



## SEMINARY EDUCATION AROUND THE WORLD

# AN INTERVIEW WITH *FORBES* COLUMNIST AND FINANCIAL PARTNER JERRY BOWYER

We recently sat down for an interview with economist, author, and *Forbes* columnist, Jerry Bowyer, to discuss his 2011 *Forbes* article titled “The Seminary Bubble.” In his interview, he discussed how the brick and mortar seminary model is not as effective for training the coming generation of pastors and church leaders around the world. The following is a portion of his interview with us, which substantiates the vision and philosophy of Third Mill.

*Right now we have a mindset where seminary is the only model in the world. And that might make sense in the first world – I don't even think it makes sense here – but it does not make sense in the third world. It does not make sense in the poor world.*

*Saying to a young person who has a seminary calling – let's say a young man who's married with young children – 'Now here's what you have to do. You have to travel across the world or you have to travel across the continent. You have to completely disrupt your life. You have to go to Bible College... You have to graduate with on average \$65,000 in debt.' is tying burdens to their back that the people who insist on that model are not willing to untie.*

*The higher in debt you are, the harder it is for you to take theological risks as a preacher... You come out with that degree, you have a low pastor salary, and you have to pay that student loan. It adds to the cost of preaching something unpopular with say the board of elders ... It actually provides a temptation to not be faithful to the full calling. But a zero-debt theological education is a courage catalyst. It makes it easier to be brave because you can always get another job, and you don't have to pay back those student loans because you don't have those student loans.*

*Historically, the church has been ahead of the game technologically. Paul used Koine Greek and the Roman road system. He used the technology of the day. Jesus got out on boats in the water, which was the audiovisual technology of the day. Something about conservative theological traditions makes them want to be conservative in terms of technology and technique. I think that doesn't make any sense at all. If our theology is good, then let's use the best technology. We have this incredible technology – broadband technology – and now sprouting up all over Africa are these cell phone towers. We can deliver free education to the poorest people in the world who need it. And they can end up with a better theological education than somebody in Europe or the United States.*

*When it comes to global pastoral education, distance learning as an adjunct to apprenticing under faithful pastors gets the best of both worlds. It's not just additive; it's multiplicative.*

The number of Christian conversions is increasing and will continue to increase for years to come – especially in countries like Rwanda and Indonesia. While this news is encouraging, the reality is that there are simply not enough pastors to lead this rapidly growing number of Christians and seminaries cannot keep up the demand. By creating a flexible, technologically advanced curriculum, Third Millennium is in the position to partner with seminaries, Bible schools and Christian learning communities around the globe to educate the pastors necessary to lead the next generation of Christians.

To watch the entirety of our interview with Jerry and to hear more of his thoughts about seminary education, please visit [thirdmill.org/mission/video.asp](http://thirdmill.org/mission/video.asp).

## Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM



## HELP US COMPLETE YOUR KINGDOM COME IN CHINESE



We have an exciting opportunity for investment in the production of our Chinese curriculum. A financial partner has pledged a \$25,000 matching gift to complete the

Chinese version of our series on eschatology, *Your Kingdom Come*.

*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. Over the years, just how and when God will bring about his earthly kingdom has been a topic of much debate. It is our hope that this new series will give our users a clearer understanding of one of the most difficult topics in theology.

Your gift of any amount - \$5, \$10, \$25, or more - will bring us closer to meeting this matching grant by the June 15 deadline.

Would you prayerfully consider encouraging the Chinese-speaking church through your investment toward this series (1 Thessalonians 5:11)?

## DISTRIBUTION



THESE ARE THE PASTORS UNDERGOING TRAINING WITH US. THERE ARE CLOSE TO 40 PASTORS. PLEASE KINDLY SEND ME 40 USB DRIVES FOR THE CCM TRAINING.

~ Jorum Mugari, pastor of City Presbyterian Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

## CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SURVEY RESPONSES

Since 2012, Third Millennium Ministries has partnered with Birmingham Theological Seminary (BTS) to provide a free Certificate in Christian Ministry to any individual outside of the United States who completes the Third Millennium curriculum through BTS. Last month, BTS sent a survey to all the individuals taking the courses. The following is some of their feedback:

- "I've been able to do the program at a pace that is comfortable for me, and that is a big plus. I am able to incorporate what I've learned into ministry at my local church."
- "Theological courses are organized and the examination system is well-established so that we do not feel any obstacles to the accumulation of theological knowledge."
- "The content is arranged in such a way that helps me remember the thoughts and ideas being presented. It is informative, interesting and broad in scope as it hits on many theological topics. It makes me feel like I could learn theology that sticks. So thankful for this course."
- "The program is well packaged, spiritually enriching, and theologically balanced."



*Birmingham Theological Seminary*

## THE BOOK OF JOSHUA



On behalf of our English Production team, we are pleased to announce the release of our newest series, *The Book of Joshua*. This series is a key component of our two-year seminary curriculum. In the Old Testament, the book of Joshua reminded ancient Israelites of what God had accomplished for them through the life of Joshua. God had blessed his people with a victorious conquest and had allotted enduring inheritances to the tribes of Israel. These demonstrations of divine benevolence were to lead the original audience of the book of Joshua to respond with covenant loyalty. It is our hope that this series will remind our viewers that we have seen the greatest display of God's grace in his son Jesus Christ, and that we owe God our obedience and reverence. You can watch *The Book of Joshua* today by visiting [thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/jos](http://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/jos).

## THANK YOU

We are more grateful for your investment in Third Millennium Ministries than you could possibly ever imagine. God is truly opening doors through Third Millennium Ministries. We hope that the stories in this newsletter encourage you that your investment is making a lasting impact on His Kingdom. Thank you for standing with us!

## INTRODUCING DR. GREG PERRY



On July 1, Dr. Greg Perry joins the Third Millennium team as Vice President of Strategic Projects. After 14 years at Covenant Seminary, he will leave his position as the associate professor of New Testament and director of the City Ministry Initiative. As a founding member of Third Mill's Board of Directors and a frequent professor featured on our video series, Greg has already been actively involved in the vision of Third Millennium. As vice president, he will be serving the development, production, and distribution departments to ensure that every Christian has a well-trained pastor. Please pray for Greg and his wife Darlene as they make the transition from St. Louis to Orlando.

## FROM THE FIELD

*Your expression of love for God's people here in Malawi will not be forgotten or taken for granted. May God's abundance be yours as souls for God are reached because of you. Thank you is so inadequate to express our appreciation. Thank you (Zikomo kwambiri).*

~ Rosetta Swinton, Malawi

