



# Mission News

*Mission Activities of the Canadian Reformed Churches*

**Volume 9 – July 18, 2014**

## **Mission Aid Brazil**

**And the work goes on!**

Under the Lord's blessing the work in Brazil has been allowed to continue on! Several boards and committees remain hard at work, and we're thankful that we can witness and share God's goodness and grace in what is happening in Brazil. There's never a lack of news coming from the mission field and we're happy to see that his Word continues to effect change in the hearts of the people. In the previous issue of Mission News, Kristy Schouten, member of the church in Aldergrove, BC, wrote about her experience during a recent Short Term Volunteer trip she and others took to Brazil. In this edition we welcome Shaun and Brenda Raap who are settling in nicely. Shaun reports on some of his duties as well as an initiative underway to assist congregations in securing their own church buildings. Henry Schouten also

fresh back from a trip down south reports on some of the work being done at the Aldeia Training Center under the guidance of the church at Yarrow. And this newsletter would not be complete without a contribution from Chris Boersema who continues to remain busy at the helm of Mission Aid work.

Finally, we're excited to announce our new combined website (with the Mission Board) is live! Visit us at [www.brazilianreformedmission.org](http://www.brazilianreformedmission.org) for more news, updates, and information. We're still in the process of adding new and archived items so at this point it's still a work in progress! We would love to hear your thoughts if you can take a moment to drop us a line! Bookmark us and visit often.

*On behalf of Mission Aid Board,  
Marty VanderWel*

## **The Raap Family**

Shaun and Brenda Raap have been on the mission field as employees of Mission Aid in Brazil since August, 2013. Along with their four children Seth (8), Hazel (6), Lyla (4), and Jonas, their little Brazilian (5 months), they live in Peroba, a small neighbourhood of Maragogi.

Shaun is currently assisting the mission work in Brazil by overseeing the various projects done by Aldergrove Mission Board, Mission Aid Brazil, and the Yarrow ATC Board. His task is to ensure all funds in Brazil are being used for what they were intended, and to help Mission Aid in other aspects of their work, alongside Chris Boersema. This includes the newly created Church Building Fund and the Pastors' Library Project. There are a lot of ways to encourage and build up the Brazilian church.

Shaun and Brenda are still adjusting to life in Brazil and finding new ways where they can assist the mission work. The children are attending Escola Bíblia Cristã and, although at times it has been a difficult adjustment, it has

been rewarding to see their Portuguese grow and watch them make friends.

Please pray for this family as they continue to adjust to a new language and culture, build connections, and find ways to reach those around them with God's love and the truth of the gospel.

*Mission Board*



## The Church Building Fund

To start it is appropriate to say, "Thank You!" to all those who have contributed to the Church Building Fund. We have raised now \$100,000, which is around R\$200,000! With these funds we hope to provide loans to churches that are well-established and have shown initiative in regards to constructing their own church. As they pay their loan off, the fund will be replenished and provide loans to other churches. We are excited to get this fund going and are striving to make this fund beneficial to the growth of the Brazilian churches.

This project will potentially have a big effect on the churches in Brazil and our desire is to help, not to create a crutch, or leave a church with a loan that is overwhelming. The purpose of the fund is to provide the churches with access to money, rather than working through the banking system which not only is very bureaucratic, but also charges a minimum of 1.40%/MONTH for construction loans.

The policy regarding the utilization of these funds has now reached its final stage. Mission Aid and the Church Building Fund Committee (CBFC) are working through final revisions and suggestions. The CBFC includes four members of the Igreja Reformada do Brasil, two of which are Chris Boersema and Shaun Raap, current Mission Aid workers and Victor Lira, a member of the IRB in Maceio and Ada Lima, a member of the IRB in Recife. They are hoping to present the finalized policy to the upcoming synod in May, accept applications from the churches until the end of June, and by August be able to provide the funds to the churches that are approved for a loan.

