

International Reformed Theological College



Newsletter August 2010

From the President

R. Boersema

On October 17, 2000 Dr. Paulo Anglada, elder Solano Portela and Rev. Ralph Boersema (with the commitment of five other Reformed leaders who could not be present) met in São Paulo and organized an association that founded the International Reformed Theological College to provide online Bible training for Portuguese-speakers around the world. As we approach our tenth anniversary we are most grateful to the Lord for many good developments. In 2004 the College was incorporated in Virginia, a state with educational legislation amenable to our project. Although we do not have any full-time staff, we have been blessed with fifteen part-time instructors who have prepared 42 courses. For nine years we have provided sound Reformed teaching and in 2009 the IRTC enrolled 51 students. We further give thanks for a small core group of supporters whose donations have meant much for the school, even though we have never yet come close to meeting our very

modest budget (USD\$61,000.00 for 2010). Because we have generally met only about one third of our budget, we exalt our Covenant Lord for providing a wonderful staff of committed people who accomplish their work even when no gratuities are forthcoming. This year there is a new development for which we praise the Lord, but that also confronts us with our biggest problem. In previous years we had only part-time students, but now we have five who are taking a full load. This makes it urgent to develop the remaining 31 courses for our Bachelor of Christian Studies and Master of Divinity programs. To attend to this we really need to meet our budget this year, so that instructors can set aside time for this teaching, being able to count on appropriate compensation for the work. Without such support, a number of instructors cannot take time from other income-generating activities in order to prepare a course for the IRTC. Would you join us in praying for this provision?

Moving Forward in Faith

Harold J. Ludwig

Development Director - Canada

Shortly after retiring from fulltime work, I contacted the IRTC in response to a newsletter request looking for a volunteer to help out the organization with some development work. Earlier this year I agreed to become the Development Director for Canada on a volunteer basis. When you take on a new responsibility, you don't always realize what may be involved or how much time it could take. As with so many things in life, there's always more that can be done. This enterprise is no exception.

Part of my responsibility involves promoting the aims and objectives of the college as well as working on fundraising initiatives. As with most fundraising initiatives of this kind, it's important to have charitable status so that tax receipts can be issued. Since this is not currently the case, trying to obtain this is high on the list of priorities.

Work is underway to set up a society for Canada (the IRTC is already registered as a charitable organization in the USA), get it incorporated and apply for charitable status. This process can take a while, especially when doing

it on a volunteer basis, without using the services of specialists in this area. Thankfully I am getting guidance from a qualified legal person who deals with this kind of thing on a regular basis. If all goes according to plan, and the applications are approved, we should be able to issue receipts by the early part of 2011.

Those of you who've read these newsletters in the past, know of the needs and work of this organization and the fact that it operates on a very modest budget. Considering the importance of this work in enabling Portuguese students all over the globe to acquire Reformed theological training, it's my objective to help broaden the base of support for the college.

For the Canadian/American Reformed Churches, this week is going to be a busy one here in the Fraser Valley of BC in terms of the mission work in Brazil. In connection with the Sixth International Mission Aid Conference being held from August 12-14 in the Willoughby Heights Canadian Reformed Church, the two missionaries in attendance, Rev. K. Wieske and Rev. J. VanSpronsen

will be giving presentations on their work on two separate evenings in local churches here. I encourage you to attend one of these sessions if you can.

One of the topics up for discussion at the conference is the matter of theological seminary developments in China, W. Timor, and Brazil. Considering the fact that Rev. J. VanSpronsen is also a board member of the IRTC, I hope that the possibility of some kind of collaboration is at least a topic for discussion as well. Almost ten years of experience with online training through IRTC should provide for some interesting perspectives at least. Lets hope and pray that scarce resources will be used wisely and prudently to achieve the best possible results. Above all, we recognize that the Lord will bless all faithful efforts to advance the cause of the gospel across the globe in His time and in His way.

How can you help our efforts?

- spread the word by copying this newsletter to friends and relatives and acquaintances (or send their

email addresses to us and we'll send them a copy)

- learn more about the IRTC by going to the English-language website at www.pro-rege.net.
- make some copies of the newsletter and hand them out to those who may not have computers (ask for permission first if you're going to do this in your church)
- make a contribution to assist with this ministry. You can do this in one of two ways: go online to the website and donate (www.pro-rege.net) or send a cheque to the following address: International Reformed Theological College (IRTC), 70 Pace Drive, Bristol, VA, USA, 24201

In the next newsletter we hope to feature a couple of interviews with one of the instructors and one of the board members.

If you have any questions or feedback on what's been written here or for more information or you want to be on our mailing list, don't hesitate to contact me at development@pro-rege.net.

International Reformed Theological College (IRTC)

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Visit our website at www.pro-rege.net