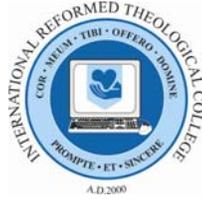


INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



An online college that teaches in Portuguese (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.

June, 2013 Newsletter

“You remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God,” (1 Thess. 2:9).

Overtime Workers

Many, many churches worldwide rely on “tentmaking” ministers to pastor their congregations. While Paul followed this pattern in order not to hurt the progress of the Good News by opening himself up to the accusation that he was preaching in order to gain money from his listeners, many preachers (and their churches) today face such economic deprivation that their only option is for their pastor to work in some other profession while they are also engaged in ministry. It may be difficult for Christians in affluent countries to imagine this necessity. However, it is crucial to the expansion of the Kingdom of God around the world.

I greatly admire many IRTC students who pursue their studies under the same conditions. They work full-time to support their families and rejoice to find in the IRTC the possibility to deepen their studies in the Scriptures. Our college allows them to receive an education in Reformed theology without having to move away or leave their jobs. Let me tell you about how some students do this and what they say about the IRTC and the blessings they receive through our educational and missionary ministry. Please keep them in your prayers and reflect on how you may be able to help maintain this ministry on which they depend.

How Our Students Manage



Nivaldo Gouveia Furtado is a geologist in the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, working for Petrobras, the famous state-owned oil company. He is married, has three children, and belongs to a Baptist church. This is his first year at the IRTC and he does his studies during his lunch hour and in the evening after working eight hours in his profession. Nivaldo writes, “The IRTC dropped down from heaven. When I no longer had any hope of finding an institution of pure theological teaching I discovered the IRTC, which provides me with a Biblical theology. The fact that it is via the web allows me to organize my time so as to cover my obligations towards my company and my family, among others. It dropped down from heaven.”

Genésio Antonio Dall'Agnol is a barber, supporting his wife and five children in Chapecó, in Santa Catarina, the southernmost state in Brazil. Since enrolling in the IRTC last year he has completed 6 courses, managing to do his coursework between customers, and sometimes

at night, accomplishing his studies in addition to spending 48 hours weekly at his profession. He remarks, "It has been gratifying to study at this college. The instructors with whom I have had classes so far have been attentive, willing to serve, and always ready to clear up doubts and also to guide me with regard to my errors."



Anderson Morais Ikena lives in Isesaki-shi, Gunma, Japan. Not yet married, he works 55 hours a week in an automobile factory and studies about three hours each evening from Monday to Saturday and even some early mornings. "Studying theology has always been a dream. I have found in the IRTC an institution with quality instruction and which gives me the advantage of being able to study within the time constraints I have and in the comfort of my own home. The IRTC is permitting me to make my dream concrete".

Bonifacio Alberto Muahiroua, from Nampula, Mozambique, entered the IRTC just this year and has completed one course. He is married and the couple has three children. His day job keeps him busy 44 hours a week and he does his studies in the evening after 5 o'clock. He says, "I have completed only one course, but I sure enjoy studying at the IRTC, even though it takes much work."



João Marcos F. Vasconcelos is an evangelist and a journalist who lives with his wife and three children in Salvador, Brazil. His activities keep him so busy that he can do only some studies late at night. Nevertheless, he is very positive about what the IRTC has meant for him: "IRTC, a precious instrument in my life and in that of all who need this college for the perfecting of their faith and ministerial training, even though they cannot interrupt their remunerated activities during their studies. I have been richly blessed through this work in my personal life and in the work of the Lord. I call special attention to the faculty, who bring knowledge, faithfulness to the Scriptures, and godliness, by which we are truly blessed."

Appeal for Support

We do not send out many newsletters, nor many appeals for support. Nevertheless, please be aware that our need is ongoing and urgent. Our current operating budget for 2013 is USD\$66,500 and our receipts through June are about USD\$23,000. We are encouraged and hopeful that the Lord may graciously raise up enough new support to allow us to meet this minimal budget this year. However, we point out that, especially in the areas of administration and information technology, the College is struggling greatly and leaving undone many very important matters. This is keeping us from becoming a truly viable school. The answer is to have two full-time persons to carry this missionary and educational ministry forward. Before that can happen, we need to have enough financial partners to raise another USD\$100,000 annually. Further, we continue to pray for the possibility to develop a full-fledged program for training teachers for elementary and secondary education from Biblical perspectives. We urgently appeal to you, our readers, can you help us? Please persevere in prayer, distribute this letter far and wide and help find brothers and sisters who would desire to help financially. Please also remember our instructors and students who face so many challenges. A visit to the "Donations" page on our website will provide all the information necessary for making a financial contribution.

Ralph Boersema, president

P.S. A personal note: I thank the Lord for www.redeemerbroadcasting.org. RB