



IRTC

INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

 <https://irtc.online/>



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021

IRTC, 20 YEARS! CLOSING CELEBRATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world and changed the routine of people everywhere. Due to the pandemic, the IRTC's celebration of its 20th anniversary could not take place in the same way as its 10-year celebration. At that time, several celebratory events marked this historic occasion in different places, through the course of one year, that is, from October 2010 to October 2011. On October 17th 2020, the precise date on which the IRTC completed 20 years since its creation, we were at the pandemic's peak in various places in the world. In-person events were not possible.

Instead, the IRTC celebrated this special date in several noteworthy ways:

1. CELEBRATORY SEAL – The seal displayed at the top of this page became the visual emblem of the 20th anniversary celebration.

2. APP – A suitable, free app for smartphones, in both Android and iOS versions, were launched and made available internationally. This tool contains the full searchable text of the two main reformed confessional systems – the Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Standards. Click on the icon below which corresponds to your smartphone's system to access and install it, if you so desire. The app can be used in either Portuguese or English.

3. E-BOOK – A very interesting e-book was launched, with two sections. The first is a synopsis of the history of the IRTC. The second explores the theme of "Distance Education and Theological Education," from the perspective of seven of the members of the IRTC's faculty and staff.

Click on the following URL to access the e-book. At this point, the book is only available in Portuguese:

https://www.fitref.org.br/ebooks_20_anos/

4. PRODUCTION OF A SPECIAL VIDEO – A very special video, including testimonies of the founding pioneers of the IRTC, was launched in Portuguese; there is also a version with English subtitles.

Click on the following URL to access this version with English subtitles: <https://www.fitref.org.br/video-english/>

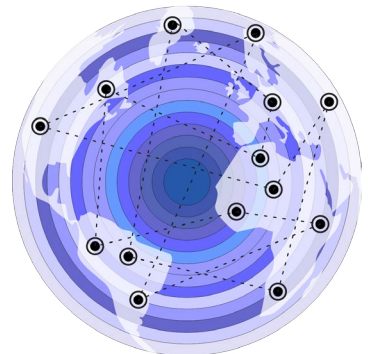
5. NEW PROGRAM OF STUDIES – Another landmark event of this period of celebrations was the launch of a new program of studies – a Master's in Missiology program, including a one-year specialist certificate option. For this release, the IRTC produced a presentation video and a webpage where the video can be watched – only a [click](#) away. Please, remember that these are only in Portuguese.

Thus we borrow the words of Samuel, when between Mizpah and Shen, to also declare in 2021:

*"...thus far the Lord has helped us."
(I Samuel 7.12.b, NKJV).*

IRTC EXPANSION

When the IRTC began its teaching activities in 2001, the student body came from only two countries. There were 36 students, with 35 from Brazil and one from Canada. In 2004, another country joined this list and curiously, it was not a Portuguese speaking country: it was Belgium.



MISSIOLOGY PROGRAM ADVANCES

From 2005 to 2010, besides many additional Brazilians, the number of students from Canada increased to two; two were added from the United States of America; two new countries contributed students from Europe, with one each from Italy and Portugal. However, it was from the African continent that an expressive contingent was added, namely from Mozambique, bringing in 13 new students. This was the result of the efforts of North-American missionaries Charles Woodrow and Roland Seiler, and of the Brazilian pastor Jaime Marcelino. Incidentally, these worthy brothers and their churches became the providers for full scholarships in benefit of those 13 new students.

In 2020 the startling and sad viral COVID-19 pandemic hit the planet. In the midst of much bad news and lamentable losses, one sector grew tremendously: distance education. So much so, that by the end of 2020 the IRTC gained 51 new students, reaching 14 countries. In 2021 it attained the milestone of 505 enrollments in its history, from 20 countries around the globe: Albania, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Chile, France, India, Iraq, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Thailand and the United States.

We thank God, praying (and inviting you to pray with us) for an even greater expansion in 2022, always for the sake of God's glory and the fulfilment of His purposes!

By the Lord's mercies our new course in the field of Missiology began with 8 students. It leads to a Master in Missiology diploma and has an option for the title of Specialist in Missiology. Most of the world has heard about the large opportunity and open doors for missionaries coming from Brazil; the IRTC seeks to prepare as many candidates as possible through our program, in order to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord in the contemporary world.

The courses offered in 2021 were: Transcultural Missions (Prof. Flávio Ulisses da Silva), Missionary Strategy (Prof. Romer Cardoso dos Santos and Prof. Felipe Boechat Asseruy Silva), History of the Expansion of Christianity (Prof. Chun Kwang Chung), Biblical Theology of Missions (Prof. Sérgio Lima), Contemporary Missionary Challenges (Prof. Carlos Del Pino) and Contemporary Theologies of Missions (Prof. Chun Kwang Chung and Prof. Elias dos Santos Medeiros). For 2022 there are promises of new courses, more instructors, and the enrichment of the missiological studies portfolio.

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."
(Habakkuk 2:14, NKJV).

"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
(Acts 1:8, NIV).

PLEASE, SUPPORT THE IRTC

Donations in Canada can be made through the IRTC Society's web site (<http://irtcsociety.ca>) or by cheque made out to the "International Reformed Theological College Society" and sent to:

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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:

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