

eNews March 2014



Listen to Paul Windsor on Prayer for Mongolia Langham Preaching: <http://youtu.be/nB6fEA81q8g>

For your prayers

PREACHING:

- Please pray for the LINE UP meeting in **Mongolia** and the commencement of a Langham Preaching Program there. Pray for wisdom and discernment in how to proceed and for continuing good connections with the Mongolian church.
- Pray for the Preaching Program in **Indonesia**. A Level 2 National training event is being held in Jakarta the last week of March, for 100 participants from across the country who have done Level 1 training locally. Pray for the local leadership team and for Australians Paul Barker and Wendy Toulmin as they participate in this event.
- Give thanks for the Local Trainers in **Vanuatu** and for the Preaching workshops in a number of the Islands. Pray that participants will be able to form preacher's clubs to encourage and support each other in their preaching from the Bible.
- Pray for Preaching Programs happening this month as per the **calendar below**.

SCHOLARS:

- Give thanks that **Ronald Lal Din Suah** from Myanmar, who has been studying at Ridley in Melbourne, has submitted his doctoral thesis. Pray for him as he awaits formal feedback from the Examiners. Pray that the Lord will bless and provide for him and his family as they make plans to return to Myanmar later in the year.
- Pray for **Qaiser Julius** of Pakistan, studying at Melbourne School of Theology, as he visits supporting churches as well as Bible colleges this month in Sydney and Brisbane. Give thanks for valuable times of fellowship and sharing recently in Sydney.

LITERATURE:

- Give thanks for **Bible colleges in Australia** who have given to the Literature work, helping provide books for Majority World Bible colleges, in the past year.
- Pray for the **safe and timely delivery** of books and materials to pastors and Langham Preaching participants in events across the world.
- Continue in prayer for those involved in writing and editing for the large Commentary projects: the **South Asia, Latin American** and **Arabic Bible Commentaries**, all of which will be much valued resources for their regions.

Upcoming Langham Preaching events

March 23 - 29	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Argentina, Bolivia, Indonesia	April 20- 26	DR Congo, Chile, Colombia, Nigeria
Mar 30-April 5	Lesotho, Nigeria, Zambia, Mongolia	Apr 27- May 3	Colombia, Zambia, Congo Brazzaville, DR Congo, Nigeria, Zimbabwe
April 6 - 12	Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Peru, DR Congo	May 4 - 10	Benin, Vanuatu, Kazakhstan
April 13-19	DR Congo, Liberia	May 11 - 17	Costa Rica, Ecuador, Malaysia, Uganda

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Equipping a new generation of Bible teachers

A Lasting Legacy of Sound Biblical Teaching

Tewoldemedhin Habtu says he first felt God calling him into full-time ministry in the 1970s, just as he was wrapping up his university studies in business administration. “God was rewriting my life into full time ministry, and I had to follow in His leading,” he simply says. He went on to pastor a church in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for 14 years—and 10 of those 14 years were during Communist rule, when the church had to disperse into smaller groups and meet in secret. “It was a difficult time, but then God’s presence was with us in so many ways, he remembers. “The church, not only my church, but the church in Ethiopia grew during that persecution.” What came next can only be God’s doing: a chance meeting with John Stott that laid the groundwork for Dr Habtu’s future ministry and impact on the church in Africa.

By the late 1980s, when Dr Habtu was finishing up his studies at the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST), his vision to see the African church strengthened by better-trained pastors who can faithfully teach God’s Word was taking shape—as was his plan to pursue his Ph.D. It was around that time that he was invited to meet with John Stott, who was visiting NEGST for the first time and took interest in the future doctoral student. Dr Habtu recalls Stott saying, “I am going for a meeting” with the Langham Board and “I will speak with the leadership there and see what can come out of this.” The result? Dr Habtu attended seminary with Langham support. “He was a pastor at heart,” Habtu says of Stott. “Whenever he



visited the seminary, he wouldn’t leave without meeting [the students], taking time with us and encouraging us in our studies. He was a great father, a great supporter in that sense.”

Today, Dr Habtu is back at NEGST—now Africa International University—where he lectures in the Biblical Studies department and serves as Dean of Community Life, continuing to live out the call God placed on his heart almost 40 years ago. “I have really enjoyed my teaching ministry here at AIU. It’s so gratifying, in terms of impacting the lives of church leaders ... so many pastors who have studied here and gone back to church ministry. In so many ways you could say how the Lord has blessed the teaching ministry that I’m involved with

here. It’s a great privilege for me to be used by God in this way.”

In addition to teaching at AIU, Dr Habtu also served on the editorial board and wrote for the landmark Africa Bible Commentary, the first-ever one-volume commentary written by Africans for Africans that continues to impact millions as it is translated into different languages. “In fact,” Habtu notes, “I went to South Africa for about 5 months to write for the Africa Bible Commentary, and it was the Langham Writing Program which sponsored me and gave me the funds to do my writing and editing.”

The work and ministry of Dr Habtu is helping to fulfil John Stott’s vision to see every pulpit in every church occupied by a conscientious, Bible-believing, Bible-studying, Bible-expounding pastor.

“The passion of Uncle John, as you are aware, was to help the majority world to train Christian leaders and theological leaders at the highest level,” he says. “With the church growing in Latin America, Africa and Asia, the training of leaders at this level is very strategic. What Langham Partnership is doing is very crucial in terms of the growth of the church in the world ... You may have heard the statement that the African church is a mile wide and an inch deep. But I think that’s being reversed now with trained Christian leaders going out, taking leadership in churches in Africa, and impacting the church with sound biblical teaching.”

Dr Habtu is one of more than 300 Langham Scholars, each equipping a new generation of Bible teachers in the Majority World by leading seminaries, writing books, and serving the global church. We praise God for how He is multiplying the ministries of these faithful servants to impact millions of lives for Christ around the world.

*Thank you for your prayers and support
Wendy Toulmin, Executive Officer, Langham Partnership Australia*



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