



# IRTC

INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

## The Reformation in Cape Verde: A Field Perspective

*Until I come, devote yourself  
to the public reading of Scripture,  
to exhortation, to teaching.*

– 1 Timothy 4.13 ESV

Dear brothers and sisters, grace and peace in the Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Paulo Diego, a missionary devoted to the Lord's work in Cape Verde since 2014. This country, with its lush beauty and many difficult challenges, has been my field of labor and spiritual growth.

I serve in an interdenominational organization called Missão Vida em Foco (Life in Focus Mission), founded in 2005 in the city of Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil. I came to Cape Verde to help establish the agency in this country. Our focus is on the evangelism and discipleship of children, adolescents, and young people, and on providing training and support to the local church.

Church planting in remote and hard-to-reach regions of our country is an integral part of my journey. I also participate in church planting projects in partnership with local churches. It is with great joy and sincere gratitude that I share some of my experiences and reflections in this missionary field.

At the same time as I have been conducting my fieldwork, God has given me the unique privilege of continuing my theological training through the IRTC (the International Reformed Theological College – known in Portuguese as FITRef). This institution has been a true blessing in my life in the midst of ministerial challenges.

Cape Verde, with its natural beauty, is home to a spiritually thirsty population, but it is, unfortunately, a country with severely limited resources. Reformed theology, with its rich history and deep doctrine, is hardly present at all in the Cape Verdean ecclesiastical context. In the city of Praia, only one church openly declares itself Reformed. Many of our brothers and sisters have only a superficial understanding of Reformed doctrine, demonstrating the urgency we



*Listeners of all ages in the Cutelinho community gather around to hear brother Paulo preach God's Word*

have to train well-prepared church leaders and pastors for the dissemination of the Gospel in this nation.

The prevailing alternative for Reformed theological training in Cape Verde has been distance learning. Although it is a viable solution, it has its own challenges, especially in remote areas. In many of these regions, internet connectivity is precarious and often interrupted by adverse weather conditions. The scarcity of available Reformed literature and the precarious economic situation of many Cape Verdeans, further complicates access to these educational resources.

Amidst these challenges, the IRTC has been a bulwark of support. Recognized and respected in the Reformed world, the institution shows a great potential to contribute to the training of leaders and pastors, thus assisting in spreading Reformed theology throughout Cape Verde. In recent years, the College established a cost-adjusted program for students from Cape Verde and other African countries. This has enabled the democratization of high-quality theological education for a greater number of people from these countries. The

institution also promotes the creation of study groups, a strategy that can engage churches in more intensive learning of their members.

My personal experience is an example of the positive impact of the IRTC's teaching methodology. As I work in church planting, I make fortnightly trips lasting 3 to 5 days to remote locations. Despite logistical and connectivity obstacles, I have managed to progress in my studies. I download the lectures in PDF format and study offline, sending my assignments and activities when I return home.

The IRTC has played a significant role in my training, and I believe that its constant support and generosity can widen the influence of Reformed theology in Cape Verde. With this support, we can strengthen the church in this country and form leaders ready to feed the people with the truth of the Gospel.

In order for this to happen, it is necessary for the College not only to cover its regular costs but also to be able to invest in scholarship funds, even as it develops projects for new courses and programs, and continues to attract professors of academic excellence and impeccable character. I am grateful to God for the lives of all those who contribute financially to the IRTC and allow many students, like me, to enjoy a high-quality theological education, without having to leave the ministerial field in which we are placed.

*Paulo Diego Moreno Martins*



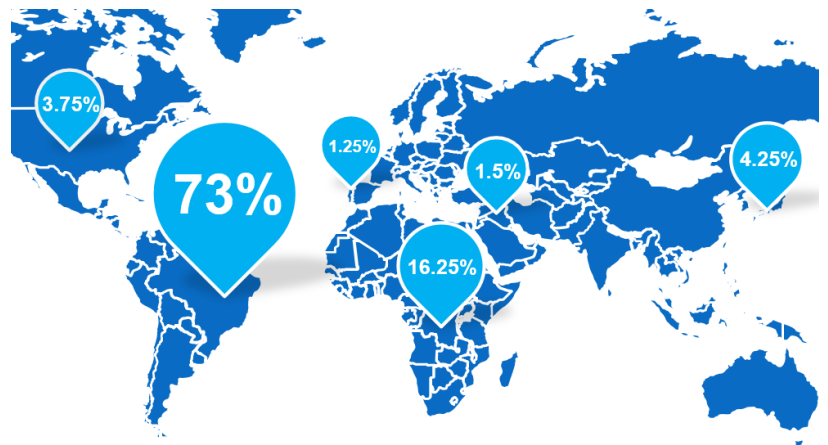
*Church plants in Cutelinho (above) and Salina (below)*



## Global growth

We praise the Lord for another semester of growth, particularly among our students living in Africa, who now account for more than 15% of our student body.

The "thermometer" below is updated monthly to reflect our fundraising progress relative to our yearly budget. We are already past the halfway mark of the year, yet we are still at 40% of our revenue goal. Please consider becoming our supporter, investing in the training of leaders for the growth of the Kingdom of God!



\$208,890  
2023 Budget

**40%**

\$84,996  
Raised



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