

Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM

Dr. Greg Perry, associate professor of New Testament at Covenant Seminary, has been a board member at Third Millennium Ministries since the beginning. Over the years, he has been involved in several aspects of the ministry including serving as the treasurer, contributing to several of our lessons, and being a faithful donor. Most recently, he traveled to Indonesia and China with several of our team members to meet with people who are actively using Third Millennium's curriculum. We recently had the opportunity to talk with him about his involvement at Third Mill and why he believes free biblical education is critical to the growth of the Christian church.



AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. GREG PERRY

What are the strengths of Third Mill's strategy to meet the need for theological education?

Christianity is changing in the world. Something missiologists (those who specialize in the study of missions) and others have been talking about for over 20 years now is that Christianity is growing fastest in Asia and Africa, where access to theological training is least available. Third Mill's strategy is to equip church leaders where they are and to deliver excellent material in multiple formats. In China, they want to stay off the internet in terms of being tracked, so it's important to them to use our flash drives and to put all of the materials onto their computers or to have it in print. What I appreciate about the effectiveness of Third Mill's strategy is it incorporates different media formats that are appropriate to the context and provides excellent quality theological education to the people who need it the most, where the church is growing the fastest and these resources are least available.

How does Third Mill assist and enhance the traditional strategy of training pastors?

One of the great advantages of partnering with Third Mill is that we (seminary professors) can adjust the way we use our classroom time. I have been involved in planning distance education courses and in planning for classroom situations. What I can do by assigning viewings with Third Mill's materials is the content can be delivered ahead of time and classroom time can focus on application, context, and ministry skills. I think there is a very effective partnership between Bible colleges, seminaries and the materials that Third Mill delivers.

What was the highlight of your trip to Indonesia and China?

The thing that most moved me was my experience in the house churches in China. We were in a conference where underground pastors came together to be certified in the use of our Old Testament materials. These pastors were going back to their network of churches and then using the materials to train their leaders. It was amazing to see people come together from different parts of China for four days and to receive this training, and then to know that those materials were going to be multiplied when

they went back to their network of house churches.

One of the pastors who was involved in that conference invited me to preach in his church on Sunday. We went into this large, probably 20 buildings of apartment complexes in a major metropolitan area in China, and the people started gathering an hour before service to pray. They really understand that prayer is a lifeline in the spiritual battle that they are engaged in for the sake of the kingdom of God. So, we prayed for an hour, then we had a service for an hour, and then the adults divided into small groups and discussed the sermon for an hour. We all shared lunch together after that time, so we spent about four hours together because they are just so glad to be together and to encourage one another in the gospel on the Lord's Day.

This same pastor took a member of the Global Opportunities Team, Andrew Lamb, and me to a clandestine seminary later in the week. This seminary meets on two levels in an apartment building and has about 45 students. We were looking at the books on the shelves. Printed in Mandarin, they have different recognizable authors. They have Third Mill materials as well. I noticed that they were all photocopies. I asked them about this, and they said, "Oh, we keep the originals in a different location." Then they explained that twice they have had their entire library confiscated, and so they keep the originals in a separate location so they can then copy them again and provide them for their students. As we met with the faculty there, they talked about a group of pastors they are connected with, about 100 pastors, who cannot come to seminary. They can't leave their financial responsibilities and their pastoral responsibilities, but they get together for a conference once a year. They are using the Third Mill materials with those pastors in particular throughout the year.

The meeting with the underground church in China was really something that I will never forget. It puts faces and names to the people that I have prayed for in the past. Now I can pray for them by name.

To watch our full interview with Greg Perry, please visit thirdmill.org/mission/video.

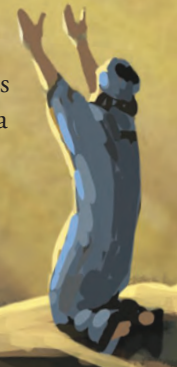
JUST RELEASED: WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Practically speaking, the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who is most involved in our daily lives. However, many Christians know far more about the Father and the Son than they do about the Spirit. Our newest series, *We Believe in the Holy Spirit*, describes how the doctrine of the Holy Spirit developed historically and explores the Spirit's dynamic work in the world, in the church, and in believers.

