

Women's Conference at the ATC – Ken Wieske

Sisters from a number of Igrejas Reformadas in the northeast of Brazil met at the Aldeia Training Centre for a Women's Conference. There were about 70 women present. Tamara tells me the speeches were great, and the fellowship pleasant and fun. This was all organized by a sister of the Church at Imbiribeira.



The treats they serve at the Women's Conference look delicious. I don't remember having such special drinks and eats at the last men's conference. KW

Coming Soon!

A fresh look Mission Brazil is coming to the supporting churches and YOUR mailbox soon!

The combined boards (Mission Church Aldergrove, Mission Aid, and Aldeia Training Center) have a new website ready to be launched in the upcoming weeks.



Along with that, a poster for your church wall, a handy notepad for each member with a donation key, and a 10 page full colour year end newsletter featuring a crossword puzzle where kids can win a Brazil prize package.



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Skittles & Return of a Familiar Face

Pastor Julius arrived this afternoon in Recife. The Immanuel Church of Edmonton has kindly loaned him for two weeks of teaching Old

Testament exegesis at the Instituto João Calvino. As exciting as that is, our children were more impressed that he came with a large number of bags of Skittles. Tamara was happy that he brought a kitchen tap for the new house. It's a blessing to enjoy this visit of our former co-worker!



Fortaleza – Jim Witteveen

This Saturday and Sunday, Pr. Ken, Pr. Julius, and I travelled to Fortaleza to visit the mission congregation in that city. Fortaleza, a city of nearly 4 million people, is the capital city of the state of Ceará, located 780 km north of Recife. On Saturday evening, we met with a group of Christian homeschooling families who warmly received us and brought up many questions about homeschooling and the calling of parents to bring their children up in the fear of the Lord. As an added bonus, on the way to that meeting, Pastor Ken had the opportunity to share the message of the gospel with our Uber driver!

On Sunday morning, Pr. Ken led the worship service and preached, and Pr. Julius

(who was actively involved



Hard to keep telling people, "No, it's not a vacation," when I post pictures like this on Facebook....

in the life of this congregation for a number of years) presided in the profession of faith of five new communicant members, as well as baptizing a child. It was a joyful experience welcoming these members (young and old) as professing members of Christ's church, and participating in the baptism of a child of the covenant. Following the service, we enjoyed a delicious meal and time of fellowship with the congregation.

Then, on Sunday evening, Pastor Julius led the worship service, the Lord's Supper was celebrated, and I preached the sermon - teamwork! Following the service, we participated in a meeting of the elders and deacons. It was an action-packed visit, and a joy to have a part in what the Lord is doing in the city of Fortaleza!

Londrina – Ken Wieseke

The Church at Londrina has been going through an exciting years-long process of Reformation. They used to be a neo-Pentecostal Church which did not know the gospel. They've been hungrily devouring Reformed literature and studying the Scriptures as they've moved to embrace the Reformed confessions and practice.

One of the areas they're currently working on is Reformed liturgy. They've abandoned the praise teams and fist bumps, and are excited about a return to the ancient liturgy of the Catholic Church.



The Church at Londrina is sending a young man to study at the IJC in February. Here is new seminarian Geraldo and his wife Karen.

Paulista – Ken Wieseke

Last night Pr. Julius VanSpronsen and I were able to witness the reception of the first 8 members of the new Church in Paulista. This is the third Igreja Reformada in the metro Recife area. Pr. Elienai is the church planter. I'm always struck by



how the Lord has blessed many years of work both in the field and on the home front. This work builds on the labours of Rev. Cornelius VanSpronsen, Rev. Meijer, Rev. Venema, and especially Rev. Boersema who was the driving force behind the move to Recife. He had the vision for church plants and an ATC-type training centre many years ago already.

More recently, this work in Paulista is a reminder of how it is never a waste of time to spread the seed of the work. In 2009, Pr. Julius and I made contact with a group of young men who were interested in the Reformed faith. Since we didn't have the resources to start a new Church in that area, we directed them to the nearest Presbyterian Church. Unfortunately, there was no real confessionally Reformed option in the local churches, Presbyterian or otherwise. Some of the men slipped back into the world, and others later started attending weekly Bible studies which we began. These studies later morphed into the beginnings of a small preaching point. Although Pr. Julius laboured tirelessly here, a combination of factors led to us having to stop work on this church plant.

Now, years later, most of the original group of young men is participating in the new Church, and some are already members now. SDG! God guides the work His way, despite our weakness, and often even through our weakness, showing His power and glory.

Mission Focus – Jim Witteveen & Ken Wieseke

Today was the first day of a two-day gathering of missionaries and mission workers at the Aldeia Training Centre.



Today we discussed the history of the Brazilian mission, and the lessons we can learn from that history as we move forward. We enjoyed an excellent and edifying time, and now a number of the more athletic among us are enjoying a rousing game of soccer under the lights! I arrived in Brazil on Tuesday, and will be spending three weeks here -

participating in this conference, visiting some of the mission works that I haven't yet had opportunity to get to know, and continuing to learn a whole lot! The Lord willing, I will be posting more updates here over the coming weeks. JW

So good to sharpen one another and hear many excellent thoughts about how to deal with the "Macedonia phenomenon": many groups and even entire churches or church federations are looking to the Reformed pastors and missionaries for help and support as they abandon unbiblical teachings and practices and begin to embrace the Reformation. KW

Pastors Library Project – Chris Boersema

As you pray for and support Mission Aid Brazil, one of the projects you are also supporting is the "Pastors Library Project!" Here I share with you some words from Pr. Elienai, a Brazilian missionary working in Paulista, PE, about how he has again recently benefitted from this project:



"Books are tools for the pastors. Tools that should help them better serve the Church of Christ. But books are expensive. It had been some time since I have been wanting to acquire this collection on Church History by Daniel-Rops, but the price did not allow me, around R\$1.000,00. But the Lord has granted me brothers and sisters far and near who made this possible."