



# INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

TEACHING REFORMED THEOLOGY ONLINE  
TO PORTUGUESE SPEAKERS WORLDWIDE

Newsletter

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

Bristol, VA – March/2016

*“Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord God of hosts;  
let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.” (Psalm 69:6 ESV)*

## Prayer of the Lord's Servant

*Pastor Frans Leonard Schalkwijk*

**When David sang psalm 69, he was probably being pursued by King Saul.** A small group of outlaws and refugees, who depended on David's leadership and protection, formed around him. But how could he make it? He felt so weak... So he prayed: *“Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord God of hosts;”*

In this prayer, David points to a triangle of three people: The Lord, those who hope in Him, and David himself. He knows that many wait on God expecting a blessing (not so much from him but from the LORD). He knows that God also wants to use him to help meet the needs of these friends. He also knows that those who seek God in prayer must ground themselves in the promises of the FAITHFUL ONE and wait in faith for the help of the Supreme General of heavenly hosts.

As we read this March newsletter we have just finished experiencing Good Friday, the day of the death of the dear Lamb of God. Therefore, we should realize that this Psalm of David has a secret, for it is a so-called “Messianic Psalm” which points to the promised Messiah – the great Servant of God, the Savior. See for example verse 9, “For

*zeal for your house has consumed me” (Jn 2:17) and verse 21, “They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.” (Mt 27:34,48) We do not know exactly what psalms the Lord Jesus prayed during those terrible hours on the cross. We do know for certain that he said Psalm 22, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Everything indicates that the Messiah had also been comforted by the lament of Psalm 69 – a petition of hope that the Holy Spirit breathed in the ears of the prophets (1 Peter 1:11).*

The Lord Jesus did not only pray for Himself. Toward the end of this same Psalm, He prayed for us also, that our hearts may revive, rejoicing in our Savior. In verse 32, He tells the afflicted and those who seek God to rejoice. He prays, *“Let your hearts revive.”* Discouraged? Don't be! For the joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10)! Therefore, especially during these weeks, may we remember His suffering for us and let us pray to Him for this biblical revival as we sing:

*Revive Your Church, Oh blessed Savior!  
Give it Your full grace, Oh, renew its  
vigor. Revive, revive our souls, Oh Lord!  
Revive, revive our souls, Oh Lord!*

Not only this, for Christ also prayed with David, *“Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord God of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.”* The second Adam endured everything on the cross for our sake, for your sake and for my sake!

Now, if the great SERVANT of the LORD prayed like this how much more ought we, His lesser servants! Despite the daily pressures from within and without, all of us at the IRTC seek to serve others as Jesus served, each of us in the specific time and place where God has placed us (Mark 10:45). We who know that we ourselves are prone to fail and be a stumbling block to our fellow pilgrims, ought to say to one another, “Hold on, dear brother, hold on.” Let us also pray along with the words of Psalm 69 in the prayer of the Lord's servant, singing (as the second stanza of that hymn):

*Oh, let not those who hope in You be put  
to shame through me, Oh Lord; oh, not be  
put to shame, those who hope in You,  
Redeemer! Oh, not be put to shame, nor  
suffer through me, God of Israel; oh, not  
be put to shame, those who seek You,  
faithful God!*

Amen.

## IMPORTANT: Support for the IRTC

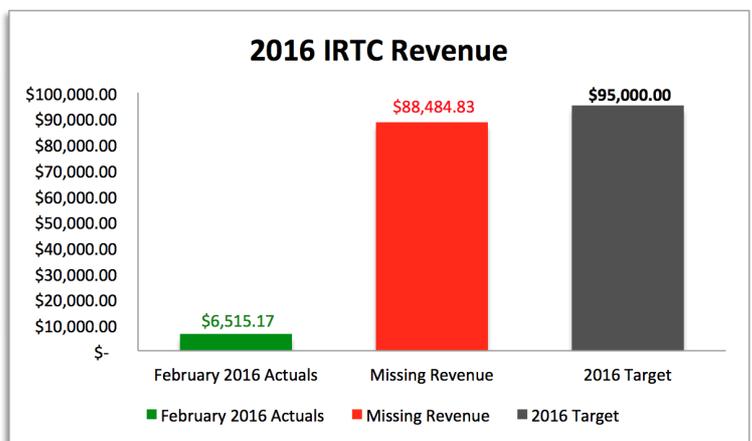
We invite you to join us in enabling workers for the harvest. For this year, we aim to raise USD\$95,000.00 to sustain the IRTC. This amount will be used for teacher gratuities and to cover costs of the educational platform, administration and other special projects.

Fortunately, we serve a great God that awakens His people to sustain the work of the Kingdom!

