

Langham

Equipping a New Generation of Bible Teachers

Partnership Australia

May 2012

Update on Langham in the Pacific (Preachers who are not "islands")

Papua New Guinea

At the end of last year, leaders from 20 denominations in Papua New Guinea completed the third level of Langham's Preaching Programme. These godly men and women are preaching God's word in their villages and churches, spurred on to faithful, clear and relevant proclamation. Many of those who came are already passing on the training to others in their churches and colleges.

Part of the seminar focused on 1 Thessalonians, and 'walking the talk': the need for integrity in the life of the pastor and teacher. One leader publicly expressed some of his own struggles which was a wonderful example and encouragement for younger leaders who were there.

Some of the pastors said some of the mistakes they make in preaching were exposed and that they were reminded to keep to the passage and 'dig deep'. The PNG preaching programme is now multiplying, as some of this year's "graduates" are being trained in how to train others and so initiate new seminars in the various PNG Provinces.



Solomon Islands

Solomon Islanders could teach Aussies a thing or two about unity. Among the island groups which have a history of conflict, Christians spanning Uniting, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Assemblies of God, South Seas Evangelical Church and Wesleyans joined together for the "Training Local Facilitators" Langham Preaching workshop run by Langham Australia in February 2012.

One of the pastors from a small Uniting Church came to the workshop saying the early days of their congregation had left them feeling out of their depth. Their response to the training was "Praise God. This training is equipping me with tools to help us in God's ministry."



Welcome Jenny!

It is a joy to have Jenny Bawden join me as Langham Australia's Administrative Assistant 3 days a week! Jenny has a professional background in Occupational Therapy and has worked in the public health system for nearly 25 years. Married to John, with children Caley and Micah, she is actively involved in Blackheath Baptist Church. Jenny has a heart for missions and is pleased to be supporting God's work in the world through Langham Partnership.

Please pray for Jenny to quickly come to grips with and feel confident in the role, and for me to be able to pass on information and tasks well so we become a good and strong team — for the Kingdom's sake through Langham's ministry.

We are grateful to God that an office space has become available in Springwood Anglican church. Work has begun to set up the office and we look forward to settling into this dedicated space for the work of Langham Partnership Australia.

Wendy Toulmin

Ps Stanley who also attended the workshop recognised he had at times been overly forceful in sharing God's word. "I was taking over the Holy Spirit's role. And he was not happy," Stanley said. "But now I preach the word of God and he does the work."

Continued next page



The most enthusiastic feedback came from Pastor Eric who said, "Langham has put light in our eyes and [a] spring in our legs. You have put new tools in our hands".

Rory Shiner, pastor of St Matthew's Unichurch Perth, was part of the team delivering the training. Rory was first introduced to the work of Langham when he met the late John Stott. He saw it empowered local Christian leaders in the Majority World to understand God's word. "Langham is a pretty rigorously indigenising kind of movement. From the very start you're looking for outsiders to not be needed within about five years," he says. It's the fourth time Langham Australia has visited the Island group. "This is beginning to help them see how they can train others in how to both study

and preach the word of God," said Wendy Toulmin, executive officer of Langham Australia. "Our catch cry is to promote faithfulness, clarity and relevance."

Langham Australia will return to the Solomon Islands in June this year to continue their partnership with the region.



Please pray for a movement of God through these brothers and sisters, that biblical faith and obedience grows in PNG and the Solomons through the preaching of the Word.

Please consider how you can support this important work.

A lesson from the Colombian coffee bean

Quicken the heart and stimulate the mind

First introduced by the Jesuits, the famous Colombian coffee bean is rich in flavour and aroma! The landscape around the city of Armenia, one of Colombia's main coffee growing areas, is dominated by lush coffee estates, huge banana trees and beautiful rolling green hills. Langham Preaching country coordinators from across Latin America gathered in Armenia recently, staying in a lovely home called 'Lamparita' where coffee was grown and roasted. They met to discuss how training for preachers could be deepened and extended across the region, but they were stimulated in their discussion by 'Lamparita coffee'. They even had the chance to roast some beans from the garden.

