

The Western Way

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERY AUTHORIZES **ON-THE-JOB** SEMINARY TRAINING

Steve Kammer is the College Student Ministry Director and Western Seminary Training Director at Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs. He is preparing for ordination using Thirdmill's curriculum.

Steve first heard about Thirdmill when President Richard Pratt visited Village Seven Church for a missions conference. Steve had expressed his desire to go to seminary, but relocating for a few years would be difficult on his family and ministry relationships. Richard suggested that Steve and Village Seven consider using Thirdmill's curriculum to prepare for ordination. With a vision for serving the regions of the United States where there are not enough church leaders and pastors, Village Seven and Steve approached Rocky Mountain Presbytery with a new initiative for theological education. They call this initiative Western Seminary Training.

In 1978, the Presbyterian Church in America approved a uniform curriculum for theological education. This curriculum outlines the course of study a candidate for the ministry needs to complete in order to be considered for ordination. In 2015, Steve lined up the requirements of the Uniform Curriculum with the lesson series

produced by Thirdmill in a proposal to the presbytery. All the Bible and Theology courses matched well with Thirdmill, and Steve found other resources to meet the requirements for Church History and biblical languages. Practical theology courses like preaching and



“I cannot think of a better way to raise a new generation of church leaders than to offer them biblical and theological education while they are in active ministry.”

— Dr. Richard L. Pratt, Jr.

counseling would be supervised locally. Acknowledging the issue of retaining gifted candidates in the West, the presbytery approved Steve's proposal with the

support of Village Seven, and he began his journey to ordination.

Steve used our online classroom, **myThirdmill.org** to watch the lessons, take quizzes and access additional readings. He also gathered with other students online to discuss what they were learning, to pray for each other, and to discuss how the course content applied to their lives and ministries. Having completed all Thirdmill lessons, Steve is now focusing his studies on Greek and Hebrew before he takes his licensure exams in 2020.

With the support of his pastor, Rev. Mark Bates, Steve is now developing other leaders through this on-the-job approach to theological education. Once approved for the program, apprentices are required to go through the Thirdmill curriculum while serving in a local church. The leaders-in-training are matched with a supervising pastor who provides ministry activities, coaching, encouragement and feedback.

Rocky Mountain Presbytery and Western Seminary Training have paved the way for affordable, theological education that promotes a different set of questions from students who are already on-the-job in mission and ministry. For more information, visit: westernseminarytraining.com

Mapping Degree Pathways

“Can I take Thirdmill courses for credit?”

This is one of the most frequent questions we get at Thirdmill. Now, the answer is “YES!” Accredited programs are recognizing the quality of our lesson series and incorporating them into their courses and degree programs.



Our earliest partner in North America, **Birmingham Theological Seminary**, continues to expand the reach of their proven, church-based training model beyond the state of Alabama under the direction of President Ike Reeder. BTS is incorporating Thirdmill curriculum to their online Master’s programs, in addition to current offerings in their Certificate in Christian Ministry.

BELHAVEN
UNIVERSITY

Belhaven University recently announced a fully online Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and a Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies in partnership with Thirdmill. Belhaven’s innovative program is extending their learning community far beyond their historic campus.



Thirdmill’s degree pathways connect Gospel-centered Christians in many communities. As part of a creative trio, Thirdmill has joined with the **BibleMesh Institute** to offer a Master of Arts in Christian Studies through **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**. Students begin by completing the Thirdmill Certificate through the BibleMesh Institute, and then complete the remaining credits through Southeastern.



City Vision University currently provides scholarship credit for four Thirdmill courses completed at myThirdmill.org and will transfer all credits to City Vision’s undergraduate programs in Christian ministry. Look for more news from City Vision as additional program offerings in partnership with **Thirdmill Seminary** are under review by their accreditors.



AND YES, you read that right!

THIRDMILL SEMINARY – a subsidiary of Third Millennium Ministries – will offer an unaccredited Master of Arts in Christian Studies in both English and Spanish. Starting August 2019, Thirdmill Seminary adds faculty oversight, peer and mentor interaction, and integrated spiritual formation exercises to the animated graphics and expert interviews you have come to expect from Thirdmill. While our content will always be free, Thirdmill Seminary will charge modest fees to cover the cost of student services and faculty evaluations required to assess academic credit. We anticipate it will take us about three years to become accredited. In the meantime, we will offer a quality theological education that transcends barriers of cost, language and distance to those who need to study Scripture where they serve Christ and His Kingdom. For program details visit thirdmillseminary.org.



thirdmill.org

Our main website, **thirdmill.org**, is a library full of biblical resources that anyone can freely read, listen to, watch, and download. The resources page contains all 27 of our lesson series (119 lessons), and houses theological questions and answers, articles, sermons, and lectures. People come to **thirdmill.org** from all over the world to deepen their understanding of the Bible, grow in their faith, and to teach others. In fact, we have almost 150,000 monthly unique IP visitors to our website.

