

Report about Escola Crista Joao Calvino during September 2009

Dear readers,

At first we would like to apologize for the long time without writing information about our work. The last few months were full of activities and it was hard to concentrate to write our reports. But know that our pleasure in keeping you all informed continue alive in our hearts. We could write one report summarizing what happened in the lasts months, but we preferred to write in details about everything that happened. Soon, we will be updated with the information, because with this practice we are trying each time more develop a relationship with you, so that the name of our school will be present in your prayers. Every day we have learned with the experiences in the Christian-educative process. It looks like being repetitive, but indeed our challenge of teaching with Christ in the center is in double. But at the same time, the pleasure also gets a double taste. It is wonderful when we can see parents and students reflecting and practicing what we are teaching in the light of God's Word.

Accordingly, we would like to start writing about that couple that we remarked in the last report; that couple that had separated, and that Everaldo (our coordinator) resolved to accomplish a close attendance trying to show to them the need of inserting a third person in their relationship.

We know that we shouldn't be enchanted by the promises of people, because the Bible by itself warns us about the deceitful heart and that the repentance must be not only by talking, but also from the heart. And we also know that "it is not by the desire or by the attempt of man, but by the mercy of God.

Everaldo accomplished what he proposed and had lots of talking with those parents. Soon, in the first weeks, the positive result appeared: they returned to leave together at the same house. But the work did not stop there. Everaldo continues to visit that couple together with his wife, Marta. Those parents were convinced by the importance that they represent to their children, but they also learned about the marriage as a Divine institution. They were invited to participate in the worship services and are visiting the church regularly. The women and men societies are mobilized to support them individually and all the church has received them with open arms. We pray that the seed thrown into the heart of this family can find fruitful soil to grow up and produce fruits. We continue watering that seed with our prayers and fertilizing with the love that God gave us.

Opening of the project "Reform of the Faith"



This month we didn't have a collective devotional moment, but instead we had the opening of our project celebrating the Reformation Day. On the opening day, Rev. De Graaf spoke about how the reformed movement had happened. The children had lots of questions, especially about John Calvin.

The project will finish on October 30 with a play about Reformation and all the children will sing “A mighty Fortress”, by Martin Luther. Also the hallway and the staff are in climate of reformation. *(at left the wall with the reformed leaders; at right the 95 thesis by Martin Luther)*



Independence Day of Brazil

The students from Grade 5 accomplished a visitation to the Museum in Memoriam of the Republic so that they could learn a few more about Brazil. Even Alex was excited with the visitation and wanted to stay between the presidents.



Farewell of Karen and Christian (children from Rev. Flavio Jose)

September was a month of farewell. As Rev. Flavio Jose, who worked with us as evangelist moved to Sao Jose da Coroa Grande, their children are not more studying with us. Thus, they together with their teacher accomplished a farewell party. Their little friends were very sad for that, but they make a good use of the last time together.



Taking care of God's world

The students from Grade 3 learned that they must take care of the planet created by God. One of the ways to take care and preserve is not attacking the creation with pollution. Thus, the children learned about the selective garbage collection, knowing that there is garbage which can be reused. This way, they collected during some weeds, the garbage at home and then participated in a visitation to a place that separates the kinds of garbage and to see how works that process.



The children were amazed looking the machine that retract the garbage, but also with the stench from the mountains of garbage there.

Still taking about Creation, they learned about the plants and how they grow up. How wonderful is God giving us such a great diversity in nature!



Consulting

Since some time ago, the Church association worried about the financial organization of the Escola Crista Joao Calvino. How to improve that? How to make the work more effective? After the visitation of the delegates from the Church in Hamilton (Cornerstone Canadian Reformed Church) to our church, in October 2008, this topic got a little bit more attention, because even the Board of Mission was worried about it. The idea was to be as professional as possible. With this in mind, the board of Church Association looked for a professional in consulting to help us in this process. It was made a contact with a well named business consultant in Alagoas, who accomplished some meetings with the Church Association and then, with me as school administrator.