In one of his books, Ramesh Richard tells the story of meeting a sculptor in Africa, who explained that God had made the wood, and the sculpture was what he made from what God had made. So it is with sermons. The Bible is God-given, and a sermon is what we

craft from what God has given. The team in 'Lamparita' couldn't help think the same about the delicious coffee: God made the beans, and the rich, bright, aromatic coffee is what we make from what God has given.

Across Latin America there are now many Langham Preaching movements (1) that are training pastors and preachers; equipping them to serve the growing number of churches across the continent. Many of the large churches in the region are dominated by prosperity preaching, which distorts the truth and threatens to deceive young believers. But there is an army of committed women and men who are now engaged in equipping others to proclaim the truth with faithfulness and relevance.

There are many small groups ('escuelitas') meeting each month to work on Bible passages, and craft powerful sermons. Just like Colombian coffee, good sermons quicken the heart and sharpen the mind. They prepare us for action, and are compelling and motivating,

diffusing the aroma of Christ! The analogy has limits of course, but as the coordinators discussed the challenges facing churches across the continent, they acknowledged the urgent need for preaching that is faithful to scripture, passionate in its expression, rich in content, bright in delivery, and motivating in its force. No decaffeinated sermons, please!

Jonathan Lamb, Langham Preaching

(1) Langham Preaching delegates came from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Puerto Rico. We are also working in nine Central American countries.



Jorge Atencia, Colombian Langham Preaching facilitator, enjoying coffee

Providing ongoing support for Langham Scholars



'Ian Shaw, UK Scholar Director, reports on an exciting new initiative of Langham Scholars'

After several years of planning and raising funds, it is a delight to report on the first year of the Langham Partnership International Research and Training Seminar. On June 11 and 12 2011, eleven former Langham scholars and two other Ph.D. scholars from the Majority World arrived at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and made their way to Wheaton College. They had travelled from Brazil, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Kenya, Macedonia, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, and Singapore.

This seminar programme was developed to help postdoctoral scholars who are serving faithfully in the Majority World gain further opportunities for research, writing, and training, and in this way to enhance their professional academic development. Many Langham Scholars move from their Ph.D. work into busy academic roles that allow them little time for research and writing, yet maintaining academic study is vital to staying fresh and relevant in teaching.

The International Research and Training Seminar programme involves a residency of three weeks a year, over four years, starting in 2011 and finishing in 2014. These residencies are held in academic institutions where there are high-level study and research facilities, and Wheaton College was an excellent first location. Although committed to running the seminar, our desire was to avoid fully funding from the existing Langham Scholarship budget, and so we were delighted with the support that came from three charitable foundations, together with Overseas Council USA, making the programme possible.

Experienced, exhausted, excited!

Thirteen scholars were selected by a panel from the applications received. Each postdoctoral scholar came with a research or writing project, and has been assigned an academic mentor to support them in their projects. With a college principal, several academic deans, and other heads of department all attending, the significance and potential of the group is tremendous.

As we met on the first day, the postdoctoral scholars all shared their hopes for the three weeks. One scholar said, **"After five years of teaching, I'm exhausted emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally."** Another said **"This is the opportunity for which I have been waiting for six years."**

The three weeks comprised mainly of library study and seminars, but not all! One Saturday morning, there was a pilgrimage to that great American cultural centre, Wal-Mart. After an hour and a half one scholar lamented "I had only just found where everything was!" We also enjoyed a trip to the Adler Planetarium in central Chicago, and an open air concert in Grant Park. To sit in that urban space as the day faded into evening, surrounded by the lights of the skyscrapers shining forth brightly, and to hear the large choir sing Mendelssohn's "Nun danket alle Gott" (Now thank we all our God) was deeply moving. As we watched, silhouetted against the sky, a peregrine falcon dove amongst the lofty buildings. The founder of Langham Partnership, John Stott, an enthusiastic ornithologist would have approved!

With the presence of some of the world's leading evangelical academics in the seminar room, the postdoctoral scholars were understandably a little nervous as they presented the fruits of their work. Yet, as the scholars gave their papers, the spirit was of gently probing scrutiny, encouragement, and celebration of achievement from all who spoke. Each scholar set out clear and imaginative projects of significant relevance to both global and local Christian communities.

