

Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM



Third Millennium Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

Fourth Quarter 2014

THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES
316 Line Oaks Blvd.
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WHO IS THAT ON THE COVER?



BISHOP MBANDA AND HIS WIFE, CHANTAL

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Laurent Mbanda is currently serving as Bishop of the Shyira Diocese in the Anglican Church of Rwanda. Residing in the mountainous district of Musanze with his wife Chantal, Bishop Mbanda is involved with several international organizations, including Third Millennium Ministries. He is not only overseeing the translation of our curriculum into Kinyarwanda, the native language of Rwanda, but he is also using the materials to educate groups of pastors from all over Africa at the Muhabura Study Centre. It is his ambition to have the Muhabura Study Centre be the catalyst for Third Millennium's curriculum in East Africa and beyond, and with his passion and motivation, we are confident that he will accomplish his vision.

Like similar seminary and biblical study programs in Cuba and Ukraine, the Muhabura Study Centre and the number of individuals studying Third Millennium's lessons has grown exponentially. What began as a few young pastors travelling to the diocese office each month to read the materials and discuss theology has grown into an academic institution with teachers, tests, and class discussions. "We are actually starting to attract not just the Anglican pastors," the bishop enthusiastically said. "If we had the opportunity and the resources, we would bring them all [to the Muhabura Study Centre]." Bishop Mbanda has been so encouraged by the positive response the pastors have had to the Third Millennium curriculum. Many of them have told him that Third Mill's curriculum is "the best education [they] have ever had."

Being able to educate pastors without sending them to the United States has truly been a blessing for Bishop Mbanda and the pastors of Rwanda. For the cost of sending one Rwandan or African pastor to the United States for seminary, he estimates that he can educate 100 pastors in Rwanda. However, the benefits are more than financial. According to Bishop Mbanda, the biggest benefit to training pastors in their own countries and villages is that their local churches can benefit from their pastor's training immediately. For example, if a pastor studies the Apostles' Creed Monday through Friday at a study center, he can turn around and teach the Apostles' Creed to his congregation that Sunday. This way a pastor does not outgrow his local church and village, but rather matures with them and walks alongside them as they study the Word of God together.

As the Muhabura Study Centre grows, Bishop Mbanda envisions building several offshoots throughout their district that would serve as study centers for pastors in the smaller villages. Once or twice a year, he plans to invite all the pastors studying at one of these offshoots to a conference at the Muhabura Study Centre where they can discuss teaching methods and get advice on how best to teach the Third Millennium courses. Bishop Mbanda believes this is the best way for these pastors to encourage, inspire, and learn from one another as they work toward changing Christian education in Africa.

To watch our interview with Bishop Mbanda and learn more about his vision for Rwanda, please visit thirdmill.org/mbanda. If you would like to see the lessons already translated into Kinyarwanda, you can visit kinyarwanda.thirdmill.org.



DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

As we continue to grow as a ministry, it is essential that we look for innovative ways to make free, biblical and theological education more accessible to Christians around the world. Partnerships with like-minded organizations are a key part of our strategy to distribute theologically sound biblical education and train Christians worldwide. The following are some of our most recent updates from our ministry partners.



Will Savell of the Grace Institute travelled to El Salvador to hand out tablets containing Third Mill's Spanish curriculum to a group of 102 pastors attending a conference in Santa Ana.

Our broadcast partner in Indonesia has confirmed that our materials are being shown 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Canadian Reformed Church of Abbotsford has been using our materials in Arabic to teach and minister to the large Sudanese community of Vancouver. They currently have seven Sudanese families attending the church who are actively using the Third Mill curriculum.

Third Mill's mobile app has now been downloaded over 10,000 times! Available on Android, Windows Phone, Apple iOS devices, and, most recently, Kindle, this free app is a great way to watch Third Mill videos and study theology on the go. Visit thirdmill.org/mobile.asp for more information.



NEW SERIES

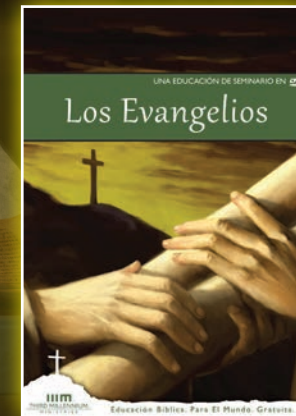
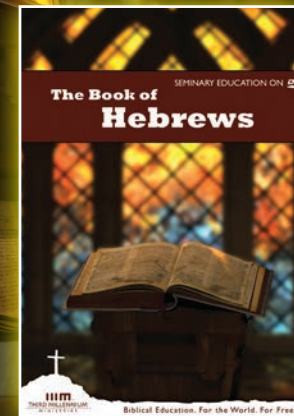
Due to the generosity of our donors and the efficient work of our production and translation teams, we are pleased to announce that we have two new series available: *The Gospels* in Spanish and *The Book of Hebrews* in English. With the release of these series, 2014 continues to be our most productive year yet.

The Gospels is the most highly anticipated Spanish series by our partners in Latin America and is the third series our talented Spanish team has released this year. This fundamental series summarizes the structure, content, original meaning, and modern application of the first four books of the New Testament – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Understanding the Gospels is essential for every Christian because much of what we know about the life and teachings of Jesus is contained in these four books. We pray that this critical series will be a blessing to all those who receive it and give new Christians a strong understanding of the life and promises of Jesus Christ.

Our newest series in English, *The Book of Hebrews*, looks at the background, audience, author, and the purpose of one of the most challenging books in the New Testament. When studying Hebrews, it is

helpful to recognize that the original audience was facing persecution and were tempted to turn away from Christ. That is why the author of Hebrews placed his emphasis on standing strong in the faith and it is why this book is one of the most valuable and encouraging to Christians in every age. It is our hope that this series will not only educate our viewers, but also encourage them to face the difficulties of life with faith and perseverance.

You can watch these new series at espanol.thirdmill.org and thirdmill.org respectively.



FROM THE FIELD

"These teachings have changed my mind, have changed my sermons, have opened my understanding of the Bible...I want to give thanks to Third Millennium and to all the people who are engaged in helping us and bringing this knowledge to our hands and to our homes."

- *Pastor Mauricio Barrientos,*
Pastor of Oasis de Gracia, El Salvador



AN ENCOURAGING WORD FROM ONE OF OUR TRANSLATORS

One of our Chinese translators, Jane Chen, recently shared with us how translating the Third Millennium curriculum is influencing her life.

"I like the material of these lessons very much and deeply appreciate that Third Mill would teach such solid and important truth. I feel that nowadays some churches or believers are weak because their focus is not on God's Kingdom. [The] Gospel without the essential element of God's Kingdom becomes some loosely self-benefited, vain promises – People attending some so-called prophetic meetings to pursue personal prophecy instead of the guidance regarding God's will for His people in the Kingdom. I am glad these materials will be used to equip the church workers in China and other areas so they can lead the believers on the right path to build up and expand the Kingdom of God, for that reason we are called by Jesus Christ to be out of the worldly tangles and into His holy covenant. One day we will be ruling with Him by his promise. Thank you very much for letting me be a part in this course. I learn a lot personally by reading the text."

JOIN WITH US

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

You may return your donation in the enclosed envelope, or if you prefer the convenience of online giving, visit thirdmill.org and click the "Donate" button.