

# Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM

## WHO IS THAT ON THE COVER?

Paulo Sicoli and his wife Valeria stand in front of the cloud of smoke and ash that erupted from the volcano underneath the Eyjafjallajakull glacier in Iceland.

Paulo, Valeria, and their daughter Laila came to Iceland from Brazil six years ago in order to start a Bible school in a land where “the ‘post Christian’ mentality and the modern lifestyle” have obscured genuine Christianity to a point where “the ‘Confirmation Ceremony’ is enough to guarantee a place in heaven.” For many in Iceland, a Christian life of holiness means nothing more than a piece of paper. As Paulo says, “Salvation [is] guaranteed by the local church, including certificates to prove it. Children go through a course where they receive such a certificate of salvation.” Although the majority of Icelanders call themselves Christian (85.5% are officially Lutheran\*), the true gospel is ignored or misunderstood. “The churches are many and widespread through the country but only a few of them offer regular services... Most pastors in Iceland never attend a Seminary or a Bible School... and it brings all kinds of crazy doctrines and practices into the church, guiding the people apart from the truth and sometimes even out of the church.”



Like all of us, Icelanders are in desperate need of an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ and his Word. This is where the work of Paulo makes a difference. Paulo and his family hope to show that God's love is not something empty and lifeless that can be hung on a wall. His vision is to start the Icelandic International Seminary (IIS), and he is currently working to get Third Millennium videos broadcast on a local Christian television station. “The curriculum of Third Millennium is amazing and some people are already watching and learning a lot. It is very consistent and informative and the graphics and explanations are outstanding. The [Third Millennium] DVDs are the base of our curriculum and give us the foundation for further classes.”

We are so excited to see our curriculum being used to God's glory all over the world by people like Paulo! In future newsletters, we will continue to spotlight real people who use our lessons as part of their ministry to equip and train pastors. If you know someone who is effectively using our materials, please email us at [LHardison@thirdmill.org](mailto:LHardison@thirdmill.org). We would love to feature them in an upcoming newsletter.

*\*<http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ic-iceland/rel-religion>*

## EN LA NOTICIA (IN THE NEWS)

By now you have probably returned your 2010 Census. World mission experts are watching this



census to see how much the Latino population has grown in the United States. Current projections show Latinos becoming the majority in only 40 years. With the changing demographics in this country, the number of Spanish speaking churches in the U.S. will greatly

increase, but according to Christianity Today's John Kennedy, “U.S. seminaries are largely unprepared” to train these Spanish speaking pastors. This is yet

another reason Third Millennium's Spanish curriculum is so important. It will help meet the growing need of Spanish speaking pastors not only overseas, but also right here in the United States.

## PRAYING FOR YOU

Did you know that our staff prays for you weekly? We are all partners in this together, and we believe it is very important that we lift our supporters up to the Father. If you have anything you would like us to pray for on your behalf please email us at: [prayer@thirdmill.org](mailto:prayer@thirdmill.org)



## ONLINE PODCAST

byFaith Magazine recently interviewed our President Dr. Richard Pratt about the release of the *The Apostles' Creed* video series. To listen to the interview visit [www.byfaithonline.com](http://www.byfaithonline.com). You can find the video at the bottom left of the byFaith home page or through the search bar.



## ARABIC AT A GLANCE

We would like to congratulate our Arabic team on their outstanding productivity!

This year our Arabic team completed 15 lessons – 30% more curriculum than the average 12 lessons completed by most of our non-English teams in years past. Our Arabic series completed this year include:

### Making Biblical Decisions

(10 lessons)

Every Christian hopes to make decisions based on biblical principles.

This series teaches believers how to evaluate problems in ways that lead to biblical solutions.



### Paul's Prison Epistles

(5 lessons)

Through our study of Paul's letters, written while he was in prison, this series teaches how we can learn to overcome the challenges we ourselves face as Christians today.