Stretched and strengthened

At the end of the three weeks, as the scholars gave their reflections on the residency, their testimonies were moving. One welcomed the camaraderie and working spirit of "this doctor club" compared with the isolation he sometimes felt in his own institution. To another, this was an "oasis" — a place for receiving, rather than just giving, in teaching. One who arrived feeling emotionally, spiritually and physically exhausted now felt able to pray again. Another scholar said, **"Since I finished my Ph.D., for almost ten years I have been losing my brain."** Working, praying,

and being with one another was "a foretaste of the Book of Revelation when every tribe and nation and tongue will be gathered." Another said, **"I have been stretched, and because of this I go home strengthened."** There were embraces, words of encouragement, and the sadness of parting, before heading back to far-flung fields of scholarly service for Christ in the Majority World.

The next residency is planned for Oxford University, in September 2012. We are thankful to God for this precious and significant time together.

Please pray that this year's seminar will be a blessing for all who attend.

Langham Scholars currently studying in Australia

Ronald (from Myanmar 2010), is Dean of Students and Old Testament lecturer at the Myanmar Graduate School of Theology (MEGST) in Yangon. He is studying at Ridley Melbourne to better equip him for teaching at MEGST as well as taking a leadership role in his denomination.

Qaiser (from Pakistan 2012), is a Presbyterian minister and has been Director of the Open Theological Seminary in Lahore. Studying at the Melbourne School of Theology (MST), his research applies the New Testament to the experience of the persecution in Pakistan. Qaiser will possibly be the first Pakistani with a PhD in Theology!

Please pray for and consider financially supporting these two brothers. Your prayers and giving to our Scholars Programme enable men like Ronald and Qaiser to be trained and equipped to be the future church leaders and trainers of others in their Nations.

(Our next edition of LPA News, Nov 2012, will have updates from Alfred Olwa, recently returned to Uganda; and Ma'afu Palu in Tonga.)



Qaiser and Ronald

Taking Ephesians Back to Ephesus



To The Saints In Ephesus

It will be a historic moment. Almost 2000 years after Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, the message of his letter is being taken back. Sadly, much of the intervening period has been marked by the lack of any recognisable church in the area. Commended in Revelation for their hard work, perseverance, and hatred of evil, the Ephesians were also rebuked for forsaking their first love. The warning was given loud and clear that without repentance and return to their earlier ways, their lamp stand would be removed and their light withdrawn. Sadly, that is what happened. We all stand warned.

Today

Ephesus is a popular tourist destination, packed with antiquity and remains. But there is also new life here. Modern Turkey is experiencing the birth of a new church. We are at the early stages of a new work of God's Spirit. Growing from less than 100 believers to several thousand today, remarkable things have been happening. The publication of the Bible in modern Turkish has been central to the spread of the Gospel. But the opening up of its meaning through informed preaching and Bible study is also vitally important. First generation believers, leaders and preachers need to hear and understand God's message if they are to grow.

God's New Society

In his outstanding commentary on Ephesians, entitled **GOD'S NEW SOCIETY**, John Stott opens up the meaning, context and importance of what God had to say to the Ephesian church. Its publication in Turkish is in the pipeline. It brings a message of encouragement designed to strengthen the believers in their Christian faith, by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ. Paul planted the church in Ephesus in AD53, and served there for 3 years. But Christian living and growing today is not easy or straightforward. Although a nominally secular state, almost everyone is Muslim. Converts, if they go public, face all sorts of challenges, suspicion and rejection, even from family members. Foreign Christian workers are viewed with great suspicion and animosity. A spiritual battle is underway. It is into this context that Haberci Publishing in Istanbul is committed to equipping the church with appropriate literature resources. We aim to help them to do this.

Haberci

Their name means *The Messenger*, and they have a message worth bringing. They aim to provide Bible helps and other resource books. Many of their titles are designed for a much wider Turkish readership, bringing a Christian worldview and ethics. They have an ambitious plan to publish the

complete Bible Speaks Today series of commentaries over the next 10 years and we would like to help them persevere right the way through the series. Another ambition would be to help them develop Turkish writers.