We are thankful to God for the positive response he has provided through your generosity. Please pray that these funds are used for the up-building and growth of his church here in Brazil. To him be the glory!

*Shaun Raap*

## Aldeia Training Center Report

### Purpose of ATC

What would you consider the tool most used to get your work done? In your home? At your job? In your business? Is it your office, your kitchen, your toolbox? For the mission work in Brazil it is the ATC. It is the "kitchen" or the "office" of the missionaries. It is the tool they use most in the teaching of the young federation of churches in Brazil (IRB). There is office bearer training, men's training, women's training, and the IRB uses the property for their seminary. There are youth retreats, meetings with contacts made all over Brazil, courses given to men from other federations but interested in the reformed faith and it is where one of the missionary families lives. It is also where the seminarians and their families live. It is truly a tool that is well used.

### 2014 visit

In February of this year one of the ATC board members had the privilege of visiting Brazil. We try to do this at least once every two years. If we don't, we can't make good decisions about the continuing maintenance and development of this property. As in previous visits, once again at this visit much was learned about how this resource is being used and how we can best help. This help means looking after all new projects, repairs, security, utilities, and food as well as providing for the caretaker, a groundskeeper, and a cook.

### New caretaker

At the end of 2013 Dado, who was the ATC caretaker, moved on to pursue other opportunities. Br. Ryan Vandeburgt has been hired as his replacement and, together with his other projects, is now the caretaker at the ATC. He and his wife Rachel have moved into the caretaker suite on the property. This has advantages for us as he will be our contact there and speaks both Portuguese and English, making communication much easier.

### New projects

This year we will be busy adding small kitchens and improving the ventilation in all of the chalets on the ATC property. As you know, the John Calvin Institute operates there and the five students, together with their families, occupy all of the chalets. Up till now the food for these families has been prepared by a cook in a central kitchen and they have all eaten together. This situation is not ideal. There is very little privacy and personal time for the families and that goes on for their whole four year course of study. We hope the addition of kitchens to the chalets will help this situation. Additional ventilation is also being put in because the bathrooms are in the centre of the chalets with no windows and no fans. That together with the humid climate causes a lot of mold.

## Cooperation with other boards

We are thankful for the good cooperation we receive from the other boards. We work under the Mission Board at Aldergrove and we also receive much help from the Mission Aid Board. They are very generous in allowing us to make use of brothers Chris Boersema and Shaun Raap. Chris helps with the construction projects. We couldn't manage them on our own from Canada as the Brazilian way of building is a lot different than the Canadian way. Shaun looks after the finances for us. These get quite complicated when someone is not there to track them regularly. He makes the job of our treasurer much easier.

## Short Term Volunteers (STVs)

It is a great blessing to be involved in this work, in being able to care for this tool available for the mission work in the form of the ATC, and a great blessing to be able to see it firsthand. We hope to have two work

teams per year travel to Brazil. A few weeks ago a team from Aldergrove spent two weeks there. Their work was much appreciated. The whitewashing and painting they accomplished makes the whole property look much brighter and cleaner. We are planning for a team from Yarrow in the fall of this year. If you are interested in being part of an STV group please contact Belinda Vanwinkoop at [belindavw@hotmail.com](mailto:belindavw@hotmail.com). She will try to give you information about when trips are planned and what is required. We plan to have a package available on the new mission website soon. This will be found at <http://brazilianreformedmission.org/> under the ATC tab and then under volunteers.

Please continue to pray for the Brazilian churches, the mission workers, and the boards involved, that the Lord might continue his work in Brazil and all over the world so that his Son may soon return.

