

Langham Partnership news

A Langham Scholar Reflects

During the month of October, a former Langham Scholar, Dr Ashish Chrispal, visited Australia on a speaking tour. Wendy Toulmin, of Langham Partnership Australia was able to ask him a few questions.

Wendy: *Ashish, you were made the Principal of the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) in March this year. What role has the Langham Partnership had in your career?*

Ashish: When I started out in 1980, there were no evangelical theological postgraduate places in India. There were some postgraduate places available but theologically they had lost their foundation in the Gospel. It was because of becoming a Langham Scholar that I was able to go to Aberdeen University and do my Ph.D. in Systematic and Practical Theology.

W: *Was that difficult for you and your family?*

A: My wife Susan and I praise God that we went at a time when our first son (ed: they now have 3 children) was still 3 years old. By the time we came back he was just five and we could fit him back into the Indian context. But it is difficult taking families out of their home country to study in the West. This decontextualisation didn't affect our family but I have seen people who have gone through the process with children that are much older and when they did go to the West to study, they did not return to India. Over 75% of people who have left India have stayed in the Western World because of their children. This means that the Indian church loses some of its most competent human resources.

W: *What about your study in Aberdeen, did you find that it fitted with the Indian context?*

A: What I needed in my studies in Theology was a kind of debate or at least some kind of communication between Western and other contextual theologies, but not pure Western theologies. But my own professor would tell me, "Ashish, I don't know anything about India and therefore I can't guide you." This had its own implications for my thesis. But ultimately, it did work out that my external examiners, Bishop Lesley Newbiggin and Dr. Duncan Forrester from Edinburgh, both missionary statesmen with many years service in India, were able to help me out in various ways.

W: *Was your time studying in Aberdeen problem-free?*

A: Not really. It was by God's grace that I was able to finish my doctorate, because after 2 years, I had to return to India, but I was able to finish it, along with a teaching load, at Union Biblical Seminary.

W: *Is that where you met Chris Wright, John Stott's successor in the LPI?*

A: Yes. Chris Wright was my neighbour at UBS. We both taught there as team teachers in Ethics – we were neighbours and good friends.

W: *Can you tell us a little about SAIACS?*

A: SAIACS was founded by Dr Graham Houghton, a New Zealander, in 1981 in Bangalore because of three main concerns.

1. The Christian migration to the West as I talked about before.
2. Better financial stewardship, and
3. Contextual Study. As I mentioned before, theological institutions in the West focus on issues and approaches relevant to their context whereas the concerns of the church in the Indian subcontinent and their leaders are vastly different. SAIACS is situated within the Asian context and provides an understanding of the unique challenges facing the Christians of this region. The aim of the Institute is to train Christian leaders to demonstrate Christ-likeness and excellence in academic, ministry and mission, by offering world-class, post-graduate degree programmes in a caring and egalitarian community.

W: *How do you see the future partnership with Langham?*

A: Langham has been a great blessing all over the world and the vision of Dr John Stott has been really helping Majority world theologians to become leaders in their own right in their countries. Now the time has come for the scholars already trained to give back to their countries by training their people in their own countries in partnership with Langham and John Stott Ministries in the States.

W: *So how can we pray for you and for SAIACS?*

A: Please pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and courage in our very strategic position there in training leaders not only for India but the whole of South East Asia.



Rory's Farewell Word

It so happens that I first heard of the work of Langham Partnership at Langham Place, London, where I was fortunate enough to be meeting with John Stott. At that meeting, Dr Stott took a moment to tell me about the Langham vision.

It was not hard to sell. In fact, I was a sitting duck. Langham brought together two interests that were increasingly taking hold of my life. On the one hand, I was becoming increasingly persuaded of the transforming power of the word of God. On the other hand, time spent overseas had alerted me to the needs of the majority world churches. I was aware that those needs were of a particular sort. They were not suffering for want of growth, but often suffered for want of depth.

Enter Langham. LPI combined a conviction of the transforming power of the word of God with a perceptive grasp of where resources were needed to see God's word continue to grow up as well as out. I was sold.

As a result of that meeting, I have served for the past two years on the Langham Australia Committee. It has been a privilege to do so. I will resign from the committee at the end of the year to return to Perth for work with the A.F.E.S. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all involved in this work. I look forward to continuing my involvement over in the west.