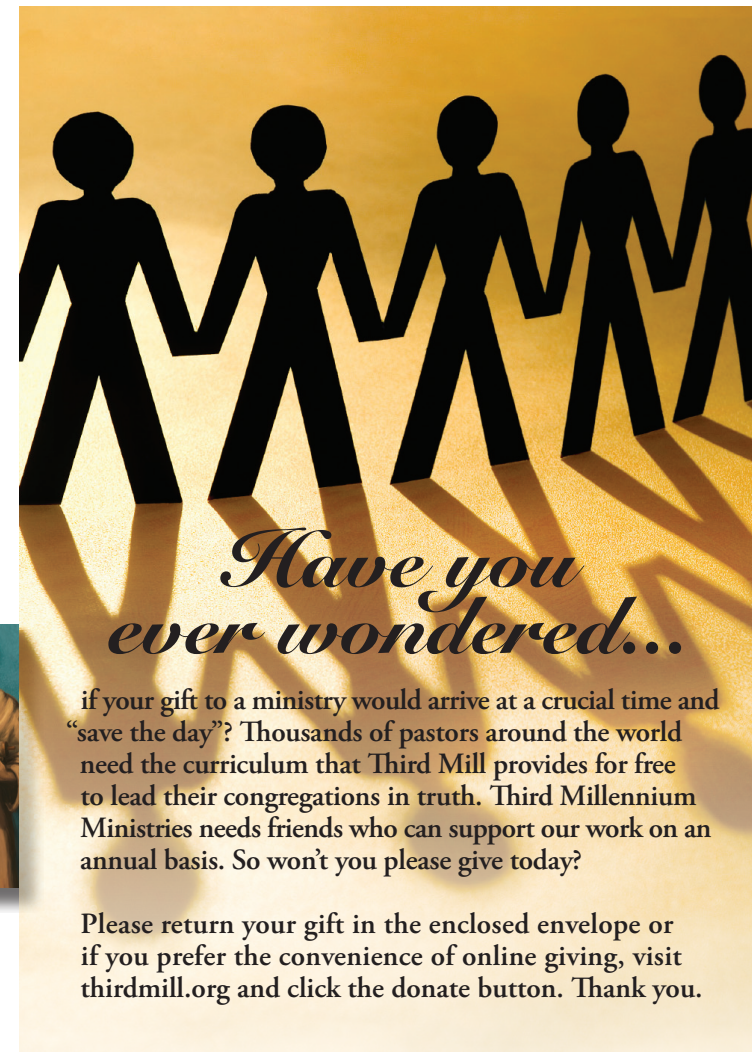


## WHAT IS IN THE PIPELINE?

We are often asked, “What’s next in the production pipeline for Third Mill?” Currently, we are producing two new series focusing on the New Testament. The first series, *We Believe in Jesus*, explores the roles Jesus fulfilled while he ministered on earth: Savior, Redeemer, Prophet, Priest and King. Jesus embodied all these roles and fulfilled each one in a way that ultimately proved his role as the most important human being ever to live. Our second series, *The*



*Gospels*, is based on the books of *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke* and *John*. What we know of Jesus Christ and his work is primarily told through the hearts and pens of these four chosen authors. This series teaches the importance of each Gospel and how each author’s personality, background, and emphasis help paint a fuller picture of the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Visit our website every week for sneak peeks of our upcoming series.



if your gift to a ministry would arrive at a crucial time and “save the day”? Thousands of pastors around the world need the curriculum that Third Mill provides for free to lead their congregations in truth. Third Millennium Ministries needs friends who can support our work on an annual basis. So won't you please give today?

Please return your gift in the enclosed envelope or if you prefer the convenience of online giving, visit [thirdmill.org](http://thirdmill.org) and click the donate button. Thank you.

## BROADENING OUR SCOPE

We continue to broaden our scope by adding more faces and guest speakers to our videos. We have found that in order to be accepted all over the world, it's important that our curriculum have the people of the world on video.



DR. SAMUEL LING

One way we have begun to do this is through partnerships with other mission organizations. For example, our Vice President of Curriculum, Ra McLaughlin, plans to travel to Serbia in July, 2010 to attend an Overseas Council conference with respected Christian leaders from all over the world. While there, he



DR. RIAD KASSIS

will have the opportunity to interview many of the participants and incorporate their wisdom and thoughts into our video curriculum, effectively opening new doors for the use of our materials.



DR. JEFF JUE

## FROM THE FIELD

Your proposed course of study based on existing materials is perfect for what is needed in Bangladesh, where I would like to try this first. If it works okay, then I'll plan to use it in Pakistan. We're working now on finding a suitable campus in the Dhaka area that will accommodate 100 students.

There's a pitiful absence of written material in Bengali (the 4th largest language group in the world) to use in Bangladesh. There is a very capable Muslim convert who helps us with written translation. Bangladesh currently has a growing population of 160+ million. The religious climate has changed dramatically in the past couple years. Muslims are much more open to the gospel. Persecution is on the decline. Many are turning to a sort of pantheism. There are many young men interested in full time ministry.

Thank you for your help. Third Millennium Ministries will be a significant resource to train an educated leadership for Christ in Bangladesh.

— *Jim Persons*  
*The Forgotten Missionaries International Inc.*

