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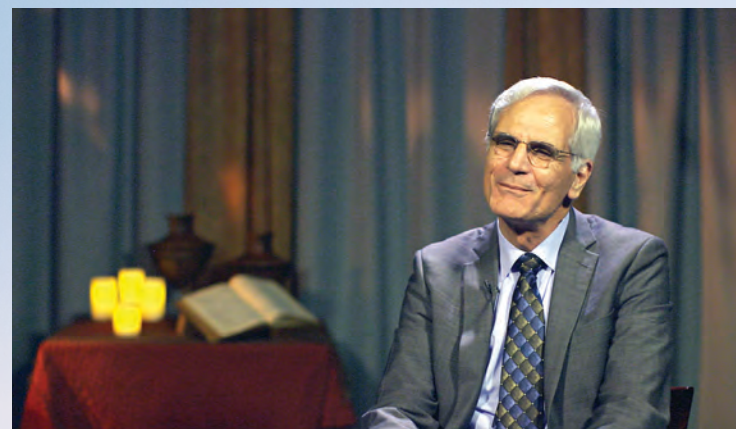
- REV. DR. IMAD SHEHADEH

JORDAN EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Into the
THIRD MILLENNIUM



AN INTERVIEW WITH REV. DR. IMAD SHEHADEH



Rev. Dr. Imad Shehadeh serves as the Founder, President, and Senior Professor of Theology at Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary (JETS) in Amman, Jordan. He recently visited our offices to film some interviews for our upcoming Arabic lessons and to discuss using our curriculum in his seminary. According to Dr. Imad, despite the threat of persecution, the number of Christians in Arabic-speaking countries is growing, and thus the need for theological education is greater than ever before. When we interviewed him, Dr. Imad shared how his seminary has been fulfilling this need for biblical education and how important Third Mill's curriculum is to the growth of the Arabic church.

In many regions in the Middle East and North Africa, Christians risk being disowned by their families and communities, being imprisoned, and even being killed if they openly proclaim their faith. Despite this, the underground church in this region is expanding rapidly, and Christians are clamoring for biblical resources and theological education. Dr. Imad Shehadeh has been at the forefront of the theological education of Arabic-speaking Christians for many years.

Dr. Imad's seminary, JETS, has been equipping Christians with the biblical education they need to evangelize, plant churches, and minister to their home communities for 25 years. Countless graduates have told Dr. Imad that there is no way they would have been able to become a pastor, plant a church, or start a ministry

without the theological training they received at the seminary. In fact, Dr. Imad said that many of his students were originally planning to emigrate from the Middle East to study theology in a Western country, effectively robbing the Middle East of some of the brightest and most talented future pastors. "However, when they get theological training, suddenly they have something that's worth a lot, and they can make a difference," Dr. Imad explained. "They change their minds, and they decide to stay."

Dr. Imad recognizes, however, that it is difficult for many seminaries in the Middle East to survive amidst growing persecution. The security risks, financial concerns, and the growing need for a quality faculty all cause many seminaries to struggle or close down. "Another [challenge] is how difficult it is for would-be leaders to uproot their families and go to another country to get an education," Dr. Imad adds. "As valuable as it is to come to a place where others from different countries would come, it's still very difficult."

This is where a natural partnership between Third Millennium and pre-existing seminaries comes into play. Students who cannot physically attend a seminary can study using Third Mill's curriculum and get a degree through a partner seminary or educational institution. "They can get quality training where they are, just on a little USB and get so many courses on that little device," says Dr. Imad. "Third Mill has something unique to offer, and it's not [just] online training, and it's not just a recording of a course. It's quality content, through a variety of professors in their areas of specialty, [in multiple] languages starting with the core five languages and then going beyond. And it's really great... I mean, this is manna from heaven."

We are thankful for all Dr. Imad has done for his brothers and sisters in the Arabic-speaking world and look forward to continuing to work with him and JETS to grow God's kingdom. To watch our entire interview with Dr. Imad, please visit thirdmill.org/imad.

YOUR KINGDOM COME: THE DOCTRINE OF ESCHATOLOGY



The study of the end times, also known as eschatology, has challenged and fascinated theologians and lay people for centuries. When God created the world, he envisioned transforming the entire planet into his earthly kingdom. Our sinful nature has complicated this vision, but God promises us that he will fulfill his plan through his perfect son Jesus Christ. He will restore his faithful people to life, purge his enemies from his world, establish the new heavens and new earth as his permanent kingdom, and reign forever from his throne in the New Jerusalem.