## Pastor's Library Project

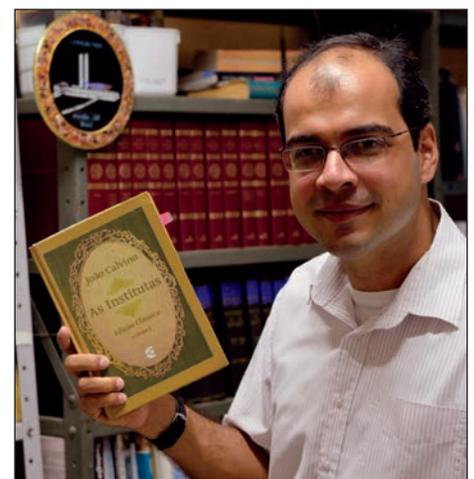
### Growing in knowledge

As the federation of the Igrejas Reformadas do Brasil matures and grows so does the number of office bearers. Today there are about thirty pastors; nine of them being Ministers of the Word and twenty one ruling elders. The Lord has graciously blessed this federation with very capable men who are faithfully expounding the Word every week to our brothers and sisters in Brazil and pastoring them on a daily basis. Although these Godly men are faithful in their work there is no end to the maturing in the development of gifts and growing in the knowledge his Word. A pastor's personal library is one of the essential tools to that end. Here in Brazil it is considerably more expensive to buy good theological books. In order to support our brothers who pastor in Brazil we recently launched the "Pastor's Library Project!" Mission Aid Brazil is sponsoring this project which reimburses fifty percent of the amount paid for any new books purchased by a pastor or seminary student for his personal library. This project has been very well received and is already benefitting some of the pastors. Following here, I share with you photos of three of our ministers in their personal libraries and a brief word from two of them – Pr. Adriano and Pr. Elienai. As you continue to pray for our dear brethren in Brazil might you also consider a designated gift to the Pastor's Library project through Mission Aid Brazil?

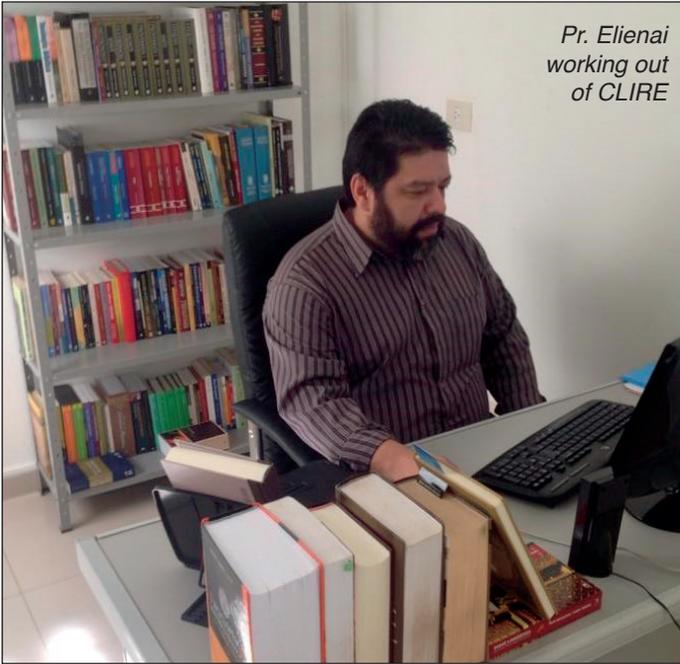
*Chris Boersema,  
Mission Aid Worker on the field*



*Pr. Layton  
(from Esperança,  
PB) was the first  
to benefit from the  
Pastor's Library  
project!*



*Pr. Adriano Gama,  
Missionary of the  
Igreja Reformada  
do Brasil in  
Maragogi  
working in  
Colombo – Paraná*



*Pr. Elienai  
working out  
of CLIRE*

## Books are instruments of God

“Books are instruments of God. The Lord God wrote his commandments with his own finger and ordained that his Word be written. It was through the reading of Scripture that the Lord brought me a profound conviction of my sin and of my need for the Saviour Jesus Christ. This happened to me at thirteen years of age and I was reading a Bible in my bed. My family was of papist confession. At that time, 1986, I did not know anything of the Reformed faith and became a member of a Pentecostal sect.

