



# Mission News

Mission Activities of the Canadian Reformed Churches

Volume 6 – March 25, 2011

## Mission Aid Brazil – Cloverdale

Annual Report 2010

Mission Aid Brazil has completed another year of work among and for the family of faith in Brazil. A busy year it has been with several new projects, but we are thankful to the Lord that these things could be undertaken with his guidance and that he has blessed our efforts. We are also very thankful that we could complete these in a fiscally responsible and stewardly manner, able to do this through the generous donations of churches, business, and individual donors.

### Mission Aid Conference

A big undertaking for us was hosting the Fifth International Mission Aid Conference. This took place August 12-14, held in the Willoughby Heights church building, and was ably moderated by Rev. A. Souman. The theme of the conference was “Empowered by God to Empower Others.” Keynote speaker, Dr. A.J. de Visser addressed the topic of “Christian Schools and Mission Work: A Powerful Combination.” Educators Ron deHaan and Otto Bouwman, both having led Reformed Teachers Symposiums at the Aldeia Training Center in Recife, could share their experiences at these conventions and expressed their kinship with fellow teachers in Brazil, teaching in those Christian schools.

Also addressing the conference were Br. Moises Lins, principal of the Escola Biblica Crista in Sao Jose, Brazil, as well as his son, Pr. Thyago Lins, a minister involved in outreach in Brazil. Conference attendees were from far and wide, representing mission and aid work done in West Timor, Brazil, Mexico, China, Streetlight Ministries in Hamilton, etc. It was wonderful and amazing to hear of the hunger for the gospel of salvation and the need for workers and resources in this important work, which Christ uses to gather his church. We could be encouraged by the success stories of others and be helpful to those who met with difficulties and roadblocks in their work. A national “Missions Association” may come out of this conference.



*One of the Reformed Churches in Brazil*

### Forty years of mission work

The same weekend, the sending church, Maranatha in Surrey could celebrate forty years of mission work in Brazil, and review the way that God has blessed it with growth and expansion. Pr. Thyago

Lins preached on the Sunday evening, a concrete symbol of what has happened in Brazil: an indigenous minister, bringing the Word to the sending church, now representing a federation of Reformed Churches in Brazil. Mission Aid Brazil celebrated with them, having partnered with Maranatha, Surrey in this work for many years: Word and Deed working together for God’s glory.

### Mission Aid worker

Another newsworthy item was the recognition of the great need for a Mission Aid worker and the successful hiring of such a person, that being Br. Chris Boersema. He and his wife Thecia were raised in Brazil, she being born there as well. After living a number of years in the USA, they decided they wanted to be part of the fellowship of faith in Brazil, feeling they could be an instrument in God’s hands there to help the fledgling churches grow and gain independence. The call for a worker had been heard time and again from the missionaries, Rev. K. Wieske and Rev. J. VanSpronsen, who felt overwhelmed by the demands on their time.

The work of training and instructing new believers who generally come from weak family structures is a priority that Chris and Thecia can help with. Courses in Bible study, financial planning, marriage, parenting, etc. are all in the discussion stage. Better use of the Reformed Reading

Room in the form of speeches, lectures, and workshops are also envisioned. We hope and pray for a very good working relationship, together with the missionaries and also with our Brazilian worker, Sergio who is active in Recife and the surrounding area.

The addition of a Mission Aid worker has a big impact on our budget and we are gratified that several churches and numerous donors have made five year pledges to help offset some of the costs. Chris will be making (will have made) a whirlwind tour of the supporting churches in western Canada in February to meet and greet those interested in Mission Aid work, sharing his and our vision and plans for ongoing work in Brazil.

### Escola Biblica Crista

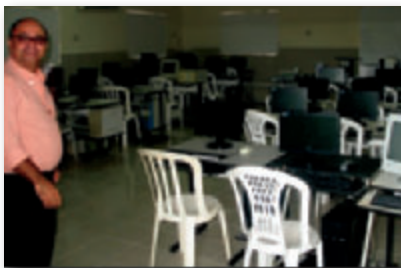
Schools that we support in Brazil were able to continue to operate. Escola Biblica Crista in Sao Jose is adding school grades, one in 2011 and another grade every following year.



*Busy teachers at the symposium*

This requires more rooms as well as a multi-use area which is being called a Sportsplex, needed for physical activities as well as for holding large meetings, gatherings and even workshops. A costly venture, as all additions and renovations are, but the administration and membership of EBC are putting their shoulders behind this and doing what they can in the form of free labour. Moises Lins and the school membership recognize the need for students to complete their education in a Reformed Christian atmosphere and adding the senior grades is a big step in reaching that goal. The parents are slowly taking over more of the financial responsibilities of running this school.

### Guido de Brès School



*Computer Lab*

The Guido de Brès School in Recife operates only several lower grades as yet. The goal is to finally get that school registered, which would increase the operating costs but is the proper and legal way to run a school.

The members in Recife have never run an association before, much less a school board and a school, so it has been a learning process, but real strides are finally being made. Some stronger leadership is in place now and the registration process is nearing completion.

In Cabo Frio (in the South, near Rio), the parents have also taken on the running of a school and Mission Aid has helped with some renovation costs. That Christian education is a must is recognized by the churches in Brazil.

### Teacher Symposiums



### Teacher Symposiums

Most of the teachers from these schools have attended and benefited from the Mission Aid organized Teacher Symposiums. For the past two years an educator from North America has led a three day teacher's conference at the Aldeia Training Center. A third symposium is in the organizational stage, hoping to run in July 2011, this time at EBC in Sao Jose. Brazilian enthusiasm is evident; they have adjusted their school year to accommodate this event! Teachers from the school in Maceio, (Hamilton's area of mission work) as well as from Unai also attend this conference, all being strengthened through fellowship.

