



# INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

An online college that teaches in Portuguese ([www.pro-rege.net](http://www.pro-rege.net))

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.

## December, 2014 Newsletter

### Experiencing the Advent



*“And this will be a sign for you:  
you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths  
and lying in a manger.”*

Luke 2:12

Over the course of history, man has come up with different ideas concerning Jesus. Some said that He was just a man, others that He was only divine, and there are those who thought some sort of mixture of both natures. Those same conclusions that were considered heresies by the church in the past are being echoed again from people in our lives today. Sadly, at times, even from church people who are not being taught Biblical doctrine. Many people can only see Jesus through a blur of ideas, and though they may consider Him to have been a good man, they are far from grasping who He really is.

As we reflect on the manger and our hearts celebrate the coming of our Lord, it is worth considering the importance of the theological courses offered by the IRTC. Not only are they a huge benefit for those who are called to be pastors, missionaries and teachers, but also for all who will sit under their teaching and be blessed to hear the eternal truth of the person of Jesus. Even a sincere and devoted Christian leader needs to study and understand the doctrines of Scripture so that he can faithfully teach others. How can we expect people today to know about Christ being fully human and at the same time fully divine, if they have never studied or heard this explained from Scripture? The doctrines of Christology and many other doctrines are as fundamental to the Christian faith as the foundation of a building. If you take these Biblical doctrines away, the whole structure will collapse.

The Bible says in John 1:4 that *“In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”* Many are decorating their homes with “Christmas” lights. However, even though there is much brightness outwardly, inwardly lots of people remain in the dark. As we just read, Jesus is the Light. The star in the little town of Bethlehem was not shining on the baby Jesus, the baby Jesus was shining on the star. He is the Light, but people worldwide are still walking around in darkness without Him. One pastor who was a missionary in

Russia was preaching “Christ is the Light of the world,” when a man came marching right up to the front, grabbed him and said, “Why didn't you come to preach about this before? My son just died and his last words were 'Dad, it's getting dark'.” Everywhere you look there is a need for the truth about Jesus to be taught.

As the International Reformed Theological College is as close as the internet, these precious theological studies are available to leaders around the globe. But many who desire this Biblical training cannot afford it. We are praying that the Lord would raise up more individuals and churches to join our support team financially, prayerfully and even in spreading the word about the College. If the Lord lays it upon your heart to support the IRTC, you will be a part in helping us equip pastors, missionaries and teachers with a solid Biblical foundation in the Word so that they can clearly teach the Gospel.

There are many people in this world that are not walking towards the manger right now and will not be experiencing the Advent this year because they are not hearing or seeing the Light. Let the One who is Light shine His Light through us!

### **Keep in Your Prayers**



Remember to pray for our beloved Prof. Sebastião Guimarães Costa Filho who is the Coordinator of the Department of Humanities & General Studies of the IRTC. His health is fragile, because he is fighting cancer. Earlier this year he had extensive surgery and is still having chemotherapy. The latest oncology report was discouraging. Pray that the Lord may give him spiritual encouragement and strength to endure for His glory. Our Great Physician is all-powerful and the Great Healer and we pray that the Lord would heal him according to His glorious will.

### **End of 2014 Academic Year**

Our 2014 academic year is wrapping up this month. Classes will end on December 19<sup>th</sup> and students will have until January 2<sup>nd</sup> to turn in papers and finish required readings. After the January break, our new academic year will start on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Please be in prayer for the students and instructors during this busy time of year and for our president as he organizes the planning for 2015.

### **How to Support Us**

Our budget for 2014 requires USD\$65,000.00 and praise the Lord we have already received USD\$54,000.00. The shortfall is USD\$11,000.00 in order to cover administrative expenses which include utilities, telephone, internet, equipment, as well as gratuities for our staff and instructors. We are praying for the Lord to lay it on more hearts to support us financially to help expand God's Kingdom on earth. Besides our administrative budget need, we are also trying to raise additional support for our Scholarship Fund (you can contribute with small amounts which will make a difference for students in need) and our Library Fund (our students really need these resources for their studies and we have just a few of these resources at the moment). Further, as we reported in August, we urgently need to raise another USD\$50,000.00 annually, in order to bring on a fulltime assistant for the CEO.

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. Canadian donors, please make your donations at [www.irtcsociety.ca](http://www.irtcsociety.ca). May the Lord of all mercy grant you a blessed New Year in 2015!

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IRTC Student