

# Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM



## TOO MUCH GOOD NEWS

We are about to have our annual Board meeting at the offices of Third Millennium. Someone recently asked me, "What's the biggest challenge you're facing as you get ready for your Board meeting?" I'm sure he expected me to say, "the economy." But I had to tell him, "Too much good news." I simply don't know how to find enough time to tell our Board all the blessings God is pouring out on our ministry. He is empowering our staff; he is expanding our teaching staff; he is opening new global ministry partnerships. I could write a book about it.

I hope you will be encouraged by the few reports in this quarter's newsletter.

Rejoice with us, knowing that God is even more interested than we are in *biblical education, for the world, for free.*

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Richard L. Pratt Jr.



## SPOTLIGHT ON CHINA

Each week, our Chinese team receives requests from seminaries, Bible schools, and churches for the IIIM curriculum in Mandarin. In fact, there are so many requests that it is hard to keep up with the demand! Here are a few highlights that are indicative of the impact Third Millennium is making in China:

- The Chinese Evangelical Covenant Seminary has partnered with Miami International Seminary (MINTS) to grant both Bachelors and Masters degrees in Biblical and Theological Studies. These online study programs are based primarily on IIIM video lessons.
- At least five major underground church networks are actively using IIIM curriculum to train their leaders.
- Several new underground seminaries are currently being organized that plan to base their programs around the IIIM curriculum.

## RECENT PARTNERSHIPS

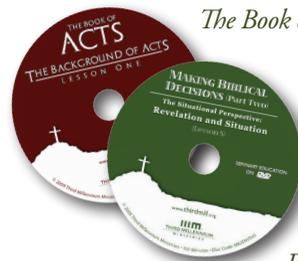
Third Millennium Ministries' distributes our curriculum in many ways, and we are always looking for new avenues. One very fruitful method of distribution is networking with ministries that have active Christian education programs. Here are just a few of our most recent partnerships:

- *Campus Crusade for Christ in Africa and the Middle East* has chosen IIIM curriculum to be the theological training program for their campus leaders and church planters.
- *African Enterprise*, a large ministry network based in South Africa, has determined to use IIIM to train their pastors in nine African countries.
- *Evangelism Explosion International* has chosen IIIM as its official distance-learning program to be used in its 240 evangelism and theological training centers around the world. After spending a year and a half examining distance-training programs for pastors, one of their vice-presidents told us, "There just isn't any comparison. You have, by far, the best curriculum out there."



## PRODUCTION STATUS REPORT

Since July 1, 2008, our production teams have released a total of 17 new series: *Making Biblical Decisions (Part 2)* and *The Book of Acts* in English, and 15 translated series (2 in Chinese, 2 in Arabic, 4 in Spanish, and 7 in Russian).



We plan to release 4 new English series before the end of our fiscal year on June, 30, 2010: *Building Biblical Theology* and *The Apostles' Creed*, both of which should be available later this year; and *We Believe in Jesus* and *The Gospels*, which are scheduled for release next summer. With these releases, we will have produced 40% of our 2-year M.A. multimedia curriculum in English. We also plan to release 15 additional translated series.

## ISAIAH 55 ENDORSES IIM

Just across the border in Reynosa, Mexico, Isaiah 55 Deaf Ministries is busy evangelizing their community by serving and educating the deaf, an unreached and often neglected people group. As an additional community

outreach, Isaiah 55 staff pastors Moises Mendoza and Erwin Lopez host “doctrinal classes” for local pastors and lay leaders from a variety of denominations. IIM video lessons are used as the curriculum for these classes, and are helping to unify and equip the body of Christ in Reynosa and beyond. These men have also adopted Third Millennium as the required training curriculum for leaders of a new citywide



shepherding ministry. As we rejoice in the work of Isaiah 55 Ministries, we are reminded not to spend money on that which is not bread, or labor on what does not satisfy, but instead, to listen, and to eat what is good – and our souls will delight in the richest of fare (Is. 55:2).

## WHERE'S RICHARD?

Third Millennium Ministries' president Dr. Richard Pratt has recently completed his term as interim senior pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church (IPC) in Memphis, Tennessee. As you know, during his tenure at IPC, Richard continued to serve as IIM's president, and the ministry continued to grow and to produce high-quality Christian education videos. Richard will now be able to dedicate even more time to Third Millennium.

## ACCREDITATION RENEWED

Third Millennium Ministries has been a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) for many years, and our membership has been renewed again this year (2009-2010). ECFA is an accreditation agency that promotes fiscal integrity and sound financial practices among member organizations. Membership is hard to obtain; it indicates to donors that we are responsible with the money entrusted to us, and honest and accurate in our accounting practices.



Richard will also continue his preaching and teaching ministry both domestically and internationally. Recently, Richard presented lectures on the kingdom of God at San Pablo Theological Seminary in Merida, the largest Presbyterian seminary in Mexico. He also spent weeks teaching at seminaries in Kiev, Ukraine, and Charlotte, North Carolina.

## SPIRIT OF THE REFORMATION STUDY BIBLE IN MANDARIN

You might remember that IIM president Dr. Richard Pratt was the General Editor of the *NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2003), and that he and many IIM staff made tremendous contributions to this project. Well, the newest version of that study Bible has just been released in Mandarin (Chinese) and is



currently available in the United States and China. Mandarin is the most widely spoken Chinese dialect, and is readable even by those who speak other dialects.

This is a landmark publication because it is the first study Bible of any type to be published in the Chinese New Version (CNV). The CNV is a reliable translation that uses updated, modern language.



Our prayer is that God will use the *CNV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible* to teach sound theology and responsible interpretation to the millions of Chinese Christians around the world.

圣经研读版



## FROM THE FIELD

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I just had to write to you and let you know that the discovery of your educational program has enabled us to move to “full steam ahead” in our missionary efforts in Pakistan.

Starting with one believer 3 years ago, we have now planted 5 Churches and 5 Christian Schools in the rural areas of this Muslim country — 1500 souls have already given their lives to Jesus Christ.

We could plant another 10-20 churches — but how do we train the leaders? Now our prayers have been answered with a quality educational program that will enable us to help fulfill the Great Commission... We believe that God is leading us to build a church with 100,000 members in Pakistan within 5 years. Before we found you, it was only a dream. Now with your educational tools and the blessing of God, it is a distinct possibility.

— name and ministry withheld for security reasons

