



# IRTC

INTERNATIONAL  
REFORMED  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 2020

## Blessed by Growth in Number and Reach

*...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. – 1 Peter 3:15-16*

The apostle Peter teaches that each believer must be ready to give a reason for his faith. This takes effort! In addition to knowing God as he reveals himself to us, we must make this knowledge evident in our speech and actions. We are committed to spreading biblical instruction about who God is, so that our students may walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel.

God in his mercy and grace has made our efforts flourish and bear fruit so that his name may be known and worshipped the way he requires it. We rejoice once again to have record numbers of students and course registrations. In the first period of last year, we had 71 registrations and 43 students. This year we have grown to 66 students and 113 registrations. Onward we go, asking the Lord for more doors to be opened!

We are ready to serve the Lord as an instrument in providing tools to equip others for expository preaching in the way the Reformers presented Scripture, reaching Portuguese-speaking countries. Our last newsletter focused on how the IRTC is helping to train Christian leaders in Japan. In this edition we will learn a little more about what God is doing in Mozambique.

According to the US Embassy in Mozambique, the country's population is estimated to be 27.2 million inhabitants. Of these, 28% declare themselves Roman Catholics, 18% Muslim (mostly Sunni), 15% Zionist Christians, 12% Protestants and 7% belong to other religious groups, including Judaism and Hinduism. Approximately 18% do not profess any religion or belief. Muslim leaders claim that their community represents 25 to 30% of the total population, a statistic often reported in the press.

Xavier Tianeque, our brother in Christ, member of the IRTC student body, kindly told us a little about the group he leads, which strives to bring light to the true gospel of Jesus Christ in their region. Since 2016, Xavier and his wife have lived in Nampula, a province in the north of the country, more than 600 km from Beira, in the Muhala—Expansion District, close to Transportes Chefe—Serra da Mesa.



*Xavier, Iraquitânia and ABIC*

According to Xavier, church-planting in Mozambique is a great challenge. He began in 2010 with a group of Bible studies. He noticed the need for worship and doctrine faithful to Scripture. In order to fill this gap, the *Associação Biblioteca Cristã* (ABIC) [Christian Library Association] was formed in 2016. An *association* was formed because in order to officially register a *church*, a congregation must have a minimum of five hundred members, a number which they have yet to reach.

Xavier encouraged some other members of this group to enroll in the IRTC, in order to enable more trained workers to serve the Church. This is how the IRTC Nampula Christian Study Center was born.

“We have contact with some reformed brothers and churches in South Africa, Brazil and a small local group. They have supported us in different areas of the church. We also have regular contact with Brother Rodrigues Muacuveia, with whom I study at IRTC”, says Xavier. Currently five people are actively involved in the planting of this church.



## Support IRTC

**Donations in Canada** can be made using credit cards or PayPal through the IRTC Society site ([http://irtcsociety.ca/?page\\_id=93](http://irtcsociety.ca/?page_id=93)) or by cheque. Cheques should be made out to the “International Reformed Theological College Society” and sent to:

*International Reformed Theological College Society*  
221-2626 Countess Street  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 5P3  
Canada

**US & International donations in US\$** can be made by credit card or PayPal through our site (<https://irtc.online/donations/>) or by check. Checks should be made out to the “International Reformed Theological College Society” and sent to:

*International Reformed Theological College*  
70 Pace Dr.  
Bristol, VA 24201  
USA

## Donor Update

We praise the Lord for his mercy, shown once again this month. We were able to reduce our budget from \$155,000 to \$139,145. At the same time, at a time of great need, we received some considerable donations which will allow us to take care of the costs for the fourth term of 2019. Nevertheless, as can be seen in the chart below, we still have to raise two-thirds of our total budget, that is, **we still need an additional \$94,146 in donations until the end of the year**. Keep praying for us! We are incredibly grateful for our supporters’ generosity.



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

**Newsletter Editor:** Márcia Gomes  
**Layout & Editing:** David Portela

© 2020 IRTC. All rights reserved.