Marcia Yount Uses **thirdmill.org** to Teach Women's Bible Studies

For the past three years, Marcia Yount, who has two seminary degrees and is a Thirdmill volunteer, has used Thirdmill's curriculum to teach women in her church about the Bible and theology. "God made me a teacher. I love teaching Bible stories because better understanding of the Word of God changes our lives."

Marcia, who has led a group of women through *The Book of Joshua*, *Primeval History*, and *The Book of Revelation*, has found Thirdmill's "flipped classroom" method to be very effective. It allows each person to study the topic on their own time, and group time can be devoted to discussion.



"I'm constantly learning from Thirdmill, and it brings me to a higher level of understanding theology, to understanding who God is, who I am, what his purpose is for us, and what his plan is for us."

If you are a regular prayer and/or financial partner, consider introducing Thirdmill's lesson series to your Bible Study group and ministry leaders.

FREE THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

myThirdmill.org

myThirdmill.org is our fully automated, free, online classroom providing individuals with a more structured learning environment. Available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian, myThirdmill.org transforms our lessons into seminary-level courses with syllabi, course objectives, segmented videos, study guides, automated quizzes, and additional reading materials. At the beginning of this year, we reached the milestone of 10,000 registered users across all four language classrooms. Our Spanish classroom has tripled to 3,686 students in the last 12 months!

Rev. Ronaldo Andre Uses **myThirdmill.org** to Study God's Word

Rev. Ronaldo Andre is one of the many individuals around the world who has registered for our online classroom, myThirdmill.org. As a pastor and missionary serving in Romania, Ronaldo wanted to continue his theological studies in order to better serve the communities where he ministers.



"I've searched many places that could provide me with training suitable to my circumstances, and that would be affordable to my means as a missionary. As I use this platform, I am amazed with the quality of its content and most of all, a theology that is God-centered and with a solid foundation on his Word."

If you are interested in tracking your progress and testing your understanding of Thirdmill materials, become a registered student at myThirdmill.org today.

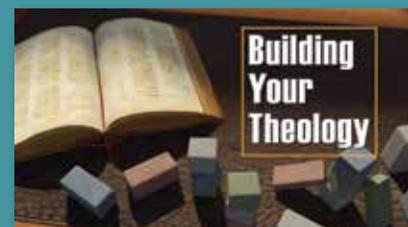
FREE ONLINE CLASSROOM

THANK YOU!

Our staff and recipients of materials are always grateful for your generosity to Thirdmill.

With your support, we have redesigned *Building Your Theology*, a foundational course first released in 2004. The series with all new graphics will go live on all our digital platforms in June.

Thank you for standing with us as we ensure that every Christian has a well-trained pastor. If you would like to support our efforts, please donate at **thirdmill.org/give**.



FROM THE FIELD

*“When I guide others
to your website, they
act as if they have
found a treasure - to
find solid and free
biblical resources at
the same time.”*

— **Missionary** among Syrian
refugees

Welcome to **Thirdmill**



New VP of Development: Mr. Thomas DeWitt

Tom DeWitt had 25 years in technology sales management before the Lord led him to assist Christian ministries with donor development. Prior to Thirdmill, he has served on staff with Compassion International and International Care Ministries, and as consultant for other non-profits. Tom and his wife, Cathy, have six adult children and seven grandchildren. ***“The Lord gave me a heart for people who are giving to God’s Kingdom and a love for Thirdmill. I look forward to helping those two meet to help God’s Kingdom grow with leaders who learn God’s Word from Thirdmill.”***

New Board Member: Dr. Mark Hill

We welcome Dr. Mark Hill to our Board of Directors. Mark is a husband, father, and ophthalmologist from Gadsden, Alabama. He tells us that he is honored to serve on the board to encourage, pray for, and assist in building a world-wide community of godly, educated Bible teachers. ***“God, in His Providence, has positioned Thirdmill to have a mighty impact on His Kingdom, and this ministry has given me tangible faith-strengthening glimpses of the ways God is building His Kingdom throughout the world.”***