### Golden Years Program

The Golden Years Program run by church members in Maragogi continues to be a blessing to the seniors there, providing medical advice, Christian socializing, and is a great tool for evangelism and outreach. Seniors often live marginalized lives, lonely, or taken advantage of by others. The Golden Years Program has even been recognized by the municipality, receiving an award and a celebratory luncheon for the good work it does in the community. A similar program has started in Recife and in both places there are attendees who have started coming to the worship services.

### Publicity and openness

Our board is working hard at improving our publicity, and openness, so that those interested in mission work can keep abreast of developments in Brazil. Our website has been given a new look: [www.missionaidbrazil.org](http://www.missionaidbrazil.org). We are looking at more use of the social media, Facebook, etc. with visibility in mind. Any questions and/or comments can be directed to our board at [missionaidbrazil@gmail.com](mailto:missionaidbrazil@gmail.com).

We are thankful to report that we achieved our budget this year, and continue to disburse the funds received in as prudent a manner as possible. But without your prayers accompanying your generous monetary gifts, we could not accomplish what we do. And without the blessing of our heavenly Father, our work would be in vain. To him be the praise for the spiritual growth in Brazil.

*Ginny VanderHorst*

# Reformed Churches Bible College



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## GRADUATION

Friday, November 12, 2010 marked the day of the third graduation of the Reformed Churches Bible College! This past year the LORD has richly blessed the college and on this day we praised Him first of all, for it is only by the grace of God that the Reformed Churches are able to have a Bible College which prepares God's people for works of service!



Nine students graduated from the 2-year Certificate Program at the RCBC! Congratulations Anthony (Tony) Aufa, Dorothy Aoa, Gami Sine, Isidore Aufa, Jerry Isaac, Joel Sine, Jonah Phillip (auditing), Mado Mark (auditing), Regina Dick! May God bless you richly with all that you have learned and may you be encouraged to share what you have learned with others, no matter what the cost!



Tony and Gami spoke on behalf of all the students about the time they spent at the RCBC.

The graduating students put on a drama about the ungrateful servant pleading for forgiveness of a debt from her master, yet punishing another person for an unpaid debt to her. Indeed, because God has forgiven us greatly, we also must forgive others!



Every year 3 awards are presented to the students. This year's recipients are: **The Most Improved Student**—Regina, **The Best All Round Student**—Isidore, **The Leadership Award**—Joel. Congratulations for your diligent and hard work!



Thank you to the team of ladies and girls who prepared a delicious meal which was served up in take out boxes and sold as a fundraiser at 5 Kina per box. They served white, yellow and fried rice with a chicken stew, some noodles, stir fried veggies with some greens and banana!



We would like to use this space to say farewell to the graduating students as well. The RCBC will not be the same without all those who are leaving and not coming back. We pray that the LORD will guide you and strengthen you as you use what you have learned to God's glory and praise! Some students hope to come back as diploma students working toward serving God as pastors and leaders of His Church.

May God bless you all richly!

## Introducing ...



Joel and Gami Sine with their two children, Vanessa and Robert, come to us from Lae. Joel and Gami have both graduated from the two year Certificate program.



## from the vice-principal ...

Graduation Day is a highlight of the Bible College year! It is also a time for speeches: Rev Alan Douma opened the Graduation Ceremony with a reading from Psalm 146 and a reminder that this Graduation Day is first of all celebration of God's grace and goodness! The Bible College and its achievements are His gifts!

Our Principal Wayne van der Heide gave a talk on managing our time and energy through priorities, starting with what is most important and then adding in the less significant things; you will be surprised how much you can do and achieve by God's grace! He used a bottle and a small rock, stones and sand to illustrate this principle.

Rev Ian Wildeboer, Chairman of the Board of Governors/Trustees, gave a stirring encouragement from Hebrews 13:12-14 that as, Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to **suffer!** Life at the Bible is somewhat a protected environment but, when we go back to our settlements and villages and witness and undertake works of service for Christ, there will be opposition and we will suffer for the cause of Christ. This is not only our calling but also our privilege!

Tony gave a speech on behalf of the students, giving witness to the fact that before he came to Bible College he considered the Bible to be full of 'stories' but now, after two years of studying, he has come to the conviction that it is indeed the Word of God bringing the power of the Gospel in Christ Jesus!

Gami spoke on behalf of the students, giving thanks to the staff individually, mentioning how their particular ministries were an encouragement to them.

And so ends another year. The Lord has blessed us tremendously and we give thanks and praise for His goodness to us. We pray that the Certificate students who have graduated and are returning to their villages and settlements may be a great blessing to their churches because of the training they have received.

It is our prayer that the Reformed Churches Bible College may be a good and faithful servant to the churches in helping to equip God's people for works of service.

Rev Alan Douma.

- Praise God for a blessed graduation ceremony and closing to the year.
- Pray for the staff as they have a break from teaching for three months.

**Pray that God will be with:**

- the van der Heide family as they have a furlough in Australia
- the Doumas both here at the Bible College and later when they go to Australia to attend their daughter's wedding
- the Versteegs as they go to West Papua to serve the Reformed Churches there
- Pray God will give all the staff what they need to be ready for next year.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the potential students for the year 2011. Pray that God will bless the application process so that we may have a good number of students studying here next year.



*The four babies at the Bible College: Madeline (Jonah's daughter), Rokewa (Aisi's son), Joseph vanderHeide and Ralema (Nawai's daughter).*

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## Introducing our staff:

Br. Wayne van der Heide is the principal at the Bible College. He along with his wife Cheronne and four children are from Australia. Br. Wayne is a primary school teacher and this is his seventh year here in PNG.

