Our work in Africa continues to grow! In our last newsletter, we highlighted the first Thirdmill pastors’ conference in Tanzania. Recently, we held a second conference in Singida, Tanzania. Over 700 pastors from the Pentecostal Church had the opportunity to learn about Thirdmill.

We were invited to participate in this event by Rainbow Presbyterian Church in Gadston, Alabama, and the response was overwhelming! There was a tremendous desire for Thirdmill materials among pastors and even bishops of this area. Bishops in the Pentecostal Church are responsible for overseeing and maintaining the church’s integrity and for helping the church grow in maturity. The vast majority of Pentecostal pastors will not adopt any new training materials without permission from their bishops. The approval of these Tanzanian bishops has been an immense blessing in growing God’s kingdom in this area!

At the conference, our area director for East Africa, Cloud Roman, expertly taught the sessions in Kiswahili, the heart language of his audience. Staff members Al Hawthorne and Brent Ropp joined him from the U.S. after navigating the COVID testing and processing necessary to attend. Currently, COVID procedures in Africa are changing daily, and we had no idea when, or even if, Al and Brent would be able to participate. By God’s grace, they both arrived in time, and were able to share about Thirdmill and the Thirdmill Global Network with great success. During the conference, 316 people signed up to receive more information, to be included in learning communities, and to begin the process of becoming Thirdmill Trainers.

When the conference ended, Al traveled to Ethiopia, where he conducted training for several leaders interested in starting new learning communities. He was also able to establish two new learning communities. These groups will be using Thirdmill Institute training, beginning in the next two months.

Praise God for the many ways we see Him at work in Africa and for our ongoing efforts to serve and equip these pastors for greater Kingdom impact. Your prayers, involvement, and financial support make a profound difference in the lives of these leaders!
Dr. Paul Choo was born in Singapore in 1947. He graduated as a Medical Doctor from the National University of Singapore (1971) and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) from Bob Jones University (1998). He started the Shenton Medical Group which became Singapore’s largest medical group in the 80’s. In 1995 he sold the medical group to Singapore’s largest hospital group to focus on pastoring the Gospel Light Christian Church (which he had started in 1987). Today GLCC is a growing church with a weekly (pre-pandemic) attendance of about 3000. In 1995 he founded the Asia-Pacific Institute of Biblical Studies (APIBS) which was given permission by Bob Jones University to use their video-taped lectures and study materials. In 2008 APIBS changed its name to APIIS/APIIS making expansion into other fields of practical ministry and leadership. So far APIBS/APIIS has trained over 4000 Asian leaders.

The Asia-Pacific Institute of International Studies (APIIS), a Singapore-based independent ministry, recently launched a Master’s of Ministry program utilizing Thirdmill’s theological curriculum. Under the direction of founder and president Dr. Paul Choo, APIIS has trained over 4,000 Asian leaders since 1995. Their goal is “To prepare pastors and church leaders to master their ministry and be highly effective in the 21st century.”

The new program consists of Thirdmill’s materials for theological instruction, with an overview of the Bible and leadership training (developed and presented by APIIS) making up the rest of the curriculum.

As part of their opening service, Thirdmill’s President, Dr. Richard L. Pratt, was asked to share a welcome speech with the incoming students. More than 200 participants joined the Zoom call!

Since its launch in April, the program has seen exponential growth. Its second intake in June more than doubled its initial intake of 70 students, with 150 enrolled from 15 countries. Of these students, 40% are pastors and 15% are missionaries, with an average age of 40. They include the Academic Dean of Baptist Bible Seminary & Institute, a retired Philippine Admiral who is very influential in reaching the armed forces of the Philippines, and lead pastors from the largest evangelical church in the Philippines (CCF). The Asia-Pacific Institute of International Studies plans to double the number of students at every subsequent intake (every 6 months) by training course facilitators with their regular staff, which currently consists of only three full-time members.

We are very grateful for our partnership with APIIS, and we look forward to what God is going to do through this new program.
In our last newsletter, we introduced Steve Kammer, our new Director of Thirdmill Institute. As the launch of the Institute approaches, we thought we'd ask Steve a few questions.

**Q:** Steve, tell us a little about yourself.

**A:** I live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, with my wife Kendra and three sons. We were on staff with Cru for 15 years serving in Spain and Southern Colorado where I really developed my heart for training others.

**Q:** Why did you start using Thirdmill’s materials?

**A:** Richard [Pratt] came to the mission conference at our church about 8 years ago. I was on staff as the college director and was looking towards ordination. The pastors were talking about ways to get guys like me through seminary, and Richard said, “He can do Thirdmill.” That was the start of this crazy journey. I used Thirdmill to fulfill the requirements for ordination in the PCA. Then, along with my passion for training others, I began using the materials to get others through the ordination process as well. I did that in Colorado and around the U.S. for the past six years.

**Q:** What is the Thirdmill Institute?

**A:** The Institute is a certificate program created by Thirdmill to provide free biblical and theological training for anyone interested in ministry. The program is designed to be done in small groups, where life and ministry skills are emphasized through the guidance of local trainers. It will provide training for pastors, church planters and leaders around the world, especially in places where the gospel is expanding rapidly, but pastors don’t have the finances or the availability of solid theological and biblical training to allow them to lead.

**Q:** Anything else you’d like us to know?

**A:** I love the outdoors and the mountains of Colorado. Hiking, camping and sitting around a fire are the best.

You can check out more of Steve’s outdoor life on his YouTube channel, TheWilderness333. And look for more information on the Thirdmill Institute in our next newsletter!

---

**Catching Up with Steve Kammer, Director of Thirdmill Institute**

---

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL EXCEEDS 36,000 SUBSCRIBERS**

In the first half of 2021, Thirdmill has seen a significant increase in viewership on our YouTube channel. If you haven’t already subscribed, search “Thirdmill” on youtube.com and sign up!

- **English Channel:** 870,000 views (up 14%)
- **All 5 Channels:** 946,000 views
- **353,000 hours watched (up 62%)**
- **7,600 new subscribers (up 28%)**
- **373,700 hours watched**
- **9,215 new subscribers**

The breakout star was the Spanish channel, which is growing steadily in viewership. Praise God for the ways He is expanding our reach online!
Join us in equipping church leaders with the education they need to build God’s Kingdom.

To give to the Thirdmill Fund, scan below or visit tmm.convio.net/newsletter.

Meet the Team: Thirdmill Global Network

**Regional Director: Al Hawthorne**

Al Hawthorne serves as our Regional Director for the Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East North Africa (MENA) regions. Al started his career in the construction industry, working there for over 30 years before seeking a full-time ministry role. At his previous ministry, Al served and worked in the Africa and MENA regions for 11 years, all while living in Ethiopia. He has a Master’s degree in Christian Global Leadership and is currently working on his doctorate degree. He has traveled to over 50 countries and is a certified airplane and helicopter pilot. Al and his wife Katherine have two children and two grandchildren.

**Regional Director: Joe Gervais**

Joe Gervais, Regional Director for the Pacific Islands, most recently served as the Pacific Regional Director for a ministry accelerating the work of Bible translation around the world. He has served on the front lines of Bible translation, directing partnerships, training, and support for churches and language groups across Indonesia and Oceania. Prior to his call to ministry, Joe worked in the technology industry for 30 years in marketing, product management and information technology. He published his first book last year: Pacific Saints: Their Battles for Eternity. Joe and his wife Susan have four sons, two daughters-in-law, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.