It was through books that I had my first contact with the Reformed faith. The date was April 5th of 1995. I was a theological student in a Pentecostal seminary. The book was a work by Fred H. Klooster that had been translated into Portuguese (*Calvin's Doctrine of Predestination* – Baker Book House, USA). This book was the first one I bought on my journey in search of knowledge of Reformed faith and which led me to reach one of the Igrejas Reformadas do Brasil. Once more, the Lord God used books to lead me to getting to know his grace, the comfort that in only in Christ and a church which is faithful to his Word.

I am grateful to God for the books that he has used to make me know and convince me of the grace in Christ Jesus in me personally, my family, and my ministry in these twenty-eight years of my story of conversion. This story which started with the reading of a wonderful book, the Bible, and which continued with books that were faithful to Scripture.

Today, by God's grace, I serve the Lord Jesus as his minister. The Lord continues to use books as instruments in perfecting me for the ministry he has entrusted me with. And now I have more reasons to praise the Lord, for

there are brothers and sisters who will help me and other ordained servants to have access to more books at a more accessible price.

I praise the Lord God for the Pastor's Library Project (PLP). I thank Mission Aid Brazil and the many supporters of this project.

I pray that the PLP may provide more books, real instruments of God, to be used by the Lord for the perfecting of those who are working in his great Harvest here in Brazil.

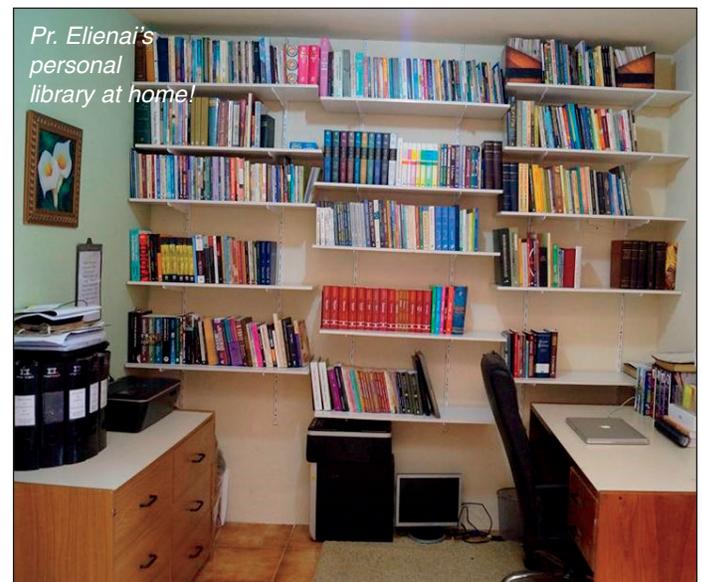
*In Christ, our wisdom on the part of God*

*Pr. Adriano Gama, Missionary of the Igreja Reformada do Brasil in Maragogi working in Colombo - Paraná*

## Library

In 2013, after pastoring the Igreja Reformada in Cabo Frio for ten years, I accepted a call from the Igreja Reformada do Grande Recife to work in a missionary project in cooperation with the Centro de Literatura Reformada (CLIRE). In this work, I minister speeches and courses on various topics, including in the area of office bearer training. I lead a group study on John Calvin's Institutes and promote other events. As soon as I started, I noticed that my library was insufficient in view of how broad the themes were in which needed to minister, but I was grateful to the Lord because the missionary project included a monthly allowance for the purchase of books. Now, with the Pastor's Library Project, I am certain that I will be able to buy more books that will help me further the work in this missionary project. I am grateful to the Lord in moving the brothers and sisters in the U.S. and in Canada to cooperate in the advancing of the preaching of God's gospel of grace in Brazil.

*Graciously,  
Elienai B. Batista, VDM*



*Pr. Elienai's  
personal  
library at home!*