Rory Shiner



Langham Partnership Australia

PO Box 530

Springwood NSW 2777

Tel/Fax 02 4751 9036

mail@langhampartnership.org.au

www.langhampartnership.org.au

If you would like to sign up for email updates and prayer points visit the website, go to the newsletters page and subscribe (no cost involved).

Pray also for our own Langham Scholar "Dr. Chan" in Oxford as he seeks to complete by Easter 2005, and for the right job when he and his family returns to China.

News of Langham Literature

Bulwo Papua New Guinea

It is 1992 in the isolated Sandaun Province region of Papua New Guinea and the elders of eleven scattered local churches are meeting to discuss a problem that concerns them all. The Gospel is going out and people, young and old are becoming believers in the Lord Jesus, but the problem is one the Church has faced from the very beginning. How to train potential leaders to take them from new enthusiastic but untaught believers to become mature Christians who can lead congregations in their home villages. There are Bible Schools they could go to for study, but they are difficult and expensive to get to from this remote location.

And so this small group of elders decided to found their own Bible School at Bulwo. They would design their own curriculum that spanned four years. The topics that would be covered included – ‘Walk with the Lord Jesus each day’, Old and New Testament books, Discipleship and other short topical studies.

It would not be in English or an individual tribal language, but in the common trade language – tok pisin. And it would be run on three-month cycles of study followed by practical experience. The students would return to their villages after their three month study block to put into practice what they have learned. Then it's back to the classroom for more studies. At the end of the four years there is a Graduation and all successful students receive a certificate and then go back to their villages to serve the Lord.

“Since those early days”, writes the Principal, Jonathan Yagre, “there have been three Graduations – 1995, 1999 and 2003. In all 10 students have successfully completed their studies. 6 are now local pastors working with area centre churches and local churches; 3 work as church helpers in other ministries and the 10th was appointed elder in his home church. The Lord is using our graduates in many different ways and this has encouraged Bulwo Bible School staff to continue in our work.”



Bible school staff and 2004 students (Jonathan Yagre, the Principal is in the green shirt, 2nd from right standing).

And where does Langham Literature fit into this small but significant work of God. By providing valuable Biblical resources through the Langham Literature Program. One Langham supporter's gift of \$300 provided a Library Grant for Bulwo Bible School. So far Langham Literature is providing an annual grant to 60 out of 125 Bible Schools and Colleges in PNG. Will you help us in this great work providing valuable biblical resources to thousands of students? Just \$300 provides an annual grant to one Bible College.



Recent Pastoral ministry course which included all staff, students, area elders and pastors.

Links with the Solomn Islands

During 2000-2003 the Solomon Islands suffered significant social unrest and upheaval. Communications with the outside world suffered and the Christian community lost many of the links that were previously available to it. With the assistance of other South Pacific nations, including Australia, many of the problems are being addressed. With the assistance of Patrick Cole, an Australian, now working in Solomon Islands, LPA (on behalf of Langham International) has made contact with Bishop Patteson Theological College. The College trains ministry candidates and other workers for the Church of Melanesia (the Anglican church in the Solomons), together with ministry candidates for other denominations.

Faculty of Bishop Patteson Theological College.



The College is located on Guadalcanal Island, on which Honiara, the Solomon Island capital is also found. It was founded in 1970. The seminary offers diploma and certificate level

courses. In 2004 there are 120 full time students, with 80 studying the diploma course and the remaining 40 studying the certificate course.

Unfortunately the College carries out its work under very significant difficulties. They have no internet connection. The library requires new books and resources if it is to provide adequate resources for the students. Because of communication difficulties, the College has been unable to receive information including details of Langham Literature grants over recent years.

These difficulties were drawn to LPA's attention with the assistance of Patrick Cole. LPA in turn passed details on to Langham International, which endorsed a Langham Literature Library grant of 300GBP to Bishop Patteson College for 2004, to acknowledge their inability to take up the usual 100GBP per annum grant since 2000. LPA has committed to paying for this grant and will look for other ways to assist the College in its strategic work in the Solomon Islands.



Patrick Cole delivering 24 Greek NTs to Alice Akao (the Principal's wife).

The College will be eligible each calendar year to seek an annual Langham Literature Library Grant. However, it is also seeking Greek New Testaments and Hebrew bibles, to meet the needs of students in the college's Greek and Hebrew classes. Suitable books, which could be given to graduating deacons and ministry candidates, would also be of great assistance to their effective ministry.

Will you invest in this vital ministry on our doorstep?

The ministry training role of Bishop Patteson Theological College in Solomon Islands is both strategic and important.