We had an excellent meeting. We discovered that even the way of buying things is not completely right. We learned how we must account and also how must be done the correct banking movement. Also the consultant recommend that the school

could make a little change in its worker structure. Nowadays (September 2009), the school works with a Principal taking care of the general pedagogic aspects and being responsible before the government, an Administrator who takes care of the financial aspects including the staff, and a Pedagogic coordinator who takes care of the teaching. The things with regards to documents (secretariat) are centralized on the administrator. According the consultant, the school must have a general principal, who will take care of all school aspects; a financial coordinator, who will help the general principal in organizing the finances and also in the implementation of the expenditures; and a pedagogic coordinator, who continues doing the same as now. But in this suggestion, the consultant didn't pay attention to the school secretary, in spite of his presence is a legal demand to have a school. We had a talk with him to explain that, so, the suggestion continued the same, being the secretariat things centralized on the figure of the financial coordinator, and so, this worker must be qualified to fulfill the demands to be a school secretary. This structure seems to be exactly equal as the present, but the way showed makes some difference. The general principal must have knowledge of all the financial things in the school, supervising, authorizing spending, supervising the accountability, etc. The financial coordinator would be only the executor of the decisions taken by the principal. The principal also is responsible for supervising and keeping the confessional character of the school, observing all the aspects, including having frequent meetings with the pedagogic coordinator. With regards to this structure proposed by the consultant, the board of Church Association will study it better before taking a decision.

Among the instructions by the consultant, the more detailed one was about the accountability. We had the habit of only ask for the invoice, but the right way in to also ask for a receipt together with the invoice. According him, the receipt prove that that bought was really made to the institution. We agreed with that point and now we are in adaptation. The big problem that we have experienced is that there are lots of people working in shops and supermarkets who don't know how to fulfill a receipt manually. There were moments that I had to fulfill the receipt; there are also lots of shops which don't have the receipt paper. Taking that into consideration, the middle time when I go out rise a lot. The things that I could resolve in 2 hours, now I spent almost the whole afternoon and there were already moments to arrive at night at home. It seems a joke, but I will give you an example.

There was a day to buy simple things: broom, dog food, folders with clips and string. The broom and dog food were bought in a big supermarket (Makro). Maybe the majority of the people of Maceio decided to buy there in that day, because I was in a line per about fifty minutes. After that, I had to go to another line to ask for a receipt in other sector. There was a man in that line who seemed to have bought all the beers from the supermarket, but the worst was that he asked for five different receipts, probably to different people. Because that, I was more 25 minutes waiting for a receipt. I finished that part and had to buy folders with clips. I went to downtown, because there are lots of shops there. I came in three different shops, and only find the folders on the last one. More one line to pay and wait for a receipt. In total, almost one hour only to buy the folders. But I still needed the string. Where to go? I was in downtown, tired of walking and being in lines, so I thought in two shops to find the cord. I went to the first shop, but they don't have string; in the second, also has finished. And now? Will they need that string tomorrow morning? Or can we wait to

buy it another time? No! They will need the string tomorrow morning. I remembered of a third shop to buy it and arriving there finally I found the string, but... they didn't have a receipt! Well, according the consultant, when it is not a very expensive product, it is possible to have our own receipt. So, I did that. I returned back to school about 6.30 p.m. We have to get used to that routine. At first, we only use to go out when it is really necessary and try to do lots of things at the same time, because it is very expensive to go out every time with the kombi whenever we remember to buy something. On the other hand, going out to resolve lots of things at the same time, we spent lots of time, mainly waiting for receipts.

Gradually we become accustomed to the right way of accountability and of banking movement throughout checks, so that we can decrease each time more the cash flow in the school. Salaries, accounts and social taxes are paid directly in the bank with checks. So, the amount of money in the school is minimum.

It is important to try to work each time more rightly so that we can avoid tax problems and foremost to have each time more clarity using the donations from our beloved brothers and sisters.

These information are about September and are available on our website: www.irbmaceio.com.br/ecjc/atividades.php

May the Lord continue blessing us in our responsibilities.

Escola Cristã João Calvino

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