

WINTER 2022



thirdmill

Making  
**FREEDOM FEST**  
*a Reality*

Thirdmill Equips The Grace Institute  
to Train Pastors in Uganda

**PLUS:** Global Languages Update &  
Gearing up for GivingTuesday



# SACRIFICE

## Well Worth It

### Making Freedom Fest a Reality



**“WE USUALLY WORK** with under-resourced students — but these are the most extremely under-resourced students we’ve ever worked with,” said Will Savell, the sounds of his kids laughing in the background.

Will, President of The Grace Institute was updating us on Grace Institute’s unique, five-month-long facilitators’ training — affectionately known as “Freedom Fest 2022” — while briefly in the United States with his family before returning to Uganda. He went on to explain that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of students exploded in East Africa, and the leaders of Grace found themselves with a dilemma: Hundreds of students wanted to learn the Bible and theology, but no infrastructure was in place to begin training them.

The Grace Institute works primarily with rural Pentecostal students, most of whom don’t even have a Bible. Faced with these conditions, Will and his team dreamed up a new kind of training for potential facilitators. They would bring around 100 students, hand-picked for their track record of starting groups, to Grace’s facilities for an extended period of time. During their absence, their families would be supported with a salary from The Grace Institute.

The problem was, no facilities existed, and Grace didn’t have the money necessary to provide for the families. So, Patrick Kibirige, Director of African Initiatives, began plans to build facilities to accommodate housing and teaching for such a large number of students. Meanwhile, Will and his team began raising funds for the project, planning the courses, and lining up professors to come to Uganda to teach.

One of their main goals was to develop a core group with a solid understanding of Scripture through the lens of God’s kingdom and covenants. Over the course of five months, the students would go through five Thirdmill courses: *Kingdom, Covenants and Canon of the Old Testament*, *The Primeval History*, *The Gospels*, *The Book of Acts*, and *The Book of Revelation*. The hope was that this core group would then have a solid foundation for future study and be able to return to their communities to train others.

Four months ago, Freedom Fest 2022 began.

**“One of my dreams has always been to provide these under-resourced pastors with the very best,”** shared Will, and Thirdmill resources fit that bill. Additionally, Dr. Greg Perry, Thirdmill’s VP of Strategic Projects and President of Thirdmill Seminary, was able to teach part of the program in Uganda. “These students, who’ve never received anything, were able to listen to a true scholar and representative of Thirdmill — it was an amazing experience for them.”

**“Going into month five, it’s exciting to see the growth of these students.** We started with 102 and still have 99. All





99 have grown, some more than others, but **they've all developed and seen the value of all this, and I'm blown away with what they're learning.**

The retention rate has been one of the best surprises. Will designed a rigorous course of study, fully expecting 60% or more of the students to drop out within the first month. But they lost only three, and all for legitimate reasons. Will told us

that this is the first time these students have been exposed to an education of this level, and it's been emotionally draining and really difficult. Knowing that their families have been taken care of has helped them to persevere, but the students have faced all kinds of challenges while at the training.

Difficulties have arisen with their families or farms. Tribalism has been an issue among them. Daily schedules for eating and sleeping have been difficult to adjust to. The rainy season

brought malaria. There's even an Ebola outbreak in their district. Beyond the physical trials, their theology has been challenged in many ways, and they've encountered various spiritual attacks. Many of the pastors have already been receiving opposition from church leaders back home who foresee a disruption to the profits of their prosperity-gospel businesses.

In addition, the professors and facilitators have had many challenges as well. The Grace Institute pulled many resources from other initiatives to make this project a reality. Will and Josh Warren, Grace's Director of Curriculum, have each spent more than 100 days in Uganda away from their families. Patrick has taken on many responsibilities beyond his regular job as founder and director of Good Shepherd Foundation. And many other guest professors and supporters have sacrificed time and money for these five months to happen.

***"It's definitely worth it," said Will.***

Having Thirdmill resources readily available to use for free made all the difference. "Because we have [Thirdmill] resources out there, we've been able to reach people at a faster and greater level and a more in-depth level. We are eternally grateful to Thirdmill for these resources."

To learn more about The Grace Institute, visit [thegraceinstituteintl.com](http://thegraceinstituteintl.com)



# A SNEAK PEEK OF “THE WASHINGTON PENTATEUCH”



**ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**, a group of friends and acquaintances gathered at Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. to preview “The Washington Pentateuch,” the first lesson in our series *Bibles that Changed the World*.

As the lights went down and the crowd grew quiet, Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, Chief Curatorial Officer at the Museum and Host of the lesson, appeared on screen, telling the audience, “Every book has a history. But of all the books in the world, the Bible is unique.”

