



## Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM

Third Millennium Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

Third Quarter 2012

## WHO IS THAT ON THE COVER?

Dr. Raju Abraham earned his medical degree in India and went to London for postgraduate work in neurology, psychiatry, and neurophysiology. Converted to Christianity through the writings of Francis Schaeffer, Dr. Abraham spent twenty years serving with the L'Abri Fellowship International in England before he and his wife were called back to India. Dr. Abraham shares more of this story with us below:



The Lord called us to develop a strategy to reach India. For the last eight or nine years we have focused on serving in one hospital and doing holistic ministry. We are involved in evangelism, church planting, and hospital work. Through the hospital, we see about 30,000 patients a year. Last year, we conducted 3,000 cataract operations. In addition, we are involved with a hundred primary schools with nearly 7,000 children. We have offered vocational training to 2,000 young men and women. We also do a lot of community health projects—clean water, sanitation, mobile clinics, and so on. That's what we do; but my primary goal is evangelism and church planting.



In the previous fifty years, in the hospital where I'm working, there were only five baptisms. However, in the last eight or nine years, we've had over 8,000 baptisms. There's a harvest going on in north India. These believers need to be discipled and taught the word of God, so that there might be continuity, a transformation, and growth for years to come.



In India, people are coming to Christ. It's as though the planting and sowing has been done by generations of missionaries and now we're doing the harvest. The new believers mainly come from a Hindu background. We don't call them Christians, we call

them "Yeshe bhactas" which means "followers of Christ," because the term "Christian" has ugly connotations in India. If these folks who have found Christ are not given biblical teaching, later on they will mix Christ up with Krishna or Rama or one of the Hindu gods. Jesus is placed on a pedestal along with their other gods. To provide the house church leaders with a foundation in solid biblical teaching is a very important function that we do.



While new believers and new church plants need to be established, the average church planting pastor has very little training. Many of the church planters have not finished school. We need to bring training to them. We have a network of about 100 local ministries we support. We train them in the field, and every month they come for three days to our hospital or to other places where we can—sometimes a hundred, two hundred at a time—give them additional training.

We need a lot of additional training for pastors. That's why we have partnered with Third Mill to help us equip our pastors on the field with good, sound biblical theology so that they can be better trained and also go out and train others.

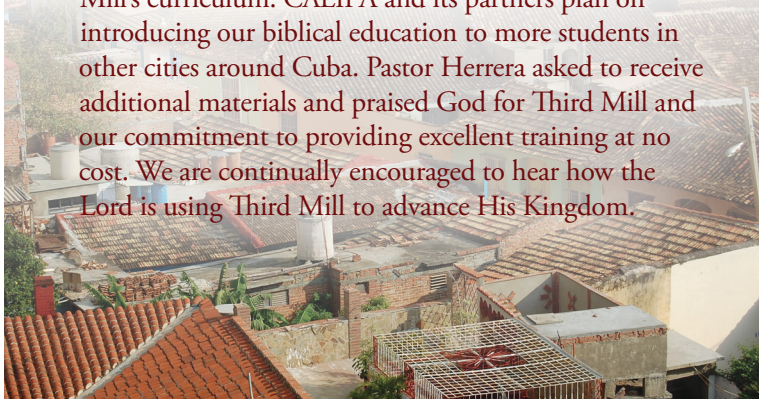
The training needs to be in the field, because many of these pastors have not finished school. We cannot send them to bible college because they do not have the adequate training and they would be far away from their local village areas. This is where Third Mill is so important, because it has all of its training material available on video that we can use. We've already used the Third Mill material and it works!

Please visit [thirdmill.org/abraham](http://thirdmill.org/abraham) to watch a video where Dr. Abraham shares more about evangelism and church planting strategies in India.



## EXPANDING IN CUBA

Last year, Third Mill founder, Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., had the opportunity to visit Cuba and meet with Christian leaders there. Prior to his visit, Third Mill had no presence in Cuba. Dr. Pratt asked the pastors and leaders there to consider adopting Third Mill's materials. We recently heard from Pastor Herrera with CALIPA (Pastoral and Church Leader Training) that there are now 129 students of various denominational backgrounds in nine different Cuban cities engaged with Third Mill's curriculum. CALIPA and its partners plan on introducing our biblical education to more students in other cities around Cuba. Pastor Herrera asked to receive additional materials and praised God for Third Mill and our commitment to providing excellent training at no cost. We are continually encouraged to hear how the Lord is using Third Mill to advance His Kingdom.



