



Into the THIRD MILLENNIUM

Third Millennium Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

First Quarter 2015

THIRD MILLENNIUM
MINISTRIES
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Casselberry, FL 32707-3867

WHO IS THAT ON THE COVER?

Stephen Spanjer (pictured on the cover with his wife and daughter) is an ordained PCA minister and the founder of the church planting ministry Won by One International. He is currently the pastor of Neuenburg International Church in Neuenburg, Germany. Although his primary focus has been ministering to individuals in Post-Christian Germany, Stephen recently had the opportunity to use Third Millennium Ministries' Amharic curriculum to disciple a young man who had fled his home country of Eritrea, a country of six million that borders Sudan and Ethiopia.

After Stephen arrived in Germany, the German government committed to granting asylum and providing short-term housing to individuals fleeing their home countries. As a result, individuals from all over the world began arriving in Neuenburg, the majority of which were Gambians, Eritreans, and Syrians. In order to make these individuals feel welcome, Stephen invited eight Eritreans living in a nearby refugee home to his church. One young man, whom Stephen refers to as Aman for security reasons, fled due to the country's strict persecution of evangelical Christians.

In 2002, the Eritrean government announced that it would only recognize four religious institutions: Islam, the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church, the Catholic Church and the Lutheran church. Eritreans who chose to practice other religions, including any other form of Christianity, were at risk of being imprisoned and even tortured. At the urging of his concerned Orthodox parents, Aman decided to leave his home country to seek refuge and religious freedom in Germany. He traveled, often illegally and in terrible conditions, from Ethiopia, to Sudan, to Libya, to Tripoli, to Italy, and finally to Germany.



Upon arriving in Germany, Aman was enrolled in the German welfare system and placed in a refugee home in Neuenburg, the city where Stephen's ministry had planted their church. After meeting at a church barbeque, Stephen began spending time with Aman. "It became clear pretty quickly that Aman had a real and living faith in Jesus Christ and a passion for being His disciple," Stephen told us. "However, it was also clear that he had very little depth of theological knowledge and so he was excited to meet with me weekly in order to study the Scriptures." Unfortunately, it was difficult for Stephen to explain some of the more complex theological ideas due to the language barrier.

One day, Stephen was browsing the Third Mill website when he noticed that we recently uploaded materials in Amharic. Although the native language of Eritrea is Tigrinya, Amharic is very similar to Tigrinya because they both originated from the same root language. When Stephen showed Aman the Third Mill courses, Aman was thrilled and immediately began using them for his personal study. "I found Aman an iPod and downloaded hours of

theological education in Amharic provided by Third Mill," Stephen told us. "I was so excited and thankful for Third Mill's efforts which have made this providential relationship with Aman productive for his growth in Christ."

We continue to be amazed by how God delivers our materials to the individuals who need and want them the most. We cannot thank Stephen enough for sharing this encouraging story with us and introducing Aman to Third Millennium Ministries so that he can get the education he desires and minister to other displaced Eritreans. For more information on Stephen's ministry, Won by One International, please visit wboi.net.

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE?

In 2014, your prayers and support for Third Millennium Ministries allowed our English production team to write and produce **nine new lessons**, making it our most productive year to date. While this is an incredible accomplishment, our production team has committed to producing even more lessons this year so we can complete our two-year curriculum before the end of 2017. Currently, we are simultaneously working on the three courses highlighted below.

The first series to be added to our curriculum in 2015, *The Epistle of James*, will look at the major themes in James' letter to Jewish Christians in the first century A.D. James knew that living a godly lifestyle was not easy, but he encouraged his audience in his letter toward humble endurance and patient faith as they walked with God.

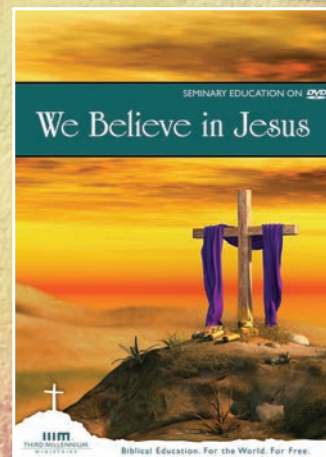
Our second series in 2015, *We Believe in God*, will focus on describing the nature and existence of God, exploring His attributes, explaining God's creative and providential works and drawing out the implications that His existence, attributes and works have for modern Christian living.

Finally, the third series our production team is currently working on investigates the challenging topic of eschatology. Titled *The Last Days*, this series will examine what the Bible reveals to us about the future God has planned for his people and will consider a variety of topics including the afterlife and what the Scriptures teach us about Christ's return.

