Thanking God for His Provision and Faithfulness
FOR 25 YEARS, Thirdmill has had a singular, though vast, mission: Biblical Education. For the World. For Free. By God’s grace, we have much to celebrate on our 25-year anniversary — traditionally known as the silver anniversary. And while those who have been around Thirdmill for any length of time feel like they, indeed, have been refined several times over, it also feels abundantly clear that God has used our challenges to purify the work and mission.

As a fairly small organization, for such an expansive reach, it sometimes seemed like we were trying to make more bricks with less straw. But God has blessed the work and the gifts of his people and reminds us that he is the one who builds the house (see Psalm 127:1).

And he has built the house as only God can. For instance, time and again, we’ve seen God provide just the right staff at just the right time.

When professional transcriptionist Jann Eckenwiler decided to volunteer at Thirdmill almost 13 years ago, she told us, “I loved what Thirdmill was doing, so I thought I could just empty waste baskets or something.” Little did she know that at just that time, Thirdmill was in desperate need of someone to transcribe dozens of interviews by theologians and professors who had provided recent answers for our curriculum. Jann was hired and has transcribed everything we’ve needed ever since. She’s also become an integral part of the curriculum department. To date, she has never been asked to empty a waste basket.

Cindy Sawyer had been at home raising her kids for 11 years when she began looking for a job. Thirdmill hired her temporarily as a receptionist. What neither Cindy nor Thirdmill knew was that Cindy was not a great receptionist, but she was a skilled editor with a background in education, and at just that time, Thirdmill was looking to hire an educationally astute editor. Thirteen years later, Cindy oversees our written materials as Director of Curriculum.

Andrew Lamb, VP of Global Opportunities (on staff for 8 years), remembers how God provided our Partnerships Director, Brandon Lutz. Brandon began talking to Andrew about God’s call on his life to help prepare the global church for the next generation of Christianity, just as Andrew needed to hire for a position that suited Brandon perfectly.
Our Regional Director of Eurasia was working for another ministry that was closing up shop just as Thirdmill was looking for someone to oversee our work in that region.

These are only a few of the stories of how God provided just the right people at just the right time to be part of Thirdmill's team.

And God has shown up in other ways as well. Some of our staff shared how, while collecting interviews for our curriculum, they saw God provide — despite some less than desirable, or even comical circumstances:

"[On an] interview trip to Serbia, the airline lost our luggage including half our gear. We had to wash our clothes by hand at night to re-wear the next day. We built video stands and sets by disassembling hotel furniture. We still shot 20 or more interviews in half a dozen languages." – Ra McLaughlin, VP of Operations & Finance, on staff for 24 years

"A huge volume of our interview audio recording was done using a Tascam DR-100 recorder. Shortly after we began using it, the power button popped off. [It was an expensive fix, so] for many years, the only way to turn that thing on was to use a coffee stirrer that I carried with us everywhere.” – Jim Southard, Production Studio Manager, on staff for 12 years

Today, more than 400 professors and pastors share their insights in our curriculum. And thanks to some generous donations, we have a new audio recorder with a fully operational power button. The coffee stirrer has been retired.

But, whether it's in lost wallets found again, or a generous matching grant to fund a huge project, or in perfectly suited employees or makeshift video sets, the story of Thirdmill has always been one of God's provision and faithfulness. And YOU — our valued partners in ministry — have been sweet evidence of God's goodness throughout these 25 years. Thank you.

Here's to the next 25 years!

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Thirdmill Institute hit its own milestone on August 1st, marking its first full year of serving students. The Institute provides an additional pathway for students to study right where they live, in their own communities, with Thirdmill's world-class curriculum, for free. This year we're celebrating:

Celebrating Thirdmill Institute's First Year!

Thirdmill Institute hit its own milestone on August 1st, marking its first full year of serving students. The Institute provides an additional pathway for students to study right where they live, in their own communities, with Thirdmill's world-class curriculum, for free. This year we're celebrating:

3,000+ students

600+ trainers

60 countries

26 courses

“"It's so critical for pastors and leaders around the world to know God's Word, and it's been such a blessing to see God use the Institute in its first year to reach thousands. I can't wait to see how God will continue to bless this work over the next year.””

— Steve Kammer, Director of Thirdmill Institute

Scan to watch our new video about Thirdmill Institute, how it works, and how to get involved!
AS IS OFTEN TRUE in God’s kingdom, two seemingly discordant circumstances come together to fulfill God’s purposes.

