



IRTC

INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Reaching Hearts with “Missions in Your Hands”

Nearly 15 years ago, I was already involved in urban missions in Brasília, serving through *Youth for Christ* in schools, universities, and events such as evangelism during Carnival. Nevertheless, it was the experience of following, from afar, a missionary sent by my church (Igreja Cristã Evangélica Boas Novas in Taguatinga, Brazil) to Mozambique that ignited in me the desire to answer the call to support missionaries practically and effectively.

Missions in Your Hands (Missão em Suas Mãos – MSM) was founded with the goal of awakening each Christian to the awareness that fulfilling God’s work is in our hands. Our dream is for every believer to have practical opportunities to participate in missions—whether by going, praying, giving financially, and/or walking alongside the missionary. We want Christians to see how they can be an active part of this process, supporting missionaries both spiritually and practically.

MSM began by sending SMS messages, and the transition to WhatsApp opened new doors for reaching even more people. Currently, we send daily prayer requests and information on how to get involved in missions—whether by going, praying, and/or supporting. We’ve received many testimonies from people who were touched by these messages and who then responded to the missionary call in their lives. Some even began studying at the IRTC and dedicated themselves more deeply to the mission field.

Since then, MSM has grown, remaining sensitive to the hearts of missionaries and seeking ways to meet their needs. We are committed to being a constant presence, listening and acting as opportunities to assist arise.

Significant Moments

I have many treasured moments and memories, but some stand out, such as the opportunity to visit Mozambique and spend 17 days with Solange, a missionary who developed the *Choco Chingwa Association*. The association, whose name means “Word and Bread” in the Shona language, is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and providing material support to the community. Being physically in Mozambique after years of following her work from afar allowed me to see the impact that obedience to God’s call can have. Witnessing Solange’s dedication was profoundly inspiring.

Beyond this experience, I also witnessed the “birth” of various MSM-supported missionary initiatives, such as *FMKids*, a project caring for missionaries’ children up to 12 years old; *Love for the Word* (Missão Amor à Palavra), focused on children’s evangelism and discipleship; and *Proclaim* (Proclamai), which provides support to hospitalized individuals and those in long-term care facilities. It is an honor to walk alongside these ministries to this day, watching the growth and fruits that God has brought through them.

My Journey at the IRTC

Studying for a Bachelor’s degree in Biblical Studies at the IRTC was a watershed moment in my life, both personally and in ministry. This course deepened my understanding of Scripture and transformed my worldview, making it theocentric—that is, focused on God as the center of everything. I learned that the Bible should be our compass in all areas of life and ministry, guiding our dreams, our plans and our actions.



Currently, as a student of the Master's in Missiology, my studies have reinforced the need for a Christ-centered and practical ministry. The master's courses have brought a new dimension to my efforts, showing that every thought, plan and action should reflect Christ's centrality. This advanced training has encouraged even more consistent and committed ministerial practice.

Overcoming Challenges

Balancing my studies with my other responsibilities is an ongoing challenge. Besides the demands of MSM and activities at church, where I serve as an elder, Sunday school teacher, and leader of our missions ministry, I also need to dedicate time to my family. I have been married for over 15 years and have three daughters, ages 13, 12, and 10. This balance between personal life, ministry, and studies requires planning and discipline, along with an essential support network of intercessors and advisers. My pastor and my wife are crucial in helping me constantly reevaluate my priorities and remain firm in my journey.

The Impact of the Local Church and of the IRTC's Supporters

My local church has been incredibly supportive throughout all these missionary initiatives and theological studies. My pastor, who is also my tutor at the IRTC, is always by my side, encouraging me in each new idea or project. It is a true blessing to have a community that understands the value of missionary care.

The support of the IRTC's donors is also fundamental, as it enables the training of many believers who are committed to the Gospel. The scholarships offered by the IRTC help many students dedicate themselves to theological studies without financial concerns, encouraging them to continue their ministry work with excellence.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Future

In my view, the biggest missionary challenge today is integrated care for missionaries. MSM works to raise awareness in local churches about the importance of caring for those who are sent. Missionary sending is a responsibility that requires ongoing support, and the church must commit to loving, caring for, and supporting its missionaries as best as possible.



A recent example of overcoming challenges was the rebuilding of the *Dom Maior* Christian nursery school on the island of Eguba, in Guinea-Bissau. With the support of brothers and sisters, we were able to restore the school (which had been destroyed by strong winds four years ago) and reopen it this month. It is heartwarming to see God's care for that community, knowing that many supporters of the project have never met those people in person, yet were willing to help.

Among ongoing projects, we are developing medical care initiatives and physical support for missionaries, always seeking to meet the needs that God places in our path.

Final Reflection

If I could leave one piece of advice for other IRTC students, I would say: Serve today in the ways God has enabled you to serve today! Keep your heart always open to God, for He sees and values a broken heart ready to love (Psalm 51:17). Every action, no matter how small, has an eternal impact in the Kingdom.

My prayer is that, over the years, I may be found faithful as a good steward of God's abundant grace (1 Peter 4:10), fulfilling the call He has placed in my hands through Missions in Your Hands.

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\$217,420
2024 Budget

90%

\$196,199
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