



# IRTC

INTERNATIONAL  
REFORMED  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 2019

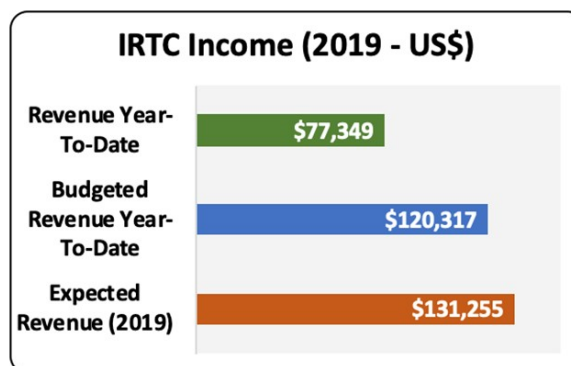
## NEWS

### Growth continues in fourth term

The IRTC's fourth term began on October 14, with a record number of students and course registrations. We are deeply thankful to God for this growth and for the opportunity to reach even more students with teaching in Reformed theology. This term also marks the first time the IRTC has offered nine concurrent courses. In 2020 we plan to offer between ten and eleven courses per term, allowing our students to more quickly finish their degrees.

Unfortunately, our income has not grown at the same rate. We still need around \$54,000 to meet our budget for 2019. Our growth in students and number of courses will also require an increase in our budget for

2020. Please pray that God will raise more partners who will commit to participating in this ministry.



## PROFESSOR PROFILE

### Robério Odair Basílio de Azevedo

*Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. — Galatians 6:6 (ESV)*

Meet one of IRTC's newest instructors (2018), Robério Azevedo, a Minister of the Word in the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, serving as the pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Feira de Santana, Bahia, Brazil. Professor Robério was kind enough to answer a few questions for *IRTC*:

#### Tell us a little about yourself, your age and training?

I am 46 years old. I have a degree in Letters and a bachelor's in theology. I did my master's degree in New Testament at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS), Grand Rapids, USA, and I am currently completing my PhD at North West University. I am also enrolled in law school.



## **Tell us a little about your experience as an instructor for the IRTC.**

I had heard about the IRTC and its excellent outreach work in Reformed Theology. I confess that the organization and commitment of the board, staff and teachers has made me very happy. My experience has been the best possible, especially the interaction with the students. It's great to know that I'm helping them read a book I love so much, the Bible.

## **How important is the subject you teach for the IRTC theological studies program?**

I believe Introduction to the Bible I and II are of prime importance, because they are foundational subjects. In these two courses the student gets an overview of the Bible and this will help him in studying the other subjects.

## **Why study Reformed Theology rather than other doctrinal systems?**

I can speak from personal experience. I did not come from a Reformed church, but by the grace of God, I was introduced to Reformed Theology in seminary. When I first learned about it, everything really seemed to make sense in the Bible. Everything fit! I often say

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that to be reformed is to be consistently biblical. It is not being afraid to say and teach what the Bible really teaches, even when it speaks of difficult subjects, such as God's sovereignty and human responsibility. This makes Reformed Theology unique when compared to other doctrinal systems.

## **What has been your experience as a teacher in this distance education model?**

It has been a new experience. I am a pastor and a secular teacher, but I have never before taught in distance education. I think it is an excellent method, as the student can adjust the classes to his or her time availability. It's also a very democratic method as it makes the course available to many people.

## **What do you think is the key to keeping your students engaged in virtual classes?**

It's hard to know how well they are following the course, but I like to present lessons in the form of recorded videos similar to how I teach in the classroom. Classes are longer, but it gives students a feeling that they are in a classroom, since they will watch them three times a week. In addition, I provide them with a generous bibliography and additional materials. But the biggest interaction is through email and chats.

# IRTC

*IRTC* is a regular publication of the International Reformed Theological College, a ministry offering Portuguese speakers around the world the opportunity to study biblical, Reformed theology through the Internet. You can learn more about our ministry and how to partner with us in prayer and deed at our Web site: <https://irtc.online>.

Please send all feedback and ideas regarding this newsletter to [newsletter@irtc.online](mailto:newsletter@irtc.online).

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