



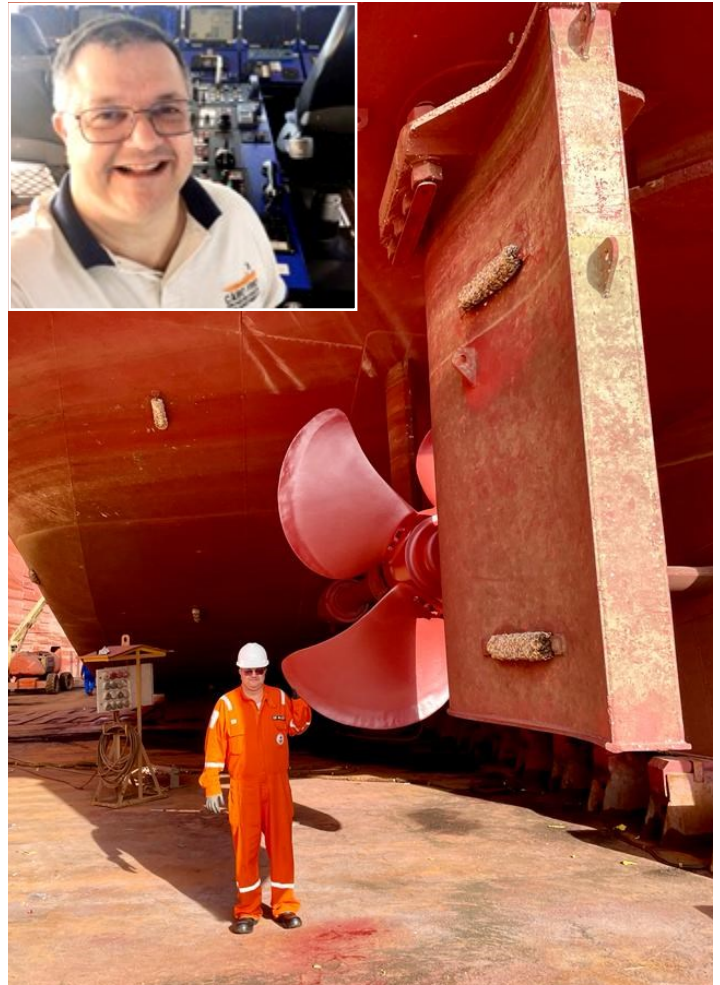
## Studying reformed theology...on the high seas!

I got to know the IRTC through my pastor, David Bezerra da Costa, who always encouraged his flock to dig deeper into the study of theology. My job as captain of a merchant marine vessel does not allow me to attend classes in person, which is why Pastor David recommended distance learning through the IRTC. His suggestion came at just the right time, so in 2014 I applied to the College, enrolling in the Bachelor of Biblical Studies. I received that degree in 2022, and now I'm in the final stages of completing a Master's in Biblical Studies.

The greatest gift the IRTC has given me is the opportunity to deepen my theological studies while maintaining my professional activities, learning from accomplished, competent professors who know the Word of God, and maintaining relationships with several brothers spread throughout the world. On the other hand, there are still certain difficulties to be overcome: Internet speed on board is very slow—only 128 Kbps (the equivalent of a broadband connection...in 1999). This becomes a problem when I need to download my course materials. Currently, the only workaround is to do this using my cell phone's 4G network when we dock at the port.

My workday is 12 hours long and full of technical and administrative duties. This leaves me very little time to dedicate to my studies. However, I have a motivated team that helps me in different ways, allowing me to study during my free time. Currently, most of this time is devoted to my master's thesis, "Weather Events Seen Under God's Judgment", in which I explore the idea of how great events in the fields of meteorology, oceanography, geology, geophysics and other areas are a mere foreshadowing of the deep and impactful transformations that the cosmos has yet to suffer and endure, because men of all times have rejected the love, justice, and goodness of Jesus Christ, God's only-begotten Son.