If you want more up-to-date news on our production team's progress, like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ThirdMillennium](https://www.facebook.com/ThirdMillennium).

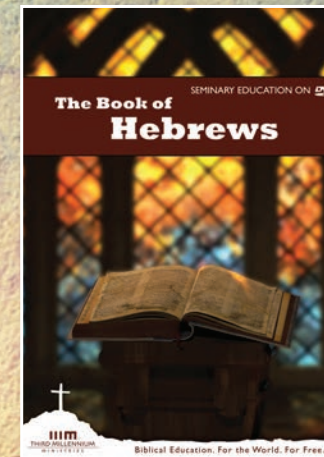
NEW SERIES

Although 2015 has just begun, our translation teams have already completed *We Believe in Jesus* in Arabic and *The Book of Hebrews* in Chinese.



Translating and distributing our Arabic materials throughout the Middle East has been a challenge due to the constant warfare in the region. That is why we are so excited to announce the release of our second Arabic series this year, *We Believe in Jesus*. Because the Middle East is so religiously diverse, the knowledge of who Jesus is varies drastically from person to person. This series will give Arabic-speaking Christians – and individuals curious about Christianity – a concrete and biblically sound view of the Son of God. In addition, it will provide Christian leaders in the region with the tools to explain the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to new believers.

The Book of Hebrews is also the Chinese team's second series completed this year. Much like Christians living in China today, the original audience of Hebrews was facing immense persecution because of their beliefs. That is why the author of Hebrews placed a strong emphasis on standing strong in the faith, regardless of the political atmosphere or an individual's personal suffering. It is our hope that this series will provide Chinese pastors and Christian leaders with the means necessary to encourage their respective communities to remain faithful in the midst of political turmoil and persecution.



You can find these new series at arabic.thirdmill.org and c.thirdmill.org respectively. With your support, we are continuing to make great strides toward our goal of creating a complete multimedia seminary curriculum in five languages.

Q&A KNOWLEDGEBASE



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT CHRISTIANITY, THE BIBLE OR THEOLOGY?

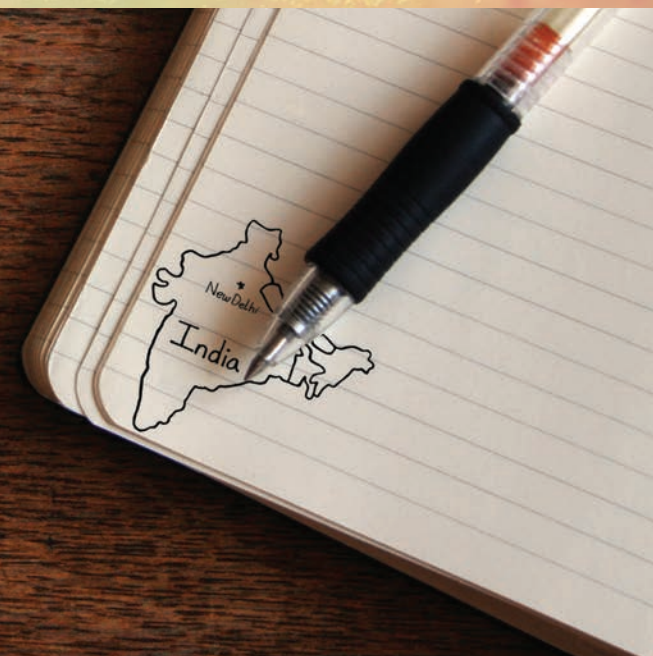
Look no further than Third Millennium Ministries' Q&A Knowledgebase! With

thousands of answers to questions asked by visitors to our website, you are sure to find the answers you need. Visit thirdmill.org/answers to search our knowledgebase or browse our topically indexed answers.

FROM THE FIELD

"The strategy of Third Mill to take education to people on the field is very attractive. That's what we need... That would be the best training we can have for developing our leaders, which is the biggest need right now in our ministry."

Dr. Ivan Sikba, India



HELP US FINISH OUR SEMINARY CURRICULUM

At the conclusion of 2014, we received the first installment of a three-part matching grant that will enable us to complete our two-year seminary curriculum by July 2017. Provided we meet certain fundraising and production goals, the matching foundation will *triple* both unrestricted gifts and gifts given toward the production of our English curriculum over the lifetime of grant. Would you please prayerfully consider making a special donation so that we may provide pastors with the biblical education they so eagerly desire?

You can either return your donation in the enclosed envelope or visit thirdmill.org and click the "Donate" button to donate online. Thank you!