

NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATING GRADUATION



With thanksgiving to God and with great joy, Thirdmill Seminary announces its formal accreditation through the **Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)**.

Join us in celebrating this significant achievement by our staff and faculty. We are committed to providing Thirdmill Seminary students with a rich theological education that meets the highest standards of distance learning, so they can study Scripture deeply where they serve Christ and His Church.

ThirdmillSeminary.org

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Left to right: Rev. Richard Crane, guest speaker Dr. Jason Hood, Dr. Jeff David, Dr. Bob Brumley, Rev. Will Savell, Rev. Scott Simmons, Dr. Greg Perry

The first Thirdmill Seminary graduation was held on August 26, 2023, at *Lifted Church* in Miami, Florida. The ceremony was held online for 10 graduates from Chile, Colombia, Italy, Liberia and the USA. Seven students received their **Master of Arts in Christian Studies** degree. Three students received their **Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies**. Board Chairman **Will Savell** conferred the degrees. **Dr. Jason Hood** gave the keynote and Deans **Dr. Jeff David** and **Dr. Bob Brumley** gave the charge to the graduates. *More details on page 2!*



FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Andrew Parlee

Dr. Andrew Parlee asks his students to call him "Drew." Although he has a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology, he makes the online classroom an inviting space where students learn deep theological truths and share both a personal and vocational connection with each other. As Drew equips church leaders enrolled at Thirdmill Seminary who live thousands of miles apart, they find **common ground** in a love for the Bible and for deep study of Scripture.

Drew has taught and trained international students both in the U.S. and overseas since 1982. He has taught on location in Serbia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, and Central Asia. As an active missionary with **Greater Europe Mission**, he is now serving students of Thirdmill Seminary from 15+ countries. He teaches a range of courses including: *The Apostles' Creed, We Believe in God, What is Man?*, and the ethics course, *Making Biblical Decisions*.

Congratulations to Our Graduates

MAESTRÍA DE ARTES EN ESTUDIOS CRISTIANOS



Leopoldo
Orellana



Nilton
Pardo

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES



Alex
Foxx



Justin
Hawarah



Christafer
Sobbing

Class of
2023

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES



Ben
Hooper



Darius
Kerkulah



Ben
McCormick



Thomas
Nie



Martin
Yarkay

Capstone Project & Portfolio

"What is a capstone?" is a question all those finishing their course of studies at Thirdmill Seminary learn to answer clearly.

In architecture, a capstone is a wedge-shaped stone that is *the last stone placed at the apex of an archway*. The capstone stabilizes the position of all the other stones, allowing them to bear the weight of the others in order to provide a pathway between two spaces.

In education, a capstone is a summative project that illuminates how different courses and their elements depend on and relate to each other. Like the capstone of an archway, it also allows students to pass between the spaces behind and ahead of them.

At Thirdmill Seminary, candidates for graduation in the Master of Arts look behind at their prior courses, revisiting mastery assessments to review five intended program outcomes. After summarizing what they have learned in their own words, candidates then apply it to their ministry plans for the future.



Whether they are pastoring or planting a church, serving with a faith-based non-profit, mission agency, or youth ministry, Thirdmill Seminary graduates take Bible study and teaching skills; spiritual development practices; the relational and intercultural sensitivities that they have developed through the curriculum, and they deploy them in their personal discipleship and ministry activities.

After looking back and looking ahead, they are ready to celebrate their learning with their families, mentors and ministry partners no longer as candidates but as graduates.

Congratulations to the vanguard Class of 2023 upon successful completion of your Capstone!