LPA will continue to assist this work and will also look for opportunities to establish links with other seminaries and colleges in the South Pacific who train men and women for Christian ministry.

Just \$300 provides an annual grant for one Bible College.

News of Langham Preaching

Ugandan Pioneer Programme Completes Three Year Cycle

Close to the source of the River Nile, at Jinja, 160 pastors and lay leaders gathered in March this year for the third Langham Preaching programme in Uganda. Over half of the participants were new to the conference, but



The Delegates at the Jinja Preaching Conference March 2004.

everyone else had attended one or two earlier events. With the support of Mark Meynell and the Kampala Evangelical School of Theology (KEST), we have worked with well over 200 pastors and lay leaders over these

three years. Jonathan Lamb, Chris Wright and Jenny Brown were all involved, along with local and international facilitators. Uganda is the first country to test out our three-level programme, and it was wonderful to hear testimonies of the impact of the training in different parts of the country. The training will continue as a rolling programme, recruiting new participants at level one each year.

The Ripple Effect

On the last night one delegate spoke about his plans to start up Bible training in his region: one week of training every three months over a 3 year period (12 training weeks) for as-yet-untrained Baptist pastors in the far west of Uganda, mainly using the

material from the Langham seminars.

Aggrey, an IFES staff worker told us: 'At last year's seminar I was really given confidence in exposition because of the skills we gained and the modelling we saw. In my student ministry one of the things I now do deliberately is to preach using Bible exposition methods, through the discipline of letting the text speak. Increasingly, it is also what I get asked to do. I also share my notes with other preachers, especially at my local church.'

We're glad too that the programme has encouraged women. Here is an email from Jennifer: 'When I got back from the conference, I found that the mamas of the church (the older ladies) had put me on the schedule to teach the ladies of church sometime. The group of ladies is called the King's Daughters. I'm excited that I can get an opportunity to use what I learnt at the seminar. God has used you to prepare me for this work he has given me to do. When I left the conference, I asked God to give me an outlet for what he had taught me. I can see He is answering!'

The Lighthouse Effect

We were delighted to welcome delegates from Congo, Tanzania and Sudan, who came to see how such a programme could help in their own countries. We now plan to facilitate training in these countries too, gradually expanding the preaching movement in East Africa.



Jonathan Lamb with Congolese Pastors at Jinja Conference.

On the Road for the Bible

How far would you travel for a Bible Conference?

A few hours? A group of six from South Sudan took six days to get to the Preaching Seminar in Jinja Uganda. It took two days by bus to the border with Kenya, another three through Kenya to Kampala, and the final day to Jinja, with different buses and overnight stops. Then they had the six day journey home again at the end. And all because of their longing to learn how to preach and teach the Bible better.

Thanksgiving and Prayer for Langham Preaching

We're thankful that...

- Preaching programmes have been launched this year in Egypt, Ethiopia, Albania, Myanmar and Greece.
- The three level programme in Uganda has been completed, with many lessons learnt for other countries. Several participants are now setting up small preacher's groups in their home towns.
- The curriculum for the seminars has been taking shape and tested out in various cultural contexts.
- The national leaders of the programmes in Ethiopia and Myanmar are planning second level events next year, and in Myanmar there is wide interest across the denominations in joining the movement for Biblical preaching.
- Nearly 60 countries are in various stages of discussion with us about the development of a preaching programme of some form.

We're praying that...

- We will be able to recruit more facilitators and trainers from around the world to enable us to respond to the many requests for support, and to sustain the development of work in those countries where the work has been launched.
- We will find several regional coordinators who will oversee the development of work in major regions such as East Africa, South Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America.
- We will be able to identify clear priorities, so that we are not spread too thinly but concentrate on depth and quality in the most needy locations.
- We will be able to strengthen partnerships with other agencies engaged in similar ministry.

Books Around the World

You are helping more people than you can ever imagine through supporting Langham Literature. Look at some of what was accomplished during the past year out of the UK offices. Give thanks to God for the successful management of the huge logistical challenges involved in this work. For the attention to every detail of hundreds of orders, letters and enquiries, that are handled by Tina Lowe in Ipswich, and Phil Parker and Sue Prior in Carlisle UK. And for the leadership of Pieter Kwant, Director of Langham Literature.

