidbrazil@gmail.com](mailto:missionaidbrazil@gmail.com)



### When Can I Get Started?

Mission Aid is hoping to hear from you soon! It always takes some time and organizing to get all the details worked out, but we are aiming for the end of 2010. The missionaries are ready to receive you with open arms, and although some language/cultural studies etc. may be needed, the work is waiting for your arrival!



**missionAID**  
BRAZIL



## Tribesmen Equipped at Lokichoggio

By Drs. Peter van Daalen  
from the Netherlands

Lokichoggio, Kenya—nick-named "Loki"—is a community in a remote, undeveloped area near Kenya's northern border with Sudan. It grew up around the compounds of the UN and other agencies which have flown aid into southern Sudan over the past turbulent years. Loki is mainly a cluster of small straw huts and tin shanties inhabited by tribal people, mixed with a few more established structures around a very rudimentary

airstrip in an untouched, semi-arid landscape.

One of the largest compounds in the area, MERF's Center was established in 2003 to minister to the rapidly growing southern Sudanese church by gospel radio broadcasts and intensive biblical training courses. It also serves local Kenyans and other East Africans. Most of the students are Christian leaders flown in by charter plane from remote southern Sudanese commu-



nities for an intensive five-month course.

We just came back from a really blessed three weeks at Loki—with lots of impressions. Let me (and Yoka, my wife) tell you something of

our experiences. It was great for us to be able to teach fellow Christians in this setting.

We hope and trust that the students will have profited from our work. It has absolutely enriched our lives in many ways. I also felt honored to be asked to preach on three successive Sunday

*Top: MERF has established a few congregations among the local Turkana people, one of the most primitive tribes in East Africa. Bottom: Peter and Yoka with trainees at MERF's Loki compound, which is blessed with much water and growing trees.*



*"The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly."*

—Psalm 118:14–16

Continued on back

mornings to an international congregation, largely from the local Turkana tribe. We loved the exuberant atmosphere.

**Warring Tribesmen  
Now Christian  
Brothers**

After a few days, a bond of friendship started to grow between us and the students. The atmosphere among them was surprisingly good. (They come from different tribes which still often raid and fight with one another.) We got every possible assistance from the MERF staff on the compound.

It was fascinating to teach these guys. We had the main points of the lectures printed as a workbook that we brought along for every student. This proved to be a good plan. It structured lectures and is a compact tool for the students to take home. We had also put the workbook on a memory stick

to project on a screen page by page, but unfortunately the projector broke down on the first day! Thankfully the combination of whiteboard and workbook worked quite well. Lecture subjects were:

1. *Paul's letter to the Romans*
2. *The Church and pastoral care*
3. *Person and work of the Holy Spirit*
4. *Homiletics*

Wherever possible we attempted to link theory and practice. About one-third of the students had a very poor command of English. Obviously this slowed down the teaching and learning process. We compensated for this by having them regularly gather in their four different language groups in order to evaluate and summarize the lectures. A few also needed individual help. The students took a few tests and did quite well.

As for Homiletics, after

**From MERF-Canada**

We thank you from the heart for your faithful support. Please continue to remember the work of MERF in your prayers and with your donations.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Rev. J. DeGelder, *chairman*; Mrs. J. VanDam, *secretary*

Reminder: *Please make cheques payable to MERF-Canada and send them to the address below.*

going through the theory, a number of trainees delivered a short sermon every afternoon during the last week. We gave feedback afterwards and evaluated the particular sermon together.

The Library had several very helpful books. There were enough copies to go around, so we made use of these in class, reading and evaluating particular passages.

Yoka and I also taught English every two or three days. We had brought written material for these classes as well. Almost all the students took these lessons, with striking motivation. We covered some grammar, reading and also did a few language activities.

**Christ-like Students**

The overall motivation of the students was always excellent, which we thought very commendable in view of their rather stark setting. They were very friendly and kind, and helpful to each other and to us. A number suffered health problems: digestion, malaria, headaches. We had anticipated this and so gave from our stock of medicine to some.

It was good to share fellowship and rewarding to teach and train the students. They were on the whole very ambitious, very respectful, and helpful. It was hard to say goodbye at the end of our term, really.

All in all we felt privileged that MERF allowed us to lecture at Loki. And we would certainly consider a possible future request. Thank you once more for this opportunity. In many respects this has changed our lives.

*Please pray for the trainees as this month they complete the five-month course and travel home to settle back in with their families and to serve home churches and communities.*

**Left:** Helping students understand difficult points in the lecture.

*"I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lords doing; It is marvelous in our eyes."  
— Psalm 118:21-23*

