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

Who Is That On The Cover?

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.”

Who Is That On The Cover?

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

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.
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.