

Tom and Jean McCracken
Missionaries to Brazil



Missions Focus: The Association of Churches of God in Amazônia has invited the veteran missionaries back to Brazil to teach at Boa Terra Theological Institute in Itaituba. Boa Terra Norte, led by Pastors Oreste and Marlene Greiner, is a daughter school of Boa Terra in Curitiba, in southern Brazil.

The current assignment, for the second half of 2011, is to teach “The Gospels,” “Pastoral Letters,” “Apocalyptic Literature,” “Reformation Movement History,” “Daily Life in Palestine During Jesus’ Ministry,” “Natural Church Development,” “Religions of Humanity,” “The Life and Times of Paul,” and “Team Leadership,” and to mentor the beginning ministers.

Leadership education for ministry was begun in Amazônia by Bill and Betty Mottinger in the mid-1970s with T.E.E. (theological education by extension). Boa Terra Norte was organized in August 2000. Boa Terra had been established by Maurice and Dondeena Caldwell teaming with Nelson and Adelaide Junges in the early 1970’s.

The McCracken’s began their missionary service in Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada in 1967, and worked in the team that established Diego Martin Church near Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. In 1974, they moved to Brazil. In the late 1970s, Jean and Tom taught for three semesters at Boa Terra in Curitiba. In the 1980’s, they were members of the Brazilian-American church-planting team in Sao Paulo Advance. Later, working in Brazil’s Northeast Region, they also taught intensive courses in Curitiba and in Itaituba while focusing on team building, T.E.E., and Jesus Disciples School in Natal.

Tom and Jean, during their time in the Portuguese-speaking half of South America, were mainly involved in teamwork with Brazilian church planters. After Wycliffe Bible Translators in Amazônia gave the Church of God movement a three-acre site adjoining their base at Belém, the Greiner family and the McCracken’s shared a home on the base. In the early 1990s, the team established the Belém church and, in cooperation with Cincinnati’s Dayspring Church, the Belém Helping Hand Child Care Ministry.

Since mid-2006, they have lived in Strasburg, Ohio and participate in the New Philadelphia church pastured by Matt Roe and Louise Worsham.

Project # 42.11447

Birthdays:

Tom July 23; Jean July 4

Anniversary: October 4, 1956

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