



# The Maranatha Mission Board

www.missionboardbrazil.org

## **The Mission Board Brazil**

Surrey, BC, January 28, 2012– the Mission Board reports a number of facts about the mission work currently being conducted in Brazil:

### **In Review**

During the Christmas season, both missionary families were able to take time off to rest and rejuvenate for the 2012. As they anticipate another busy year ahead, January also provides a time to consider the year that has now past.

Looking back, 2011 has been a busy year in the mission field, most noticeably with the opening of the John Calvin Institute for theological training at the Aldeia Training Centre, but also:

- Through the new Institute, four students completed their first year of training
- Chris Boersema and his family moved to Brazil to work as a Mission Aid Worker
- Two new preaching points opened up in Recife as well as a new missionary point in Prazeres
- The IRB's relationship with the churches in Londrina and Caruaru were strengthened
- In Fortaleza, there are now three more men in training to be office-bearers
- Both missionaries preached at several conferences, connecting with people from across Brazil
- The Brazilian Psalmody Conference composed several additions to the developing Brazilian Psalter
- Activities and teaching continued at the Reformed Reading Room

As always, the year has brought challenges in addition to blessings. In particular, Rev. Wieske was forced to take time off for stress leave, and is still slowly recovering his strength. In this too, the Mission Board is reminded how much the prayers and praise of the supporting churches can influence God's work in Brazil.

### **Proposed Devolvement**

Last month, the Maranatha council sent out a letter to the councils of all the supporting churches, informing them of Maranatha's decision to devolve from its role as the sending church. As the work in Brazil continues to grow, it has become apparent that the Maranatha church does not have the resources to fully carry out the task as sending church. In order to support the growth in Brazil, an invitation has been extended for other congregations to consider taking on the task. While this is a difficult matter, the Maranatha Council and the Mission Board believe that this too is an expression of God's providence for his church in both Canada and Brazil.

\* For more detailed information on the terms and places mentioned in the press releases, please visit Mission Board's new website: [www.missionboardbrazil.org](http://www.missionboardbrazil.org)

### **About the Mission Board**

The Mission Board was established in 1970 with the mandate to operate the foreign mission program on behalf of the sending church, the Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church in Surrey BC and the supporting churches throughout western Canada and US. Currently two missionaries are actively working in the northeastern part of Brazil, centred in the city of Recife.