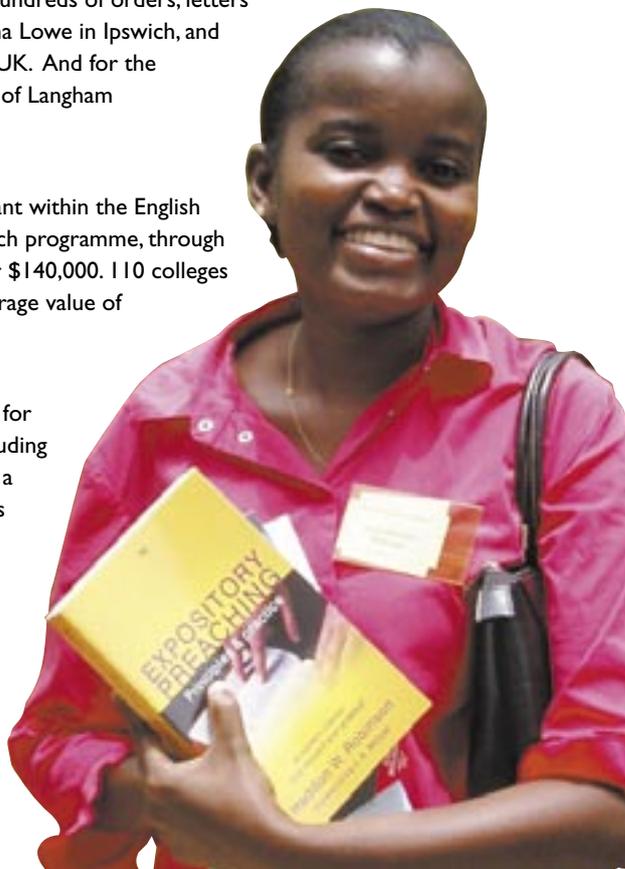
Library Grants

365 colleges took up the Library Grant within the English programme, and 128 within the French programme, through the UK offices, at a total cost of over \$140,000. 110 colleges purchased additional books at an average value of close to \$1,000,

Students Basic Library

82 colleges ordered books in English for their students, and 38 in French (including the French New Bible Dictionary) at a total cost of over \$55,000. Graduates Book Programme and Pastors Book Club 85,760 gift books (usually Bible commentaries or study guides) were sent to pastors, at different levels, either through their colleges or other agents at a total cost of over \$170,000

Susan with her new books.



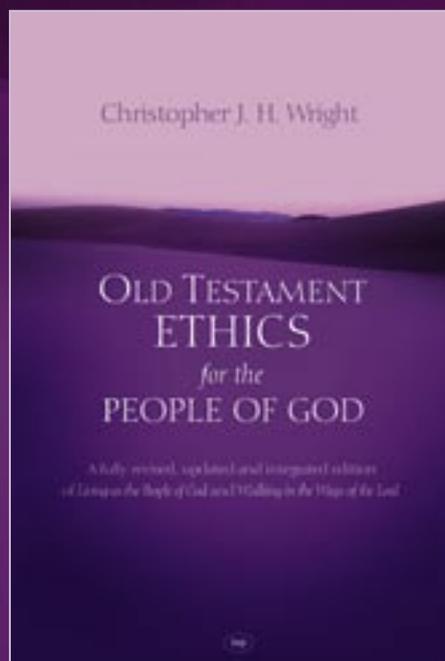
Bequests and Gifts

Langham Partnership Australia has received a gift from the Estate of the late Gordon Farrington. Mr Farrington was influenced in his Christian walk by the work and vision of John Stott. As an act of thanks for Mr Farrington's life, members of his family have made gifts from their inheritance to a number of Christian ministries, including Langham Partnership Australia.

A number of LPA supporters have indicated that they have made a bequest to LPA in their wills. We are grateful for their action, and we commend it to all readers of this newsletter. However most of these gifts will not be received by LPA for many years. We encourage each of our supporters to follow the example of the Farrington family and support LPA's work by giving a percentage of any inheritance that you receive.

The recommended clause in your will, for a bequest to Langham Partnership Australia, may be attained from LPA's honorary solicitors:

McPhee Kelshaw
PO Box 4
Springwood NSW 2777
(02) 4751 1055



OLD TESTAMENT ETHICS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A comprehensive presentation of the subject, including a survey of current scholarship. Provides a framework and method for Christian ethical interpretation of the Old Testament and illustrates them through a variety of ethical themes. This book is a fully updated, expanded and revised work, combining *Living as the People of God* and *Walking in the Ways of the Lord*.