



Amplifying and equipping Majority World voices

MARCH 2024



AUSTRALIA

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A message from Langham Partnership Australia CEO

Our Christian brothers and sisters from around the world often face unimaginable difficulties. Christian leaders in those contexts have often worked through the biblical perspectives and theology needed to help their people survive and even thrive.

Hearing from those leaders is one of the great opportunities and privileges of Langham's work in the Majority World. In May this year, we have the chance to hear from Yohanna Katanacho, professor of Biblical Studies and Academic Dean at Nazareth Evangelical College, as he visits Sydney and Melbourne. As a Palestinian Israeli, he has reflected and written extensively on a biblical perspective of the tensions that wrack his region.

If you are unable to get to either the Melbourne (8th May) or Sydney (10th May) event (details will be circulated by email shortly), you can still hear from Yohanna on the Young Langham podcast *Out of the Margins*, or sign up for our Holy Week devotional series where meditations and prayers will be emailed to you in the week before Easter, with the prayers coming from Yohanna's *Praying Through the Psalms*. We thank God for the wise and insightful leadership of theologians and pastors such as Yohanna Katanacho.



Gilleen Smiley
Langham Partnership Australia CEO



Listening to Voices from Out of the Margins

Unpacking the purpose of our NEW Young Langham Podcast

What does it mean to be a Christian in your context? This is something that we in the Western world haven't had to give much thought. We're surrounded by examples of Christian culture and life in our country - and in other countries much like ours! Western Christianity dominates the past and in many cases, the present, but the Christian voices in the margins are a needed richness for the future.

To bring those voices to a place where they can be heard, Langham Partnership Australia has launched a new podcast called *Out of the Margins*. Brought to you by Young Langham, and hosted by two members of the Australian team, *Out of the Margins* offers insights from Christians from the Majority World, with voices that challenge assumptions and broaden our perspective.

Langham Partnership Australia Young Adult Engagement Coordinator and one of the podcast hosts Edgar Solis says, "The significance of featuring voices 'from the margins' stems from the fact that individuals from the Majority World constitute an integral part of the global church. Their distinct perspectives contribute a unique richness to the diverse tapestry that constitutes the body of the church."

We currently live in a world where Christianity in the West is increasingly being pushed to the margins in the post-Christendom era. But we have

others who have gone before us in this and can guide us! This show aims to gain wisdom and insight from voices from the Majority World. Voices that often have been overlooked.

Edgar says, “By listening to these voices, we open ourselves to a broader understanding of faith and practice. These perspectives, often overlooked, possess the potential to illuminate blind spots within our own worldview. By embracing the narratives of those on the margins, we gain awareness of issues that might otherwise be overlooked or misunderstood.”



Out of the Margins will be published fortnightly on all good podcasting apps. It will feature conversations with scholars and leaders from a variety of places in the Majority World. Topics include Reverse Mission, Spiritual Warfare, Interfaith Dialogue and Social Justice.

Edgar says, “Engaging with fresh voices from Christians in the Majority World promises both challenge and excitement for listeners. These perspectives not only provide a novel and invigorating experience but also offer a profound well of wisdom. So expect to be blown away.”

In the first episode, which covers the topic of Contextualisation in two parts, hear from three remarkable individuals: Crystal, hailing from East Asia; Kamwende, a voice from Kenya; and Joseph, representing Uganda. They share their experiences and insights, revealing how the gospel has taken shape in their distinct, vibrant contexts.

Listen to *Out of the Margins* and subscribe so you don't miss an episode!

**LEARN MORE AND
LISTEN NOW**



OUT OF THE MARGINS

A Young Langham
Podcast

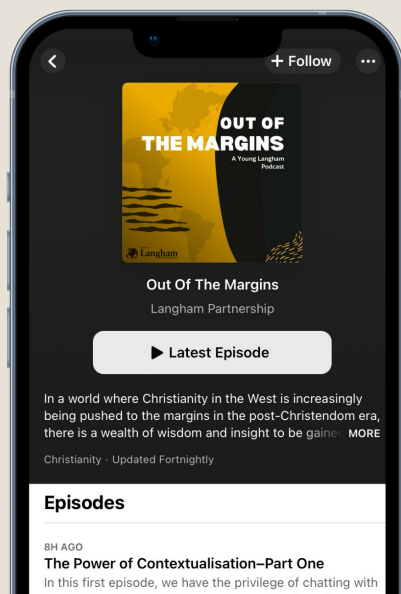
In a world where Christianity in the West is increasingly being pushed to the margins in the post-Christendom era, there is a wealth of wisdom and insight to be gained from voices that have long resided in the margins. *Out of the Margins* highlights the insights of the experiences and perspectives of Christians from the Majority world who are intimately familiar with being a minority and marginalised. Hosted by Simon Nugent and Edgar Solis.


