

REPORT ON ESCOLA CRISTA JOAO CALVINO – MARCH 2009

Dear brothers and sisters and readers,

With pleasure we write another report about our beloved Escola Crista Joao Calvino. The first and more turbulent month has gone, and now it seems that the children have adjusted to school. We always see in February, the first month of school that the children come with lots of energy to waste, but also with lots of excitement to see their old friends, teachers and also to get to know the new students. February is a month to organize and settle things, but everything was good, thanks to God.

Collective and Devotional Moment

In March we started with our Collective and Devotional Moment. It was a very rainy Monday and some students didn't come to school, but was a very edifying and encouraging moment, in which Pastor Flávio brought us the message about the wise man who built his home on the rock and the fool man who built his home on the sand. The children also really enjoyed the message.



Some Grades

During the month, the children accomplished many activities. Below you can see some work accomplished by them. The children from Grade 2, during the Arts lessons, created photo frames with their pictures when younger. They were very pleased with the result. Below you can see the children from grade 3 drawing during an Arts lesson.



Children in the Worship service

As we had mentioned in a previous report, each grade is allowed to take a turn participating in the worship service. On March 15, it was Grade One's turn to do so. Unfortunately, only a few children came to church, but the children who were there sang a hymn after the worship service. The parents who were present were very happy to see their children singing. Pastor Abram developed the sermon very instructive for all, including the children. The message was on Psalm 8. The staff also sang a hymn. Normally, after that kind of activity, teachers talk to children about the worship asking them if they understood the preaching.



Elias' Graduation

This was also a very special month to our administrator Elias. He had already finished his university studies in December '08, but he was waiting for the most anticipated day: the graduation ceremony. The ceremony was very simple but very moving. Elias was the orator representing the students and in his discourse he could exalt the effort invested by all the students to reach their goals, thanking to the Lord because He is taking care of everything.



Escola Cristã João Calvino – “for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

Galatians 6.7b

Sometimes we are astonished by the unbelievable things happening around us. Just some time ago, we thought that certain things just happened in the movies and that the news on TV was very far away from us. But that was wrong, because each time again, the corruption of the humankind is manifested. And where God is not on the centre, the evil persists with power. In our reports we don't have the intent to be sensationalists, but we want to tell the facts as they are. We do not do this to build up or to make evil more evident, but so that God will be given the right honor and glory because even between adversities, He shows His power.

When we set out to work with Christian Education, we were sure that we were engaged in a good work. Each day this is confirmed and strengthened. At each talk with the parents, we perceive how much God has blessed those few families who are in Escola Cristã João Calvino.

This time we will tell the history of this little butterfly who studied with us from 2005 to 2007.

Her name is Geisiane. She was a student that came here with some difficulty, which were surpassed with the time. She always liked to participate in church's activities and used to go to pre-teenagers class and some time went to the worship. After moving to another neighborhood, her mother still sometimes took her to the church, but had not done so for a long time. 2007 was the last year Geisiane was in our school and at the end of the school year she told us she was thankful to have studied in our school. She also received a Bible as a gift.



Normally, in the following year, parents come to school to ask for some school documentation, but the mother of Geisiane didn't appear to do that and the tests of Geisiane remained with us. But, in the beginning of this year, when we were having our educational week, we received an unexpected visit. Geisiane's mother came to us. Célia, with lots of affinity, as usual, received Mrs. Maria, mother of Gesiane saying: “Woman, it is about time that we see each other again, isn't? The tests of Geisiane are still here. How are you doing?” Mrs. Maria initially smiled, but suddenly she cried and said: “the things are not good in my home.” Célia wisely guided Mrs. Maria to her room and talked with her to learn what was happening. Mrs. Maria said that last year was the worst year of her life, because her son was murdered inside of her home! Celia was astonished. Mrs. Maria's son was drug user and had some enemies. After his death, Mrs. Maria lost her pleasure to live and is depressed. She cannot accept her son's death and she feels guilty. She thinks that she was not a good mother, because she kept him home fearing that he might meet with other addicted boys. And she would become very nervous when her son went to parties with his friends. She mentioned that she used to pray to God asking Him to protect her son. After her son's death she felt that she was very hard on him and didn't love him as she should.

During the conversation she was very nervous and Celia didn't want her to leave the school with those feelings. Celia started to talk about God and His providence in our lives and about His Salvation Plan to His sons, showing that lots of things can happen in our lives, but

nothing is out of the God's control. Celia also told Mrs. Maria she should not feel guilty, because she acted as any mother would act to protect their son. But Mrs. Maria was very indignant and did not want to know about God.

So Celia read Psalm 40 with her, showing her that when David was troubled he came with faith to God and God heard him and always took care of him. During this, Mrs. Maria became calm and started to remember of good things that happened to her after that terrible moment of her life. She talked about her daughter Geisiane. "She always tries to strengthen me with words of consolation and she is always reading the Bible to me, asking me to trust in the Lord and deliver all my worries to Him", said Mrs. Maria crying.

Geisiane opened the Bible to her mother showing how the people of God also suffered, but at the end God always showed His power and care. She also invited her mother to pray. We think this is incredible and wonderful, because what Geisiane learned about God's Word, she remembered. We were amazed, because we perceived how God's Word can work, even through a child.

At the beginning of this story we wrote the text in Galatians about sowing and gathering. In our teaching we are more assured each time how important it is that the Word has to be sowed in children's heart and the growth will come from God, in the moment that He wants. We also learned that growth is accomplished over time. There is no need for us to wish that the seeds planted will become trees over night. We must sow the Word and water with prayers, so that the growth can come by the Holy Spirit of God.

We were very happy and strengthened with that story of Geisiane. We know that is very hard for Geisiane's mother to surpass this trouble, but we also know that God works in the middle of the tribulation.

May God continue to bless us.

This report is also available on:

www.irbmaceio.com.br/ecjc/atividades.php

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