There are several ways in which brothers and sisters can help:

1. Contribute financially to the IRTC
2. Call the attention of potential students to the advantages of studying at the IRTC
3. Share this newsletter to disseminate the work and the needs of the IRTC
4. Pray for the IRTC, its teachers, leadership, students and financial situation

If the Lord moves you to contribute in some way, please 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 your contribution in the USA. Canadian donors, please make your donations at [www.irtcsociety.ca](http://www.irtcsociety.ca).



## Two Historic Meetings

*Ralph Boersema, president*

*"... The sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel"*

Proverbs 27:9 ESV

They were a small part of the Lord's great history of the coming of his Kingdom, but for the IRTC the two meetings held near Bristol, Virginia, U. S. A. on March 10 and 11, 2016 were historic and could turn out to be of great significance for our future. The first was a meeting of two representatives of the IRTC Society in Canada, Mr. Harold Ludwig and Mr. John Roukema, with four members of the Board of Directors of the IRTC, along with the treasurer. They were Rev. Pieter Meijer, Mr. Daniel Portela, Rev. Charles Oliveira, Rev. Ralph Boersema and Mrs. Lucille Boersema. The International Reformed Theological College is the corporation in Bristol, VA and the IRTC Society is a society in Canada that also participates in the educational ministry of providing Reformed training online for Portuguese-speaking students around the world. In this first meeting the focus was on the two organizations familiarizing themselves with each other's perspectives and plans, brainstorming and planning, and promoting the goals of our mutual ministries. One issue that received attention was that of addressing the requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency for registered charities. All of us were greatly blessed by the purposeful and edifying conversations that were held. The groundwork was laid for steps that need to be taken in the coming months. The meeting was historic, simply because it was the first of its kind.

The second meeting was also historic. This was because it was the first time that the Board of Directors of the IRTC met

in person since its incorporation in 2004. The above-mentioned four members had a face-to-face meeting and the two other members, Rev. Julius Vanspronsen and Mr. Tulio Leite joined them by web conferencing. Rev. Leandro Lima, the new vice president for academic affairs also participated online. The first topic discussed was whether or not the school should continue to provide higher education from a Christian perspective in humanities or concentrate its focus on theological training. The consensus was to maintain the programs that give instruction about the Biblical worldview in humanities. It was emphasized that in the promotion of our distance education we should also clearly call attention to the Kingdom teaching it offers for men and women who are not called to ordained ministry of the Word. Another decision was to proceed with studies to determine the desirability of providing programs for cross-cultural missionaries, as well as programs for equipping primary and secondary school teachers to lead their pupils into a genuine consciousness of Biblical perspectives for all of life. These are just the highlights of what was discussed. In general, the meeting set the stage for concrete proposals to be developed as the College's ministry continues to grow. The meetings were truly sweet, because we came together as friends who focused on Biblical counsel for the College. We rejoice in the rich blessings the Lord granted and which were also abundantly present during a lunch together with invited guests from supporting churches.

## The IRTC Society (Canada)

*J.A. Roukema, IRTC Society chairman*

The IRTC Society of Canada was formed some years ago as a result of a request from the president of the IRTC (US), Ralph Boersema, who was looking for assistance in promoting the College. Mr. Harold Ludwig responded to this request and was subsequently appointed as the Development Director for Canada, directly responsible to the President of the IRTC (US). In this capacity, Harold became responsible for furthering the development of the IRTC in Canada and among English speakers in general where possible and appropriate, with primary attention given to fund-raising initiatives. As such, Harold's responsibilities included developing healthy and long-lasting relationships with donors and church communities in Canada in order to promote specific projects and programs.

As of August, 2012, the members of the IRTC Society of Canada are: Mr. John Roukema (chairman), Mr. Jack Marissen (secretary), Mr. Kevin Van Delden (treasurer), and Mr. Harold Ludwig (program development director). This body serves to monitor the activities of the development director by means of semi-annual reports as these relate to activities expended on behalf of the IRTC and on monies collected and disbursed. It stands to reason that the IRTC Society (Canada) is very vigilant

in the way it collects and distributes monies, especially outside of Canada in order to be in compliance with the Canada Revenue Agency tax laws.

The IRTC (USA) has many projects on the go and many people with varied positions involved. The IRTC Society (Canada) is very grateful for the organizational structure and volunteer services the IRTC (USA) has established. Seeking clarification on these many activities and personnel involved, the IRTC Society (Canada) requested a face-to-face meeting with the Board of the IRTC (USA). To accomplish that, Harold Ludwig and John Roukema were found willing to attend such a meeting on behalf of the IRTC Society (Canada). Included in our day-long meeting on Thursday, March 10 in Bristol, VA was a formulation of the Terms of Agreement which would be in compliance with the CRA. A separate Co-operative Participants Agreement will be elaborated upon where there is mutual consent for investment in specifying activities or projects for the purpose of cash disbursement and oversight on behalf of the IRTC Society (Canada). This is to be worked out by Daniel Portela and Kevin Van Delden and to be submitted for approval by both the IRTC (US) and the IRTC Society (Canada).

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