Thirdmill Leader Training

Who can be a student in a Thirdmill class?

Manuscript

Thirdmill

Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.
ABOUT THIRD MILL

Founded in 1997, Thirdmill is a non-profit Evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to providing:

**Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.**

Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

Over the years, we have developed a highly cost-effective method of producing award-winning multimedia lessons of the finest content and quality. Our writers and editors are theologically-trained educators, our translators are theologically-astute native speakers of their target languages, and our lessons contain the insights of hundreds of respected seminary professors and pastors from around the world. In addition, our graphic designers, illustrators, and producers adhere to the highest production standards using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques.

In order to accomplish our distribution goals, Thirdmill has forged strategic partnerships with churches, seminaries, Bible schools, missionaries, Christian broadcasters and satellite television providers, and other organizations. These relationships have already resulted in the distribution of countless video lessons to indigenous leaders, pastors, and seminary students. Our websites also serve as avenues of distribution and provide additional materials to supplement our lessons, including materials on how to start your own learning community.

Thirdmill is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation. We depend on the generous, tax-deductible contributions of churches, foundations, businesses, and individuals. For more information about our ministry, and to learn how you can get involved, please visit [www.thirdmill.org](http://www.thirdmill.org).
Who can be a student in a Thirdmill class?

Another question that often comes up is, “Who can be a student in a Thirdmill class?” What kinds of people can participate in our learning communities?

Third Millennium is well known for providing seminary-level education for church leaders. Our materials are distinctively Christian — designed for traditional evangelical believers. We teach the Bible and theology to meet the needs of Christ’s followers. But our materials reach students from all backgrounds and walks of life, in every country around the world.

Even unbelievers can be Thirdmill students. Many unbelievers are curious and want to know more about Christianity. It’s not uncommon for unbelievers to explore our materials on their own to learn more about the Christian faith. Our series on the Apostle’s Creed is a good one for that. It answers the question “What is Christianity?” And our series We Believe in Jesus addresses the question, “Who is Jesus?”

In one Latin American country, men and women are required to study some of our lessons as part of their training to become police officers. It’s wonderful that our materials introduce elements of the Christian faith to people who may not be committed followers of Christ. So, what would stop you from having an evangelistic Thirdmill class with unbelievers?

Of course, our primary focus is on Christians. And the body of Christ is everywhere — even behind bars. Many Christian prisoners want to study the Word of God with Thirdmill. And prison officials in a number of countries allow this because they see the difference in those who participate in Thirdmill’s classes.

Mr. Howie Close, Woodmen Valley Chapel
In one prison in Colorado, these guys are getting a seminary-level education, they’re getting it for free, and it’s creating, really creating disciples. And then those guys go on, after sometimes a very short period of time, and they start creating their own disciples. This stuff works. It doesn’t just make a Christian stronger, it makes a Christian a strength for other Christians.

Perhaps the Lord has called you to make Thirdmill classes a part of a prison or jail ministry.

In addition to serving unbelievers and prisoners, we’re also glad to serve another group — laypeople in the church. Many highly-motivated young people use our materials for personal study. They also study in their youth groups and with their families. And adult laypeople also find Thirdmill classes encouraging. Sunday school classes, Bible Studies and home groups often use parts of our curriculum.
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**Marcia Yount, St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church**
I started using Thirdmill about three years ago, and I used the *Primeval History* to teach a group of people who don’t have a strong Bible background, and they were very surprised to see that these concepts of land and people and the kingdom coming just spread through the entire Scripture. And they had always seen history as just a point in time but didn’t realize that there was a big story being told, and they were thrilled when they saw that.

And a number of churches require their lay officers to study with Thirdmill. By studying our series, *The Apostles’ Creed, We Believe in God, We Believe in Jesus* and *We Believe in the Holy Spirit*, elders and deacons can explore basic Christian doctrines as they prepare to serve in their various roles.

Some mission agencies recommend or even require that their missionaries study a certain number of Thirdmill lesson series as they prepare to serve on the field. We’re glad that such a wide variety of laypeople can form Thirdmill classes.

**Rev. Nathaniel Adawonu, New Harvest Missions, Togo**
In Muslim West Africa, particularly in Togo, we have many people who participate in this, what we call this program, the Thirdmill program. We have lawyers, we have teachers, we have business people who participate; different kind of people, but these people are people who every week look forward to be with us. We have about thirty-five of them who come in every week on regular basis to learn. And they look forward to learn from this material.

But Thirdmill has always aimed primarily for one special group of students — pastors of churches. You may not realize it, but where the church is growing the fastest in the world, pastors have the fewest opportunities to learn the Scriptures as they should. And we’re devoted to changing this. When you walk through our front door you see these words on the wall: “Every Christian deserves a well-trained pastor.” From beginning to end, our materials are designed to ensure that every church is led by a pastor who’s been well taught in the Bible and theology.

Often mission organizations help us fulfill this goal by sending teachers overseas to hold short conferences. These conferences are designed to help indigenous pastors minister more effectively in their churches. The pastors then often hold Thirdmill classes between conferences.

**Dr. Gregory R. Perry, Thirdmill**
I had the opportunity to do lectures on the Davidic covenant, and these pastors were going to be going back to their network of churches and then using the materials to train their leaders. And so, it was just an amazing opportunity to see people come together from different...
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parts of China for four days and to receive this training, and then to know that those materials were going to be... it was going to be leveraged, it was going to be multiplied when they went back to their network of house churches.

One of our favorite ways that pastors form Thirdmill classes is what we call “Church-based theological training.” Church-based theological training is critical because so many pastors can’t leave home to study in a traditional school. Some pastors form Thirdmill classes simply by getting together informally and deciding which Thirdmill lessons they want to study. Other pastors follow more structured plans when they meet together.

Pastor Sergei Ryndin, Emmanuel Church, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (translation) Right now we are using Third Millennium courses on the Apostles’ Creed. We study it every Wednesday morning when elders, pastors, deacons and preachers — the most active part of the church — get together... We study short extracts, no more than thirty minutes, every Wednesday, and our clergy really enjoys the classes. And I think it is very useful, because when they visit laypeople in their homes, they can use the Creed, which they are familiar with, to teach people and instruct others in faith.

Sometimes a single church runs a church-based training program. In other cases, several churches in a city or region join together. Usually, older, experienced pastors teach, supervise and mentor younger church leaders who are active in ministry. You may want to form a Thirdmill church-based training center like this for pastors in your community. And Thirdmill can help you get started.

As you start to form Thirdmill classes, remember that for years now, God has blessed us with all kinds of students. Think about the kinds of students God would have you lead in a Thirdmill class.