In this visually stunning and enlightening look at the Washington Pentateuch, Thirdmill and Museum of the Bible have begun our unique collaboration to bring the Bible and its impact to hundreds of thousands of people all over the world. The video explores one of the world’s most well-preserved biblical artifacts, offering a description and history of the artifact, as well as insights into the Pentateuch itself (known in Judaism as the Torah) and the Pentateuch’s effect on both Judaism and Christianity.

Look for the video on our website and social media channels soon!



## GLOBAL LANGUAGES UPDATE

We are excited to announce that our Global Languages Department has completed the translation needed for students to earn their Foundations Certificate (the first certificate for Thirdmill Institute’s structured learning program) in the following languages:



- Arabic
- Chinese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Farsi
- Indonesian
- Telgu



- Burmese
- Bengali
- Tamil

This represents a huge milestone for Thirdmill Institute’s global students, who are hungry for certified biblical resources in their own languages! And to meet this need globally, we’ve also begun translation in the following new languages:

# From the Field



“As a young person in a low-income, non-evangelical family in Italy, [Thirdmill is] one of the instruments God has been using to bring me (and I hope others) to him. In particular, the academic (yet conservative) leaning of your ministry is the main reason why I was first inclined to accept something from people outside the movement in which I was born. If the education you provide hadn’t been biblical, I would never have bothered listening to you. If it hadn’t been for the world, I wouldn’t have any way of accessing it in Italy, from my room. If it hadn’t been for free, I would never have explored your material. This last point is significant. Even a fee of \$1/month could have hindered my initial interest in your classes.”

**THIRDMILL STUDENT, ITALY**

“I just want to express my gratitude to you for the opportunity you are giving me to learn and deepen my desire to study theology in order to serve the Lord in truth. Thank you and God bless you.” (translated from French)

**THIRDMILL STUDENT,  
IVORY COAST**

“While I knew a lot of what was taught on a surface level, I learned a great amount of detail and the whole book [of Acts] on a much deeper level. I have taken courses before on Acts but none have given as much foundation and detail.”

**THIRDMILL STUDENT,  
OUR DAILY BREAD UNIVERSITY**

“Thank you for your good work. My wife and I truly enjoy your Bible studies every morning.”

**JOHN BAGLEY, UNITED STATES**

“I have been engaged in church planting missions for about 15 years in the northeast regions of India. In our mission field, we train leaders and local church pastors, and for the past few years, we have been using some of your material to train church planters and local pastors.

I want to have your permission to use more of your resources to train other groups of pastors and local church leaders, since most of them do not have any formal training and there is great need to have trained leaders in order to plant healthy and growing churches. I will be very grateful if you would permit us to use your resources to train more leaders in the northeast of India.”

**PENAO KONYAK, INDIA**



## Generosity Corner



“I give to Third Millennium because I’m thankful for their global strategy and the vision they have to fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus gave us, to not only go and make disciples and to baptize them but also to teach them what he has taught us. It’s a great vision ... to take the Gospel to pastors, deacons, and elders in the Church in areas where Christianity is growing at exponential rates ... areas that I’ve been in where I’ve seen pastors and church members that have such a hunger for the Word of God — it’s just incredible. Most of us in the Western church don’t even realize how hungry they are for what we have.”

**RALPH, Thirdmill Donor  
UNITED STATES**



“What an honor it is to give our talent and treasure to Thirdmill. It is a humbling privilege and we are grateful for the impact it is having in Southeast Asia and around the world.”

**DR. CONNIE AND KOSMAIN RASILIM,  
Thirdmill Donors and Translators  
INDONESIA**





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and ministry leaders worldwide  
with sound biblical education!

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[thirdmill.org/gift](https://thirdmill.org/gift)



# THIS GIVING TUESDAY, LET'S TRAIN 200 PASTORS!

GivingTuesday, a global movement of radical generosity, is November 29, 2022. This year, our GivingTuesday goal is to provide Thirdmill training for 200 Christian ministry leaders who lack reliable internet access.

Thanks to the generous gifts of donors all over the world, Thirdmill is able to provide all of our resources for free through a variety of means. Anyone with an internet connection can stream our videos on our website or on YouTube.

But many of the pastors who need our resources the most do not have access to the internet, or their internet is unstable, or worse, the internet in their country is highly regulated by a hostile government.

**For around \$25 dollars, we can get microSD cards with our entire curriculum to a pastor who cannot access Thirdmill through the internet.** Your gift can give a pastor biblical and theological training, regardless of internet access or fear of government reprisal.

This GivingTuesday, let's train 200 pastors! Together, we can meet our goal of \$5,000 to ensure the most under-resourced pastors in the world can get the resources they are hungry for.

Thirdmill friend, would you join us this GivingTuesday? Keep an eye on our social media pages and on [thirdmill.org](https://thirdmill.org) for more information and ways to help!

