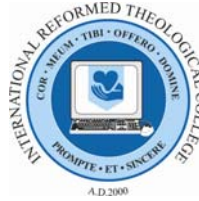


# INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



**An online college that teaches in Portuguese ([www.pro-rege.net](http://www.pro-rege.net))**

**We are looking for supporters for this ministry which provides Reformed theological education to students in Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, and worldwide, students who do not live near a seminary and cannot move away to go to a traditional college.**

**December, 2012 Newsletter**

*“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him” (Psalm 28:7).*

## **Thanksgiving**

The theme of this newsletter is the thanks we rejoice to give to the Lord. We thank him for the high privilege of being his spokespeople, seeking to faithfully teach his ways. We give thanks that we (among others) may be instruments for equipping church leaders everywhere among Portuguese-speaking believers—only by the grace of our Lord. Out of the multitude of divine gifts for which we are grateful, I select the following: students, instructors, partners, and supporters.

We bow with thanksgiving before our God because in 2012 he increased the number of students that pursue biblical studies at the IRTC with some 24 new registrations. These students seek us out because of the faithful teaching of 13 dedicated instructors. For all of the teachers the challenge is great, because their schedules are already overloaded with full-time ministry responsibilities, either in a pastorate or in teaching (and often both). In spite of the pressures on the instructors, the students generally find the teaching to be very edifying. Allow me to illustrate this with a student comment about Dr. Frans Schalkwijk, our history professor. She writes:

Church history without him would just not be the same. I am suffering greatly with the effort it takes to be enriched by the contents he makes available.

CONGRATULATIONS to the IRTC with your teaching staff! I am just so happy to have the opportunity and blessing of studying here.

## **Conferences**

God has richly blessed us with some enthusiastic students who promote the College in their churches, on Facebook and on websites. I make special mention of Mrs. Sara Leite who greatly exerts herself to give publicity to the IRTC. This past year she promoted the College at some four conferences. One that she attended, together with her husband, was a conference in Portugal, organized by FIEL Publishing, a Reformed Baptist ministry in the spirit of the Banner of Truth Trust. The following is a section from her report:



We were very well received by the Portuguese brothers and sisters. . . . [Some] treated us like royalty. . . . In the conference, the highlight was Rev. João Marcelino, from the Presbyterian Church of Manaus [Brazil], principally the first speech. . . on the fear of the Lord. . . . We will not be good parents, good spouses, good theologians, good teachers, good scholars, and good leaders, if we don't have the fear of God. . . . The IRTC enjoys a good reputation among the Portuguese. I had a new banner made and new leaflets, in the colors of the Portuguese flag, which made a good impression. . . . May our Lord Jesus Christ be served by using the IRTC teaching via the Internet to the increase of his Kingdom!

Besides this conference in Portugal and two much larger ones in Brazil, FIEL also organizes annual conferences in Mozambique. When we shared the thanksgiving of our Japanese student in our last newsletter, a brother from Mozambique wrote the following to Evanilton in Japan:

I join you in your thanksgiving. I would like to say that every day I feel the same as you do. I think I'll never leave this college until I have studied everything the college has to offer. At the last conference we had here in Mozambique. . . there was much admiration when I made an announcement about the College and distributed a few folders.. . I have received several messages from persons who have visited the IRTC site and were amazed. I never thought that we could have a school like this nearby. . . , but that is how God is.

### **Partnerships**

We rejoice in two new partnerships this year. The first is the International Reformed Theological College Society. Friends of the IRTC in Canada organized this society in order to raise funds for the College. This allows Canadian donors to receive charitable receipts that are recognized by Revenue Canada. Our hearty thanks go out to these friends and we pray that our Lord may move many hearts in Canada to contribute to our ministry. Contact information for this society is posted on the "Donations" page on our website (see address in the letterhead).

We are also partnering with the above-mentioned FIEL Publishing ministry, particularly with regard to a leadership training program they offer. Students in their leadership courses can transfer credits received to the IRTC. Also, FIEL and the IRTC have agreed to provide publicity for each other's ministries and courses.

### **2013**

We close out 2012 in a spirit of gratitude to our heavenly Father. He has grown our student body. He supplied courage and encouragement to our instructors, who are persevering in faithfulness to the Biblical truth and in teaching their courses. Our God has also blessed us with higher receipts this year. By the beginning of December we have received almost 50% of our modest budget of USD\$80,500. Although we still have quite a way to go, we give thanks that our receipts have increased significantly compared to other years and that our instructors are so committed to this college that they are willing to go without, if necessary. .

Looking forward to 2013, we want to share important financial challenges with you. First, we will need to make up any budget shortfall from 2012. There are also other needs that we have been postponing year after year and these are becoming urgent. We need funds to develop a teacher training program. There are information technology services that can no longer be left waiting and there are many administrative matters that need attention. A far more appropriate annual budget for our school would be USD\$250,000. Please join us in praying for better funding and please contact us if you can help. Dear loving supporters, we thank your heavenly Father for you.

Ralph Boersema, president.