



IRTC

INTERNATIONAL
REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

AUGUST 2020

We continue to grow to the honor and glory of God!

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
— 2 Corinthians 4.16-18 (ESV)

We take comfort in knowing that nothing compares to the glory that awaits us. Paul went through situations that seemed impossible to bear. He endured everything because his life was built on a solid foundation. His eyes were fixed on the goal of his life which was Christ! Paul trusted that all things, good or bad, contributed to transforming him into the image of his Redeemer. This attitude encourages us to move forward. So, let's continue onward!

Introductions—New appointments

This edition introduces three new appointees in our institution. **Professor Ricardo Cesar Toniolo** is the new coordinator of the Department of Exegetical Studies. In his own words:

Dear students and teachers,

I am married to Sara and father to João Pedro; I have been a Presbyterian minister since 2000, a graduate from the 'Rev. José Manoel da Conceição' Presbyterian Seminary, with a master's in Old Testament from the Centro Presbiteriano de Pós-Graduação Andrew Jumper [Andrew Jumper Center for Higher Learning] and in Language Arts from the Mackenzie Presbyterian University. At present, I am pursuing doctoral studies in the Bible as literature, at the same university and am also doing a research project in this field. Since 2009 I have been a professor at the Rev. George Anderson Landes Presbyterian Biblical Institute, in Botucatu, of which today I am also the director. I have



Rev. Ricardo, his wife Sara and their son, Pedro

been a professor in the Long Distance course of Biblical Theology at CPAJ, since 2012. Currently I pastor the First Presbyterian Church in Botucatu.

In 2016 I had the great pleasure of being invited to teach Covenant Theology and Hebrew at the IRTC. I regard it as a privilege and a great responsibility to cooperate in forming other elders, both teaching and ruling, as well as other brothers and sisters engaged in leadership in the Body of Christ.

I would like to thank the Board for the trust and for the opportunity to serve now also as coordinator, and I hope that by the grace of God I can meet their expectations. I praise God for our brother Rev. José João de Paula, for the years the Lord granted that his servant be among us in this position, contributing to theological education in many institutions, as well as pastoring the church and serving in missions. My desire for all my brothers and sisters, students, teachers and all IRTC staff, is that they may receive the richest blessings and that together we may magnify the name of God, working for His Kingdom.

Professor Ricardo Cesar Toniolo

Professor Marcello de Aguiar Tavares is our newest instructor for Introduction to Psychology.

Born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, he graduated in Psychology from the University of the State of Minas Gerais (UEMG). He took up clinical practice and lectured in both the field of Psychology and of Philosophy. He graduated in Theology from the “Rev. Denoel Nicodemos Eller” Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in Belo Horizonte, MG where he also teaches Psychology. He pastors the First Presbyterian Church in Lagoa da Prata, MG. Married to Danielle, he has two daughters, Marcelle and Mellina.

Regarding the Introduction to Psychology course, his teaching follows an approach of critical studies, above all subject to both Scripture and Reformed confessionality.

Professor Alexandre Ribeiro Lessa is the new coordinator for the Department of Systematic Theology.

With a Bachelor’s of Theology degree from ‘Reverendo José Manoel da Conceição’ Presbyterian Theological Seminary, he also has degrees in Business Administration and Philosophy. He holds advanced degrees in higher education teaching and in Christian education, as well as other studies concerning active teaching methodologies. He has a Master’s degree and a Doctorate in “Memory Studies: Language and Society” and is currently working on his Master’s in Theology at the Andrew Jumper Center, SP.

He is married to Laiza, father to João Guilherme and Maria Ester. He is a minister of the Word and of the sacraments of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB), currently serving the Covenant Presbyterian Church, in Vitória da Conquista, BA.

Prof. Alexandre Lessa belongs to a family with a history of Christian service that also includes education and church planting. The church that he currently pastors, in the interior of the Brazilian state of Bahia, is fruit of his church planting ministry.



Rev. Marcello, his wife Danielle, Marcelle e Mellina

Join us in prayer for these challenges:

As the date in which the IRTC concludes 20 years of service to the Lord quickly approaches, we call all our readers to pray with us for the many great challenges ahead:

- That we may fulfill our mission with increasing quality and efficiency, given that there is a great growth in the number of new students and demand for courses.
- That we may obtain grace from the Lord, to be blessed with new donors, especially amidst the world crisis set off by the pandemic, so that we may attain our financial goals and meet our budget for 2020.
- That we may glorify God with the celebrations of our 20th anniversary, currently restricted by COVID-19.
- That we may reach our first students in other countries, beyond the 15 or so already reached.
- That we may be led by God as we put together the new study program in the area of Missiology, that is being developed by a work group appointed by the Board of Directors.

*“Till now the Lord has helped us.”
— 1 Samuel 7:12b*



Rev. Alexandre and his wife, Laiza



Questions, comments? newsletter@irtc.online.

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