## FROM THE FIELD

*Rev. Roberto F. de Fiesta*  
*Philippines*

The church here in the Philippines is vibrant and growing. This August, students from our church will be graduating from Third Mill. Indeed, through your ministry I am now able to raise up future pastors and missionaries from our church. Many Filipino pastors are now logging onto your website since I have introduced Third Mill to the Pinoy Pastors Theological Forum which has more than 1,400 pastors, missionaries, and theological educators as members. We keep praying for you and your ministry. God bless you more and more.



## THIRD MILL GOES PRIMETIME

Despite the high levels of poverty and illiteracy in the Middle East and North Africa, 90 percent of homes have access to television, and half of all households have satellite receivers. SAT-7, a Christian satellite television station broadcasting in the Middle East and North Africa, conservatively estimates its Arabic-speaking viewership at 9 million. We are happy to report that SAT-7 is now airing Third Millennium's videos in Arabic daily as part of its primetime programming. Between our segments, we are running commercials that direct viewers to the numerous resources available on the Third Mill website. Our videos have also been added to the SAT-7 Arabic website located at [sat7.com/sites.aspx](http://sat7.com/sites.aspx). We are excited to collaborate with SAT-7 and expand our distribution by being part of their network. To learn more about SAT-7 and its impact in the Arab world, please visit [sat7usa.org/](http://sat7usa.org/).



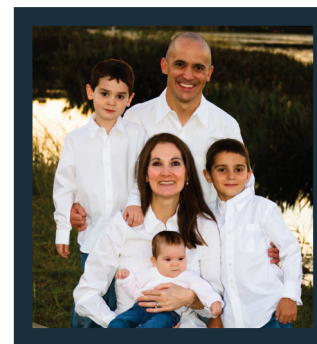
## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL BRIGGS



We are pleased to announce that Michael Briggs has been promoted from his role as Vice President of Operations, which he held for five years, to Executive Director of Third Millennium Ministries. Ideally suited for this position, Michael leverages a passion and keen knowledge of the work of Third Mill, as well as invaluable skills and experience honed while at Accenture, Bank of America, and on the mission field in Spain. In addition, Michael received his Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Covenant Theological Seminary and was recently accepted to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary to pursue a Doctor of Ministry. His business acumen, strong leadership, strategic thinking, and

a core belief in the value and need of our mission are invaluable in his new role of Executive Director. With our founder, Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr., focused on strategic partnerships and distribution and Michael dedicated to achieving organizational goals in a timely, effective, and fiscally sound manner, Third Mill is poised for exciting change, well-managed growth, and stability in the years to come.

Michael shares, "Third Mill has definitely proven it is possible to execute the vision of Biblical Education. For the World. For Free. We have a proven track record that demonstrates we can do this well, in an inexpensive manner and make it accessible to nearly half of the world's population. However, there are still



many underserved people who are desperate for solid Biblical education, but for a variety of reasons cannot access it. Our two biggest goals at present are to put the 'pedal to the floor' and increase our production speed and secondly to create a network where the groups that are using our materials can be connected to learn from each other and share best practices."

Michael and his wife, Kathryn, both North Carolina natives, have three children: Wilson, Gaston, and Libby. In his spare time, Michael enjoys reading novels and biographies, working in the yard with Kathryn, and helping others with their gadgets.



SATELLITE DISHES LINE APARTMENT BUILDING ROOFTOPS IN THE ARABIC COUNTRY OF BAHRAIN IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

### Will You Choose Third Mill?

We recognize that there are many worthy ministries doing the Lord's work. We hope that you will consider investing in Third Mill. Your gift will be instrumental in equipping pastors and leaders around the world with exceptional biblical education at no cost.

Your donation can be returned in the enclosed envelope, or if you prefer the convenience of online giving, visit [www.thirdmill.org](http://www.thirdmill.org) and click the "Donate" button. Thank you!