



# INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Bristol, VA, [www.pro-rege.net](http://www.pro-rege.net)

**An online college that teaches in Portuguese**

**We seek 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.**

## January 2015 Newsletter

### Unwavering Life-Time Resolutions

As the year 2015 begins, many are making new year's resolutions. While just a teenager, out of a desire to be faithful and holy to God in ministry, Jonathan Edwards made a resolutions list. Today he is known as one of the greatest preachers and theologians of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote 70 purpose statements or resolutions that would guide the course of his life.

The preamble of his resolutions said, "*Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat Him, by His grace, to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake....*"

His first four resolutions helped focus every detailed decision of his life to be defined by that which glorifies God the most. "*Resolved, That I will do whatsoever I think to be most to the glory of God...*"

On a daily basis, Edwards considered the brevity of his life and said, "*Lord, stamp eternity on my eyeballs.*" He didn't want to waste his day on trivialities. "*Resolved, never to lose one moment of*

*time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.*" (5<sup>th</sup> resolution) Time doesn't go back. Our days are numbered. "*Resolved, never to do any thing, which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.*" (7<sup>th</sup> resolution)

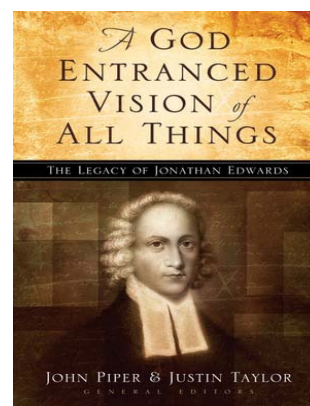
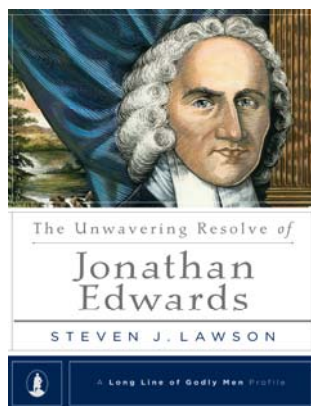
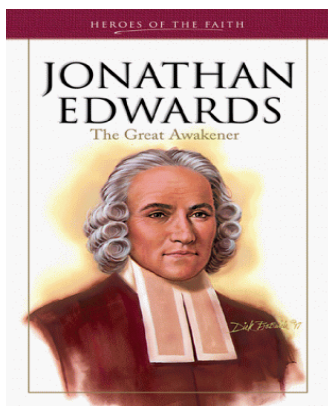
We all know that the Christian path is thorny, so it is encouraging to keep in mind Edward's 10<sup>th</sup> resolution. "*Resolved, when I feel pain, to think of the pain of martyrdom, and of hell.*" Our trials, challenges and disappointments cannot be compared to the sufferings of those who died violently for their Christian faith or with the torment of souls in hell.

May the Lord help us this year to be resolute in doing His will and living for His glory. With each new day, may we live with an eternal perspective. As trials come, may we gaze upon His amazing grace knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing. By His grace, we too can have unwavering life-time resolutions.

You can read the 70 resolutions of Jonathan Edwards at this website:

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/edwards/works1.i.iii.html>

Here are some books about the life and vision of Jonathan Edwards:



## **Birthday Wishes**



We want to wish Prof. Ralph Boersema a happy birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month.

We are thankful for his dedicated service to the Lord and for the administrative work he does as the president of the IRTC.

His example, academic experience and kindness encourage the students, teachers and staff of the IRTC to serve the Lord better.

May the God of all grace continue to use him and to empower him to accomplish His plans in 2015!

## **IRTC Student Testimony** by Pastor Gilberto de Souza



The first exposure I had to reformed theology was in 2007 while reading the Systematic Theology of Louis Berkhof. I had never studied confessional theology before and felt like I was a “fish out of water”. From that moment on, I decided to look for a college that would meet my personal and spiritual need in the pursuit of truth. It was then that I found the IRTC (International Reformed Theological College) and started to better understand theology with a genuine biblical perspective. The benefits from these studies have reflected positively not only in my personal/spiritual life but also in my ministry in the Christian community.

## **Opening of the 2015 Academic Year**

Our new academic year will start on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Here is the list of courses that will be offered in the first module: Apologetics, Hermeneutics, Gospels, Prophetic Books, History of the Early Church, Missiology, and Westminster Standards. This month the students will be planning their schedule and choosing their courses. Please, remember to pray for our students around the world who are having to organize their studies around work, ministry, and family.

## **How to Support Us**

Please pray for us and consider making a donation to help the IRTC continue to provide solid theological teaching for Christian leadership worldwide. If you would like to make a donation, visit the “Donations” page on our website ([www.pro-rege.net/ds14.htm](http://www.pro-rege.net/ds14.htm)). There you will find all the information necessary for making a financial contribution in the USA. Canadian donors, please make your donations at [www.irtcsociety.ca](http://www.irtcsociety.ca). We hope to be able to inform you about our 2015 budget in our next newsletter. In the meantime, we call your attention to the fact that regular monthly contributions are very helpful for our financial planning. As Hudson Taylor once said, “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”

Clovis Alexandre Oliveira  
IRTC Student