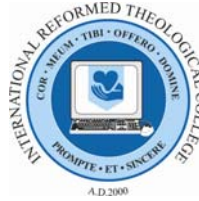


# INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



**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.**

**July, 2012 Newsletter**

*"... To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion. . . [2] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you" (1 Peter 1:1-2).*

## **Higher Education Around the World**

The IRTC has students in Portuguese-speaking countries such as Brazil and Mozambique. It is also privileged to minister to Portuguese-speaking Christians in dispersion and that is our topic for this newsletter. There are large populations in the United States and Canada that have origins in the Portuguese language. Three IRTC students and two instructors live in the USA, while there are one instructor and one student in Canada. Students in these communities looking for Reformed higher education, if their English skills are still limited, have no better option for Reformed higher education than the IRTC.

It may surprise you to learn that there is also a Brazilian immigrant population in Japan. In 1908 the first Japanese immigrated to Brazil, and now the largest number of people of Japanese extraction living outside of Japan is in Brazil (about 1.5 million). In return, there are now some 275,000 Brazilians living in Japan. Thus I introduce to you our first student in Japan, Evanilton Pinto da Silva Santos. I will let him speak for himself.

## **A Word from Japan**



I would like to share with all how happy I am to be studying at the IRTC. I left my parents' home at age 18 with a dream of graduating from a good college, with a degree in theology. However, my circumstances did not allow for this. I did several courses of study, but I did not manage to graduate from a good seminary. I have been in Japan almost ten years and am the pastor of the Assembly of God, "Light for the Way," in Oizumi-Machi. Today it would not be possible for me to interrupt everything in order to attend a residential seminary, but I had never lost the hope that one day I might be able to study in a serious school, with good instructors and that would have a good reputation and be known for genuinely Biblical teaching.

I learned about the IRTC from friends who are seminary students living in Brazil. According to them, the IRTC is the only recommendation made by Reformed pastors and professors for those who do not have access to a residential seminary. I decided to enter into contact with the College administration. Immediately I loved the attention I received from the president, professor Ralph Boersema. After I began the studies I had no doubts about my decision. The quality of the theological content, the good instructors and, to my surprise, the friends I am making, even though this is a distance education college, are sufficient reasons to be satisfied with this college. I thank God for the IRTC and hope to take maximum advantage of it and learn much. Studying here will certainly be a blessing for my walk with God and for the edification of the church that is under my care. Many thanks to all who form this family.



In Christ,  
Evanilton Santos,  
Oizumi, Japan,  
May 2012

### **A Historic Movement**

There is a remarkable resurgence of the Reformed faith around the world. This historic movement is flourishing in countries such as China and also in Brazil. In this country the movement was promoted in the last 30 years by a small minority of Brazilian Evangelicals who remained true to the foundations on which the country was evangelized in the second half of the 1800's. These received support and encouragement from some Reformed missionaries: Presbyterian, Baptist, Continental Reformed and others. The number of these missionaries was also small, but, working together with Brazilians, they are now being blessed by the Lord to see noteworthy growth in interest in the teachings and commitments championed in the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Publications, conferences, theological training programs, and the Internet are among the instruments the Lord is using to energize this movement. The IRTC gratefully honors all the godly laborers in this movement, among whom are our instructors and through whom most of our students are encouraged to study with us. We are privileged to be part of this historic movement.

### **IRTC Supporters**

We also give thanks for the participation in this expansion of the Reformed faith by you who support our educational ministry. We rejoice in the knowledge that you are joining us in prayer to the Father of lights and for the financial contributions. Most schools like ours receive 20% of their funding from student fees and 80% from others. For the IRTC, this year the donations are higher than other years. Nevertheless, student fees still make up 35% of our receipts and donations, 65%. We have now received about USD\$17,000 of our annual budget of USD\$80,500, which means that we are still not on track to meet our budget. If you are able to help, please visit the "Donations" page on our site for information about how to make your contributions and please distribute this newsletter to your family, friends and church. May God surround you and all his children with protection and boundless grace.

Ralph Boersema, president