I've been incredibly blessed since joining the IRTC. God has used his valiant servants in the arduous challenge of teaching the Word of God to people of all ages who make up the student body of this beloved reformed teaching institution. The pro-



*Walker Calvet Ozório Correa in his command post (top), and beside the vessel Navegantes Pride, pictured in drydock for repairs.*

found life lessons I've learned have helped me to share the Word of God with the men and women under my command. Geologists, geophysicists, and oceanographers, among others with whom I had the opportunity to work and who called themselves atheists, will never be able to say that they were not confronted with the truth of Scripture.

To my classmates and to new IRTC students, I urge you to take advantage of every opportunity to tap into your instructors'

knowledge. Read the books listed in the recommended bibliographies. Actively engage today with the saints who will enjoy heavenly glory in eternity. Spread the word about the College in your circles of friends, close and distant. People need to know that there are centers of excellence like the IRTC where it is possible to learn reformed, biblical theology.

To the College's supporters, please continue investing in the Kingdom of God. The IRTC will continue to expand its bounda-

ries and more chosen men and women will be reached from afar, even on the high seas, to learn God's Word.

I will always be thankful for my time at the IRTC. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless each one of those who dedicate themselves to making this college known as a center for excellent reformed education, for the glory of God.

*Walker Calvet Ozório Correa*

## Help the IRTC fulfill its mission in 2023

We thank God for providing us with enough resources to successfully complete our activities in 2022 and to pay all our expenses. As can be seen in the chart below, to do this, we had to draw around \$45,000 from our reserves. Over the same period, our student body continued to grow, resulting in a proportional increase in costs related to instructors, infrastructure, and communications. As a result, our 2023 budget is about \$11,000 larger than last year's.

We don't have the reserves to cover a similar gap between expenses and income, should it happen again. So we count on those who have already been contributing to our work, to persist in their support. We also need to raise new supporters for this ministry, whether they be individuals, churches or other institutions that want to invest in reformed theological education, in Brazil and throughout the world.

Even if you are unable to help financially, you can spread the word about the IRTC and its needs. Share this newsletter with your church's missionary committee! We believe that God has already set aside the resources

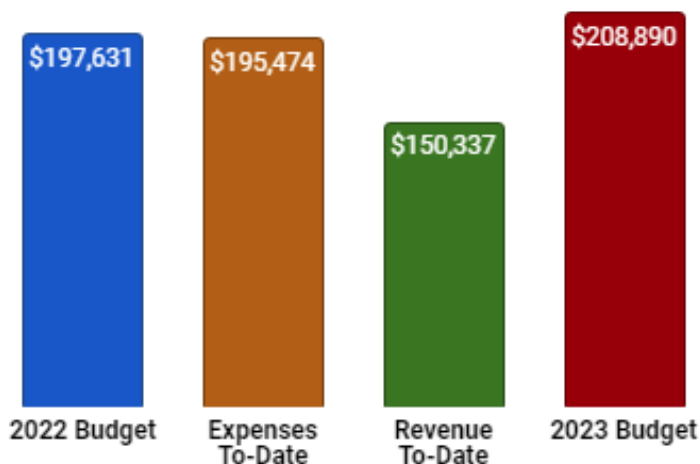
needed to maintain this ministry in 2023, and that he will call his servants at the right time to make their donations.

While we have big plans for the IRTC's future, this year we are focusing on meeting our students' current needs, ensuring that they have access to excellent reformed instructors in each field, and that they can pursue their studies in an efficient and stable learning environment. Beyond that, our largest investment will be in communications, as we attempt to reach as many souls as possible with reformed theological distance education.

The challenge to you, dear reader, is to join us in this mission throughout this year. Whether it be in praying for us, in telling others about our institution, or in sharing the resources that God has given you for this purpose, let us walk together and bear witness to the great works that our Lord will do.

*Fernando de Almeida*  
IRTC President

### IRTC Financial Update December 2022 (US\$)



## Support the IRTC

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

*International Reformed Theological College Society  
PO Box 838 Stn A  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 7A2 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:

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210 Pace Dr.  
Bristol, VA 24201 USA*