Strategic

Turkey lies at a cross roads between Europe and Asia, not just geographically but also in terms of culture, worldview and religion. Although the church is still tiny, the strategic importance of the country is huge. It is easier to pursue outreach into Islamic Central Asia and the Middle East from Turkey. A growing and maturing church in Turkey, willing to obey Christ's great commission, could become a 'lighthouse' of blessing to the countries further East. We believe that helping Turkish believers to study and understand the Bible is a vital part of the necessary maturing and growing. Paul wanted to send a message of encouragement and strengthening to the believers at Ephesus but his letter was written for a wider audience and our prayer is that it will bring blessing right across Turkey. Paul also stresses the unity of the body — our western churches are indeed one with new Turkish fellowships — we would like to help them in a very practical way. Publishing this commentary on Ephesians and bringing this message back to its first Century context will cost around AUD\$6,000.

Colin Macpherson, Langham Literature

Would you consider giving regularly to Langham's strategic programmes?

For post and internet details, see front cover. Bank Details: BSB 032-837 Account Number: 144002

Please **PRAY** for these
Langham Preaching Events
 May-October 2012

May 1-4	Chile, Temuco
May 7-11	West Malaysia
May 7-11	Nigeria, Makurdi
May 7-11	Nigeria, Benin
May 7-10	Vanuatu
May 8-11	Colombia
May 9-10	Ecuador, Guayaquil
May 11-12	Ecuador, Quito
May 11-13	Kenya
May 19-24	European Leadership Forum in Hungary
May 25-31	Uganda, Arua
May 26	Bolivia, Train Future Group Coordinators in Sucre
May 28 - June 4	Indonesia
May 30 - June 1	Bolivia
June 4-8	Liberia
June 11-15	Pakistan, Theological Educator's Forum
June 11-15	Peru, Lima and Arequipa
June 18-22	Malaysia & Solomon Islands
June 25-29	Nigeria, Owerri
June 29 - July 5	Uganda in Mbarara
July 2-6	Nigeria, Port Harcourt
July 21	Liberia, Leaders Prayer Retreat
August 12-18	China
August 17-20	Argentina, Resisitencia
August 25	Liberia
August 27-31	Nigeria, Abuja
August 28-30	Australia, Preachers Conference, Melbourne
September 3-7	Nigeria, Benin
September 5-8	Romania, Salta
September 13-16	Argentina
September 15	Liberia
September 19-22	Romania, Timosoara
October 8-11	Vanuatu
October 8-12	Nigeria, Maiduguri
October 17-20	Trinidad, Tobago and Guyana
October 20	Liberia, Leaders Prayer Retreat
Oct 29 - Nov 2	Burundi

John Stott's Daily Prayer

Holy, blessed and glorious trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me.

Almighty God, Creator and sustainer of the universe, I worship you.

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord of the World, I worship you.

Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the people of God, I worship you.

Heavenly Father, I pray that this day I may live in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life — Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever, Amen.

Langham

Partnership Australia

A Member of Langham Partnership International

Our vision is to see churches equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ through the ministry of pastors and leaders who believe, teach and live by the word of God.

As an evangelical organisation, the Langham Partnership is above all committed to exalt the name and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, to promote the gospel of His grace and to foster the mission of His church.

We do this through our three programmes:

- **Langham Scholars** supports evangelical doctoral students from the Majority World who return to positions of theological teaching and leadership.
- **Langham Literature** provides evangelical resources in multiple languages through grants and distribution, and fosters the indigenous creation of resources through sponsored editing and writing and publisher development.
- **Langham Preaching** partners with national leaders to nurture indigenous preaching movements for pastors and lay preachers around the world. This partnership provides practical on-site support for preachers, organising training seminars, providing resources, encouraging preachers' groups, and building a local movement committed to Bible exposition.



Scholars at the post-doctoral seminar enjoying a concert in Grant Park, Chicago

Have you considered including Langham Partnership in your will?

Like many mission organizations we can benefit greatly when friends make a final gift that continues to bless the ministries they have generously supported in life. Once you have made proper and primary provision for family and friends this can be a very effective way to go on making a difference to the church on earth when you have joined the church in glory! If you would like to consider this option in your will please contact Wendy Toulmin at LPA.

Response Form

My Gift

I want to —

- Give something regularly — monthly / quarterly / annually (circle whichever applies). *Please complete the donation amount and the payment authority sections below.*
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