



IRTC

INTERNATIONAL
REFORMED
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE
JAN-MAR 2021

Many Helping Hands

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. — Hebrews 6:10 ESV

The IRTC has reached the middle of another 10-week academic term, with our largest student body ever: 203 registrations in 9 different courses, by 106 students all around the world! We rejoice in this growth even as we brace for the challenges and greater work that it represents. And we pray that Christ's excellence will be reflected in everything that we do. May diligence characterize our studies and our conduct and may grace be the hallmark of our relationships with everyone involved in the process of teaching and learning Reformed theology at this college.

Many people around the world are working hard to assist the IRTC in different ways. Most of these are rarely in the spotlight, laboring faithfully for the glory of Christ and the announcement of His Kingdom. As part of our 20th anniversary celebration, we recently published our commemorative e-book, with articles offered by our faculty and staff, dealing with the theme of theological distance education. We are thankful for all the time and energy that individuals put into writing, editing, layout and design, to produce a book which succeeds at celebrating the past while providing significant insights about theological distance education in the present and in the future. This (Portuguese) e-book can be read and downloaded at our celebratory site: <https://www.fitref.org.br/>.

Shortly after the e-book's publication, we released our 20th anniversary app on iOS and Android, allowing users to quickly access information about the IRTC, including our confessional standards and our newsletters. We invite you to download this app to your mobile device. It is in both Portuguese and English and is called "FITRef." Once again, many unseen actors were responsible for designing, coding, producing, and integrating the app with our existing Web site. We would like to specifically thank our developers, **dzign-e** (<https://dzign-e.com.br>) for their role in bringing this app to completion.

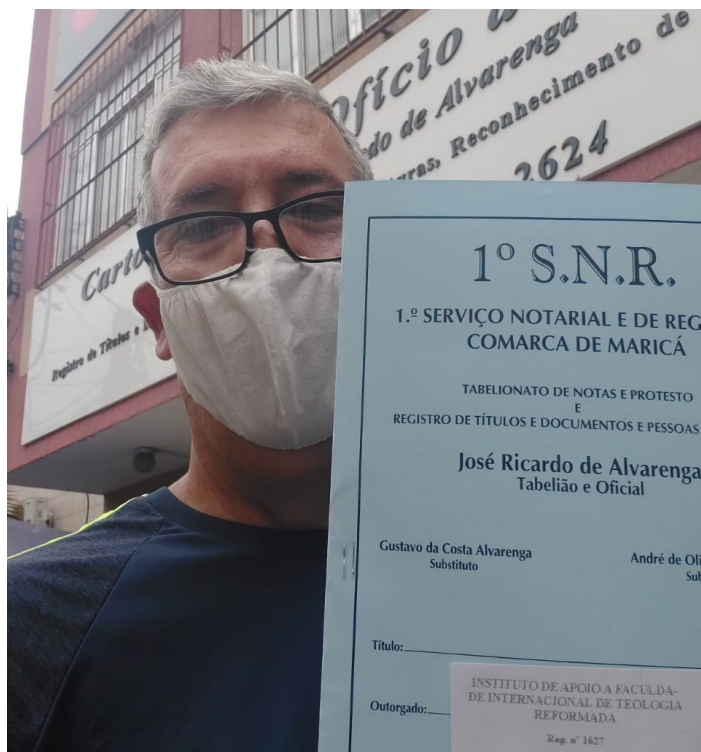
Indeed, we have much to celebrate, for God has sustained us for 20 years and continues to bless us with new opportunities to grow and to serve. Over the past ten years, an essential part of this support has come from the **IRTC Society** (<https://irtcsociety.ca>), a Canadian organization created to support the IRTC and its activities. Among other dear brothers, **Harold J. Ludwig** has been involved in leading these efforts, as the IRTC's Development Director. Even before the Society was formed as a charitable organization, Harold and others were working hard, fundraising, and spreading the word about our mission and the pressing need for Reformed theological education in Portuguese-speaking countries. In Harold's own words: "Throughout the past decade we have gradually increased the number of individual and institutional donors, as well as support from some in the business community. Quite a number of churches have us on their annual budgets or contribute via the deacons. Of course,



*Harold J. Ludwig, IRTC Development Director
and member of the IRTC Society*

the work continues and the society, made up of five directors, meets on a quarterly basis to review the various programs that we support. We look forward to many more years of contributing to the work of the IRTC as we continue to build our base of support.”

Another reason to rejoice is much more recent and comes from the southern hemisphere. Taking a page out of the IRTC Society’s playbook, a new foundation has been established in Brazil to assist the IRTC. The **IAF – Instituto de Apoio à FITRef** (Institute to Support the IRTC) was created on December 30, 2020, in the city of Maricá, in the state of Rio de Janeiro. This has finally enabled the IRTC to accept payments in Brazil from Brazilian credit cards and bank accounts! Although this may seem like an insignificant detail given the ubiquity of online payments in the present age, many prospective students did not have an international credit card that they could use to pay through the international payment gateways that were the IRTC’s only options for many years. Dealing with Brazilian student fees in-country gives more students access to the IRTC and also provides a better way to compensate our Brazilian instructors. The IAF is also discussing ways in which it can fundraise for the IRTC in Brazil, a setting in which donating to missional institutions (rather than individuals) is not commonplace. Among many others who worked behind the scenes to make the IAF into a reality is **Túlio Leite**, an IRTC Board member for over four years. Túlio and his wife, Sara, had already been involved with spreading the word about the IRTC’s ministry for many years at conferences, churches and events.



Brother Túlio Leite, shortly after officially registering the IAF on December 30, 2020

We thank God for these precious men and women who have dedicated their hearts to support the IRTC and its mission to teach Reformed theology at a distance, reaching students all over the world. They have been invaluable partners in our efforts to equip Portuguese-speaking church leaders, instructors and pastors with the knowledge and tools they need to preach Christ’s Gospel and announce His Kingdom. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Support the IRTC

Donations in Canada can be made through the IRTC Society’s Web site (http://irtcsociety.ca/?page_id=93) or by cheque made out to the “International Reformed Theological College Society” and sent to:

*International Reformed Theological College Society
PO Box 516
Aldergrove, BC V4W 2T9 Canada*

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

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