Over the years, just how and when God will bring about his earthly kingdom has been a topic of much debate among Christians. Our latest series, *Your Kingdom Come*, gives a broad overview of the major schools of thought on the end times and examines what the Bible tells us about the future God has planned for his creation and his people. The series considers a variety of topics, including the afterlife and Christ's return, and the accompanying discussion forums contain engaging interviews with professors and theologians well versed in topics related to eschatology. It is our hope that this new series will give our users a clearer understanding of one of the most difficult topics in theology. If you have questions about eschatology or want to learn more about additional views on the topic, we encourage you to watch this series at thirdmill.org/esc.

MISSION TO THE WORLD AND THIRD MILL

Third Millennium Ministries and individuals from Mission to the World (MTW) have worked together for many years to equip church leaders with the resources they need to lead the next generation of Christians. MTW missionaries have often distributed our curriculum to the people they are serving. After years of informal partnership, we are pleased to announce that we have just finalized a formal partnership with MTW. MTW will be creating a position in each major region dedicated to distributing and implementing Third Mill's curriculum throughout the MTW network. With MTW's far-reaching network, this new partnership has the potential to reach more Christians than ever before. Please pray that this partnership will be fruitful and will lead to the expansion of God's kingdom here on earth.

PLANNED GIVING AND THIRD MILL

As Christians, God entrusts us with the management of His earthly possessions. While God wants us to enjoy that which He has given us, we are ultimately required to steward our talents and finances according to His desires and purposes. Through thoughtful, long-range planning, you can ensure that your finances are being used for His glory and reduce – or in some cases, eliminate – estate and gift taxes.

Planned giving is a way to integrate your personal, financial, and estate planning goals. If you feel called, Third Millennium Ministries welcomes you to include us in your gift and estate planning. By including Third Mill in your estate planning, you ensure your impact on the future leaders of the Christian church for generations to come.

If you would like to learn more about the different types of planned gifts, visit our new planned giving website at legacythirdmill.org. If you have any questions about planned giving, please email us at estateplanning@thirdmill.org. We would be more than happy to assist you.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TRINITY BIBLICAL INSTITUTE

Because so much of our curriculum is distributed by word of mouth and our curriculum is given away freely on our website, it is common for us to meet people who have been using our curriculum, sometimes for years, without our knowing. This recently happened when we met Rev. Pete Anderson from the Trinity Biblical Institute in East Africa at the Presbyterian Church of America General Assembly. Trinity Biblical Institute (TBI) is a school that is equipping and training future generations of Christian leaders in East Africa. With locations in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan, TBI has been using several of our lessons to teach over 1,200 students! After meeting with Rev. Anderson, we have decided to formally partner together to extend the reach of TBI and equip more church leaders than ever before. We are so encouraged by this organization and excited to see how the Lord will grow their ministry and use the students that go through the program. For more information on TBI, you can visit www.trinitycwm.org/tbi.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Third Millennium Ministries' ability to produce and distribute our curriculum is directly tied to the support we receive from our loyal financial partners. Will you prayerfully consider joining with us today in the exciting work God is doing through Third Mill?

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring gift to Third Millennium Ministries, you can return your donation in the enclosed envelope or visit thirdmill.org/donate to make a donation online.

Thank you.



A NEW LAW IN RUSSIA

Last month, Russian president Vladimir Putin approved legislation that makes it against the law to evangelize outside of a recognized religious building. The law even forbids individuals from evangelizing in a private residence or online. Obviously, this amendment puts an extraordinarily large burden on those actively engaged in spreading the good news of the gospel. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Russia who will now have to alter their ministries or go into hiding. You can read more about the law by visiting christianitytoday.com/gleanings and searching for "Russia's Newest Law."



FROM THE FIELD

"There was some skepticism that perhaps the materials would be too advanced for people with an elementary education and maybe they would not be able to understand and grasp the deepness of it. But it's been our experience so far that they really are understanding it, that they're loving it. They go through it a little slower than maybe people with more educational background do and they will watch and re-watch and re-watch the videos or re-listen to the lectures, but they are getting it and it's impacting their hearts."

Tony Elswick, MTW missionary in Nicaragua



THE BOOK OF HEBREWS IN ARABIC



Thanks to the support of wonderful donors, including Midway Presbyterian Church in Powder Springs, Georgia, we are excited to announce the release of our series, *The Book of Hebrews*, in Arabic. The original audience of Hebrews was facing immense persecution, and they were tempted to turn away from Christ, so the author of Hebrews placed his emphasis on standing strong in the faith. Our series introduces perspectives on the author, audience, and purpose of the book of Hebrews in order to help us interpret the original meaning and apply this book to our daily lives.

We hope that it will be an encouragement to our brothers and sisters in the Arabic-speaking world. You can watch this series by visiting thirdmill.org/aheb.