

were given instruction by Rev G Wieske in the John Calvin Institute Lecture Room.

On the first Sunday we worshiped with the congregation in Imbiribeira in the morning, and in the evening with the members of Camaragibe. The following Sunday we were in Sao Jose, Barra Grande and Maragogi. It was wonderful to meet and talk to our Brazilian Brothers and Sisters in the Lord. We also visited the Escola Biblica Crista School in Sao Jose where Seth the youngest member of our team presented the principal with the proceeds of his school's (John Calvin School in Yarrow) cupcake sales fundraiser.



For relaxation we drove to a sea side town called Maragogi which is 3 hour drive from the ATC. There we spent 4 day discovering the fantastic scenery of aqua blue waters, sandy beaches and lots of noise. Bingo anyone? In the town square, loud speaker on full blast. We met Brazilians from



all over the country that came to this seaside town for their holidays. On Thursday night, in our walk around town we 'happened' to visit the Igreja Reformada Maragogi church where there was a Bibles Study in progress and we were warmly invited inside. On Saturday night we were hosted by Chris and Thecia Boersma to a Brazilian BBQ, and again on Sunday to enjoy Christian fellowship. Then on Monday morning we ventured to the reef in a 'jangada' and snorkeled and swam in the clean blue waters until the tide came in again. Back at the ATC, our team finished off the painting, enjoyed a refreshing swim in the ATC pool, and at different times flew back home to review all the pictures we had taken.

Why did we go to Brazil? This is the question most often asked of us, both in Canada and in Brazil. The best word that comes to mind is **OPPORTUNITY**. Being part of the STV team gave us an opportunity to see the work of Mission and Mission-Aid first hand. It wasn't the work we did that was so important, nor was it the wonderful weather, rather it brought the people and the ongoing Mission and Mission Aid endeavors of the churches of Western Canada to a greater realization of the work being done, and God willing, allows us to continue in spreading the Good news of Jesus Christ.

Editor: M. VanderWel



Reformed Education Worker – M. VanderWel

Over the past few years Mission Aid Brazil, has been active in the research and development in the role of a REFORMED EDUCATION WORKER in the mission field. We've been working alongside the Aldergrove Mission Board, Missionaries, and IRB church members during this time, and now after an extensive interview process, we are pleased to introduce brother Elias Barbosa da Silva from Maceio as our candidate.



Elias is currently the principle at the John Calvin School in Macieo, where he also serves as an elder. He hopes to complete his tenure

there by the end of the year at which time, Lord willing, we hope to have him begin his new role by January 1st 2016! The Lord has blessed Elias and his wife Deliane with 3 children; Danielle (12), Samara (10), and Matias (18mo).



Much work remains to be done yet in the areas of governance, and implementation. Perhaps it's traditional to have all these elements in place before hiring someone, but the board felt it was important to include the new worker in the planning and development moving forward. Our wish is also to ensure the work is very much "Driven by Brazil" and not orchestrated by North America, so we're pleased to already see an ad-hoc committee working together with brother Elias to establish a course of action. We're excited, and we give thanks to the Lord for His guiding hand in making this new position available to the Mission Field. Please join us in welcoming the Barbosa da Silva family! Please pray for them, and the important work our brother will be

doing as he strengthens the needs of Reformed Education amongst our brothers and sisters in the IRB.

Challenges in Barreiras – Chris Boersema

Please pray for your brothers and sisters of the church at Barreiras. This is probably the smallest IRB congregation in the federation today.

This morning I was torn between wanting to start the morning service as close to the established time as possible (it was already 8:05) and finding wisdom is waiting for more than just 1 sister present to hear God's call to worship and praise Him as the Lord's people united. So a few minutes later the service began with 4 members in the 18 pews. The number of members in this congregation is 4 times that. It would be too much to try to explain the weakness of some and total abandonment of most others.

There are, however, and sadly, many other "very attractive" local "churches"! We hear that they are "more lively", "give more opportunity to be a part of the praise team", "rise faster to leadership", have more festivities..... Are people really seeking God's Word and looking to worship HIM? NO!!!! That is what we are up against.



But the Word of God was preached this morning in Barreiras. His name was glorified, and His people were fed. After the service I went over to sister Severina's house for a visit and cup of coffee. Behind her house live her twin daughters who are members of the church, but haven't been there in over a year. I was able to visit them again and talk about the matters that keep them in rebellion against our Holy God.

There are still many, many more visits, and prayer, to be done in this church community. However, the Church belongs to Christ, and he will nourish, lead, and sustain it till he comes again.

STV Fall 2015 - RELATING, REWARDING AND RELAXING - Rita Visscher

Those 3 words sum up our recent STV trip to Brazil. Our team which consisted of 6 members arrived in Recife on direct flights from Miami. Having looked forward to this trip for almost a year it was hard to believe that we were actually experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of this amazing country.

As a Volunteer Team we were hosted by the Aldeia Training Centre (ATC). This is a 14 acre property where the John Calvin Institute hosts classes, is the home of the Wieske family, has housing chalets and living space for up to 4 seminary students and their families, a caretaker, the Mission-Aid's Hospitality rooms, Pastor Ken's study, dormitory for hosting retreats, and not to forget a few chickens and a wonderful Jersey milk cow. Most of our meals and coffee breaks were provided in our 'accommodation package' and held in the Common Area where we could mingle with the Seminary students, their wives, their children and whoever else was visiting the ATC campus. A splendid time of fellowship.



So what did we do? On the first day of arriving we were introduced to the 'pressure washer'. This noisy little machine was a great help in removing the black mold that tends to grow on stone and concrete, and needs to be removed every few years. Then we learned how to mix 'white-wash'. After having cleared the inside wall surrounding the ATC of prickly bushes we then pressure washed and white washed the whole area. Having left that sparkling clean we moved on to the 'water tower'; the building where Mission-Aid has its guest accommodations, and Rev. Wieske's study. This too, needed to be pressure washed and painted. The results were amazing! We also found curtains that needed to be hung in the Mission-Aid guest rooms. Thanks to Ron, Denise and Mrs. Trudy Wieske they were hemmed and hung to perfection.



Our team member Nadine gave 2 Tutorials on Oral Hygiene, one at the ATC centre and one at the Esther House in Aldeia. (Esther House is refuge home nearby for young girls at risk) Later children's shoes and clothing were distributed to needy families in town. On Wednesday afternoon Denise, Nadine and I participated in a ladies Bible Study with Rachel and Tamara as translators. At the same time the men