Many are dying in Ukraine. Thousands are fleeing as their homes and cities are ravaged by the violence of war. People are afraid. AND the gospel is going forth.

Alex and his wife Helena’s city has become a destination for thousands of refugees, and their church has played a big part in welcoming them. Many people want to join the church and are attending a group to learn more about Christ. Their pastor, Anatoly Myrchev, is using the Russian-language Apostles’ Creed course and Thirdmill Institute study and discussion guides to help lead 16 people to prepare for baptism.

Alex and Helena also work with rehabilitation centers all over Ukraine and beyond. At one such center, they met a woman named Natalya who also works with a Christian ministry to bring the gospel to prisons. Alex is hopeful that through this relationship, Thirdmill resources can be a blessing to prisoners in Ukraine as well. At the same center, they were invited to lead the entire 90-minute Sunday service at a Pentecostal church and ended up being with these Christians for two Sundays and a Wednesday evening Bible study.

They are hopeful that partnerships between Thirdmill and the rehab center, the prison ministry, and the Pentecostal church will all prove fruitful and bless many believers both inside and outside of Ukraine. They’re also encouraged to see firsthand how their own church is using our materials to prepare new believers for baptism and church membership.

Please join our Thirdmill community in praying that Alex and Helena will continue to be instruments in God’s hands for the good of many in Ukraine and beyond! In addition, please pray specifically for Helena who has been having some difficult health issues (over and beyond the stress of living in a war-torn country). Also pray for the Bogats’ safety and wellbeing.
**Paul’s PRISON EPISTLES**

**SUFFERING TEMPTS US** to think that God is not in control or does not care. Paul’s letters from prison tell us otherwise.

On the road to Damascus, Paul was called to bring the gospel to the Gentiles. After three successful missionary journeys, he was imprisoned in Rome, and for the next two years, he ministered boldly from prison, writing letters to the Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon and the Philippians. Even in his darkest days, Paul still proclaimed, “I am ready not only to be imprisoned, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 21:13).

Paul’s perseverance teaches us that the Lord Jesus is the conqueror and ruler of all creation. We invite you, along with students from all over the world, to come and delight in the rich theology preserved for us in these letters. Watch the series at thirdmill.org or on our YouTube page!

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**Stories from the Field**

“I joined a 2½-day recruiting and training event hosted by Thirdmill’s Regional Director for Eurasia and our Area Director for Central Asia. Held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, it generated great interest. Right after I finished speaking to the group of pastors, three of them came to discuss with me how they could set up Thirdmill learning communities within their own churches for the elders and other leaders they work with who have no formal biblical training. Our Central Asia Area Director will return to Kazakhstan in September to help launch learning communities in four different cities.”

**BRENT ROPP, VICE PRESIDENT THIRDMILL GLOBAL NETWORK**

“Over 50 students have benefited from Thirdmill lessons. We use the video lectures and handouts. They are a blessing to pastors and other church leaders who don’t have enough money to attend mainline seminaries.”

**REV. FRANCIS SACKITEY, BERE'A BIBLE COLLEGE & SEMINARY, GHANA**

“This course was like a picture to me which helped me to understand the foundation of the Bible better. Although I have been a believer for a long time, I have found that there are many parts of the Bible that I don’t know or understand so well, and there are some points that I have not captured. So, I am thankful that there is such a structure and framework to sort it out. I think the most important thing is the two concepts of the kingdom and the covenant. ... And the unit on Building Your Theology has helped me when

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I’m evangelizing or interacting with people of different faiths to be able to ... communicate with them and to better present our faith.”

**THIRDMILL STUDENT, CHINA**
Join us in equipping pastors and ministry leaders worldwide with sound biblical education!

To give to Thirdmill, scan the QR code below or visit: thirdmill.org/gift

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Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.

Thirdmill believes every Christian deserves a well-trained pastor.

**In 1997**, in response to the overwhelming scarcity of theological education around the world, Thirdmill began creating and distributing a multimedia seminary curriculum in multiple languages and offering it to everyone who needed it, wherever they lived, for free.

**Today**, Thirdmill is used to train Christian leaders on every continent via internet, microSD cards, flash drives, broadcasts, audio and print.

Visit [thirdmill.org](http://thirdmill.org) to see how Thirdmill is preparing Christian leaders to lead a transformation of the world into God’s Kingdom by providing **Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.**