We Believe in the Holy Spirit series is part of a group of courses we offer under the heading of Basic Christian Doctrine. These courses are designed to present the most critical Christian doctrines in terms that are easy to understand and in ways that form a secure foundation for more advanced studies.

To begin studying *We Believe in the Holy Spirit* or any of our other courses, please visit thirdmill.org/seminary.

JOB LISTENING TO GOD



WE BELIEVE IN GOD IN CHINESE



Our Chinese team has just finished translating the video, audio, manuscripts, and study guides for *We Believe in God*. This series describes the nature and existence of God, explores His attributes, explains God's creative and providential works, and draws out the implications that His existence, attributes, and works have for modern Christian living. Because

this series has been highly anticipated, we have already sent out 80 USBs to our partners in China so that they can begin studying it and training others. The series has also been placed on our Chinese mobile app. If you would like to see this series, visit c.thirdmill.org/seminary.

AMAZON SMILE: SHOPPING THAT BENEFITS THIRD MILL

Did you know that when you shop at Amazon, you can provide pastors around the world with a biblical education? How? Through AmazonSmile!

AmazonSmile is a website that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as **Amazon.com**. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile (**smile.amazon.com**), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice.

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FROM THE FIELD

"Our churches in Egypt lack biblical education, as such, church pulpits have become places for false teaching and preaching which come out of self endeavors with no biblical foundation. As soon as I heard about the biblical education that Third Mill offers, I immediately thought about our church ministry staff. I believe that those who have been ministered to reflect those who ministered to them. So, I decided to form groups in different churches, after sharing the vision with pastors and elders. I copied the courses on the staff's computers. If someone does not have a computer, I let them use mine. I plan to give the USBs as a reward after finishing our study. Out of the four groups that I plan to form, we now have two that have started. Each group consists of 8-12 persons."

Raymond, a lay minister in the Evangelical (Presbyterian) Church in Egypt

FLASH DRIVES IN NAIROBI

The gospel changes lives. Our goal is to get solid, gospel training into the hands of those who need it most – in their own land, in their own language, and absolutely free.

Consider one story of how God is working in Africa. Stephen Spanjer (pictured on the left below), a former seminary student of Richard Pratt and missionary based in Germany, wrote this about his time teaching at a conference in Nairobi in October:

The conference was a huge success! I was told that this was the first Reformed conference that invited non-reformed pastors. Pastors plagued by spiritual mysticism were exposed to doctrinal truth. One thing that Reformed theology offers is reasonable explanations to life and Bible questions, which people are hungry for.

When we handed out the Third Mill thumb drives, they gobbled them up and started watching videos on the same day. The organizers of the conference have been getting calls thanking them for the jump drives and asking follow up questions about what they were seeing there.

This is what Kenya needs next; it is what Africa needs next. Thank you so much for making this possible by sending the [150 English] thumb drives for these pastors - it was a worthy and fruitful investment for the Kingdom.



JOIN WITH 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?

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ARABIC TEAM RELEASES TRANSLATION OF WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Third Mill's Arabic Team announced this fall the release of the Arabic translation of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (WCF). This 110-page translation has the full proof texts of the Scriptures, as well as a short historical introduction and explanation of the significance of such a seminal document. A previous Arabic translation of the WCF (not by Third Mill) was missing these critical proof texts and contained errors, according to Rev. Sherif Gendy, lead translator for the project.

"With the political upheaval that is dominating many countries in the Middle East, the church in the Arabic-speaking world is in critical need, more than ever before, for a solid understanding of its faith and practice built upon the Scriptures," said Gendy, an Egyptian who is ordained in the PCA.

"The political and social realities in these countries have left many Arabs, both Christians and Muslims, wondering about God's purposes," he notes. "There is a huge need for sound biblical resources in Arabic that can aid the church in its mission of building God's kingdom in that part of the world."

Translated with Modern Standard Arabic, which makes it more accessible and relevant, the free translation can be found on the Arabic Third Mill website (arabic.thirdmill.org/mission/faith.asp).

Third Mill encourages you to use it in your ministry, print it out for your study, and share it with others. If you have any questions, please email us at arabic@thirdmill.org.