



IRTC

INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Catalysts for the Kingdom

Last week, as I was in Calgary, Alberta, saying goodbye to my family before returning to the mission field, we witnessed the awesome power of the wildfires burning in the northern half of the province. The sky was draped in a red haze so dense that sunlight struggled to pierce through the smoke. As I thought about the impact on countless lives and prayed for God's mercy, my mind also pondered the conditions that allowed these fires to ignite and spread with such ferocity. Currently, Canada is grappling with 434 active wildfires, 167 of which are classified as "out of control." Please keep this country in your prayers and ask the Lord to create opportunities for His people to glorify Him by providing shelter and relief to their neighbors.

Imagine standing in a vast field blanketed with tall, green grass that glistens under the sun, freshly watered by a recent rain. Picture the blades of grass, heavy with droplets, swaying gently in the breeze.

Consider how a fire might behave in this setting: it might catch hold in patches, sputtering and struggling, the moisture in the grass resisting the flames, causing the fire to burn slowly and inconsistently. The progress of the blaze would be gradual, hindered by the wetness, its path uncertain and its impact lessened.

Now, reimagine the same scene—except this time, the grass is doused in gasoline. Instantly, the scenario changes dramatically. With the introduction of this *catalyst*, a spark would ignite an unstoppable, fast-spreading fire that would transform the entire field in moments.

In Chemistry, a catalyst is a substance that accelerates a reaction, making it more efficient and effective. Just as gasoline acted as a catalyst in our imaginary field, hastening the spread of fire, God has built the body of Christ from the ground up with this paradigm in mind. Every believer, in essence, is called to be a catalyst.



As the Scriptures remind us, we are to use our unique gifts to bless and enrich one another within the body of Christ, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10, ESV).

While the calling to be a catalyst may be a general one, God also provides specific opportunities for ministries to emerge and fulfill this purpose with intent. The IRTC exemplifies such a ministry. Established to empower students globally, the IRTC enables a diverse array of Kingdom work, equipping its students to serve as lay leaders, pastor local churches, evangelize, and plant new congregations worldwide.

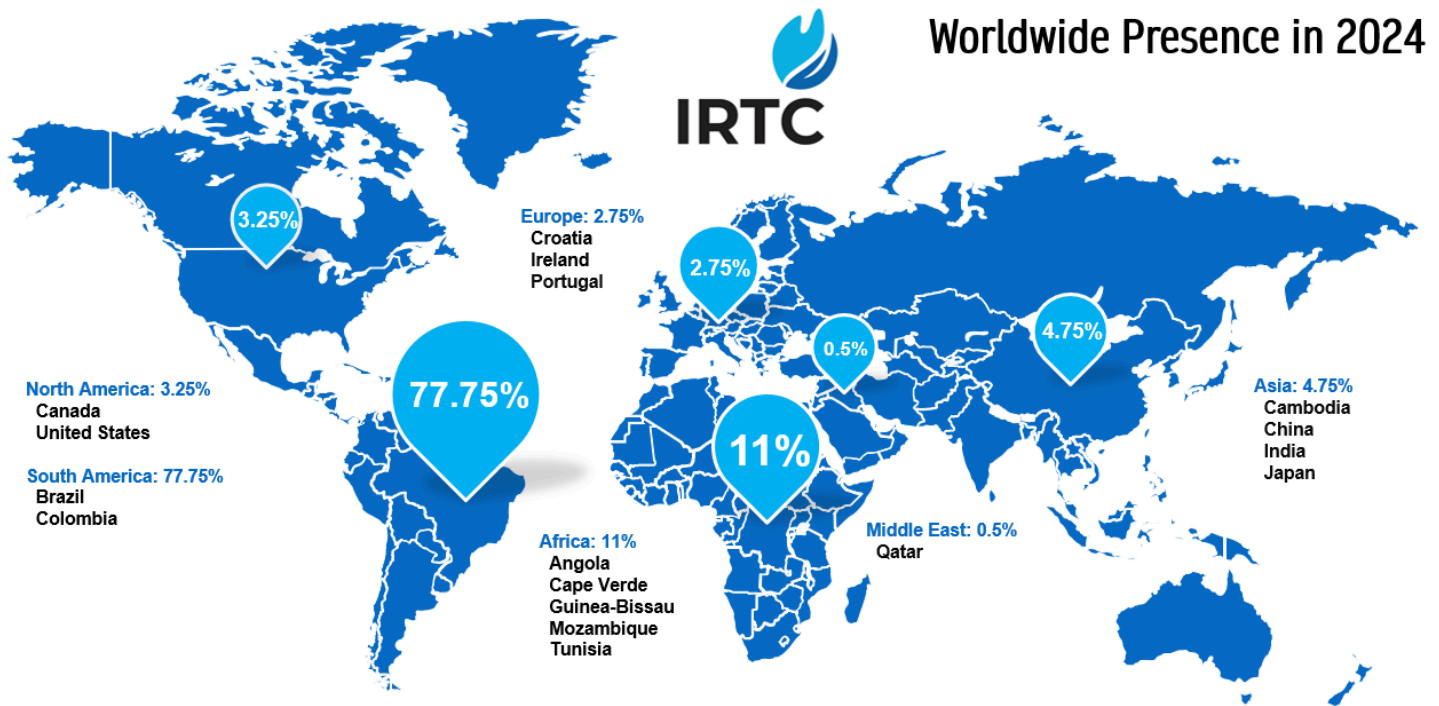
How does the IRTC serve as a catalyst? Through its online offerings, the IRTC brings solid theological training to students wherever they may be, breaking down geographical and financial barriers that might otherwise hinder their ministry aspirations. Each course is designed not only to educate but also to equip students with practical skills and spiritual insights,

thereby enhancing their effectiveness in various ministerial contexts. As these students graduate, they carry with them not just knowledge, but a lamp ignited by the flame of the gospel, illuminating their communities and the world beyond.

By supporting the College, you become part of this catalytic chain. Whether through regular contributions or a one-time gift, your support is more than a donation; it's an investment in the work of the Kingdom around the globe. Your generosity plants seeds of knowledge and faith that bloom into lifetimes of ministry and service.

In a world that desperately needs the light of Christ, your support is an action with potential for immeasurable impact. Join us in this mission, and be a catalyst in the truest sense, enabling the message of Christ to spread faster and farther than we could ever imagine.

David Portela
VP for Student Affairs



\$203,879
2024 Budget

64%

\$132,289
Raised (Jun 30)



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