Earlier this month, our founder, Dr. Richard Pratt, Jr., and our Chinese Director, Dr. Ben Chen, had the honor of being part of the Global Convention on Christian Faith & World Evangelization in Jakarta, Indonesia, sponsored by STEMI, a global ministry of teaching, preaching, and evangelism under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Tong.

God has blessed Thirdmill with a vibrant, 20-year partnership with STEMI, and both Dr. Pratt and Dr. Chen have taught and preached at numerous events sponsored by Dr. Tong’s ministry.

But this time, the convention almost didn't happen. Dr. Tong and his team had planned for months for an in-person convention, but then the global pandemic hit, and holding the convention seemed impossible. They were prepared to call it off, but Dr. Tong, moved by the Holy Spirit, decided that the Global Convention must happen anyway. With less than a month to go, and despite the pandemic, the Global Convention went online and became a reality.

The meetings reached more than 34,000 people from 85 countries; 31 speakers from different backgrounds taught 47 sessions; and the team produced more than 170 videos. All of this was only by the grace of God! Please pray that partnerships like this will continue to grow as Thirdmill provides biblical education for millions of church leaders around the world.

From the Field
“...we lacked deep theological training. By God’s grace we met Thirdmill. Thirdmill has been a great encouragement for my ministry and calling.”

Pastor Amédée Bagirakandi, True Vine Church, Burundi

Senior Director of Donor Relations: Steve Prieb
Steven W. Prieb comes to us from Topeka, Kansas, with decades of ministry experience. He served as a pastor for 20 years before moving into faith-based donor development for the past 14 years. During this time, he achieved professional CFRE (Certified Fund-Raising Executive) certification. Steve also serves as an Elder at Fellowship Bible Church in Topeka. “I believe that helping ministry partners grow in generosity for kingdom impact is a step of discipleship. I look forward to assisting Thirdmill partners in that spiritual journey!”

Steve and his wife Ruth have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Regional Gift Officer: Becky Pratt
Becky Pratt has worked for Thirdmill for the past eight years in our Distribution Department. We are happy to announce that she is joining our Development team. Having grown up watching her dad, Richard Pratt, develop the beginning stages of Thirdmill on their back porch, she now feels especially blessed to see how far Thirdmill is reaching. “As a teenager, I remember Dad on the family computer learning how to animate Moses’ hand pointing at the Ten Commandments. It was kind of a big deal! The Lord’s vast work through Thirdmill continues to amaze me!”

Becky lives with her three talented, spirited children in Brandon, Mississippi.
Learning Communities Growing

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented our Global Opportunities Network Department from traveling, it has not stopped us from connecting with our users and partners around the world. Through Zoom, we met with and taught students at Cornhill Scotland, hosted a three-day training event for students in Yucatan, Mexico, and another training event for teachers at Nueva Providencia in Colombia. We also held multiple meetings with partners from 20 different countries to encourage them and get updates, and we signed 14 new partnership agreements (MOUs) with partners that operate in 21 countries. Please continue to pray for the GO Network Department as we minister to those studying God’s Word around the world.

To ensure that our lessons are effective for Christians in the digital age, we are redesigning our foundational series. These upgrades include new interview footage and updated graphics that improve how we explain concepts visually, making fundamental but complex aspects of theology even more accessible.

The next series in redesign is The Heart of Paul’s Theology. Released in 2005, The Heart of Paul’s Theology provides an overview of Paul’s ministry and outlines the structure, original meaning, and modern application of Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians. According to Paul, the gospel is about the triumph of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. It is about God redeeming and recreating the heavens and the earth through Jesus Christ, and about our participation in that renewed world. Look for the redesigned series next quarter on our website, thirdmill.org.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we wanted to help provide an accessible online Bible study for our church partners who could not meet due to social distancing. Our first “Study at Home” series was based on our course, The Book of Hebrews. Our upcoming “Study at Home” series is the first study based on our course, Kingdom, Covenants, and Canon of the Old Testament, and asks the question, “Why Study the Old Testament?” As in our Hebrews study, each session will include a 15-minute video, discussion topics, and application questions. “Why Study the Old Testament?” will be available in November at www.thirdmill.org/kingdom-ot.