***Out of the Margins* episodes cover topics like contextualisation, spiritual warfare, reverse mission, interfaith dialogue and more!**

LISTEN ON
SPOTIFY



LISTEN
ON APPLE
PODCASTS



A photograph of a man with a joyful expression, wearing a vibrant yellow and purple patterned shirt. He is positioned in front of a lush green background with some purple flowers. Overlaid on the lower part of the image is a dark red banner with white text.

Preparedness, passion and preaching the good news in Fiji

Veresa Colato lives in Nukubolu Village in Fiji, where he pastors at Nukubolu Brethren Church, a job he inherited from his father who also pastored there.

UNPREPARED TO EQUIPPED

When Veresa first took over the role, he didn't have any training and felt the weight of responsibility for everything he didn't know. He shares, "Pastoring the church without training, it's difficult because you have to learn everything."

Preaching was particularly something Veresa felt he needed to learn about, and so when the opportunity to do Langham training came about he jumped at the chance. After doing training with Langham, Veresa has a new perspective, appreciation and process for understanding and teaching God's Word.

Veresa says, "Standing from up there and preaching, it takes courage, to preach something about God. And you're preaching God's word, it's very important. The Langham training really taught me to dig deeply in the Bible passage, and then from text to sermon."

Members of his church are already seeing the benefits of Veresa's training, especially because he is dedicating energy to contextualising his preaching for them! Veresa says, "I took Langham English training and I transferred that to the Fijian, and to my dialect, so they can really understand what I'm talking about, what my sermon is about."

Through the training, Veresa is more confident and comfortable to pastor his congregation, and is extremely focused on sharing God's word faithfully!

This is something he'd love to see more and more throughout the churches of Fiji. Many preachers locally use what Veresa describes as 'outside' ideas in their sermons. He says, "This is dangerous because it can bring some different ideas and can confuse listeners. But what's important is what the passage really teaches us, what it really means."

PASSION AND PERSONAL FAITH

Preaching is more than a task or job for Veresa, he is genuinely passionate about the call to preach given by Jesus in the Bible. He shares, "That's what we are called for, to go out, to serve, and to preach the good news. And I love it. And God has blessed me a lot to preach this word, not only in my congregation but outside."

Preaching training from Langham has also impacted how Veresa is personally growing in his faith in Jesus. He shares, "Langham Preaching taught me to study God's Word more...not only do I dig into God's word, it teaches me to pray a lot."

For those involved in supporting and running Langham Partnership in Australia and beyond Veresa says, "I really appreciate the Langham training, and how God works through Langham Partnership."

Can you support the South Pacific Preaching program?

We in Australia have always had a special relationship with Langham Preaching in the South Pacific. Wendy Toulmin, the first Executive Officer for Langham Partnership Australia, first coordinated the start of this work back in 2008, and it has always been largely funded by Australian donations.

Steve Williams, the current South Pacific Regional Preaching Coordinator, is based in Australia, although is currently transitioning to handing over the leadership to a Fijian pastor (Langham is always seeking to have our work led from the Majority World). Travel is always expensive in this part of the world, but is crucial in order to meet in person with our South Pacific brothers and sisters. Building and maintaining these relationships is essential. Without them the work does not happen.

Can you help the Preaching program in the nations of Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga by giving to the ministry?

We need your prayer and financial support!

DONATE



You're invited to hear from Yohanna Katanacho in Australia

We're excited to be welcoming Langham Palestinian author, Yohanna Katanacho, to Australia in May this year. Yohanna is the author of *Praying Through the Psalms*, *Reading the Gospel of John through Palestinian Eyes* and other books, as well as being a commentary contributor.

He'll be speaking in Melbourne and Sydney and details to register and attend will be coming to you soon via email.

Save the Date to hear from Yohanna

MELBOURNE

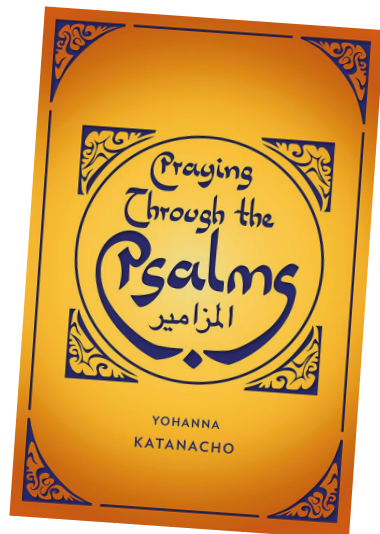
Wednesday 8 May

Ridley College, 6.30pm

SYDNEY

Friday 10 May

Details TBD





How the Latin American Bible Commentary has changed Elias Lopez's church

Elias Lopez lives in Costa Rica, working as a pastor in his community of Barrio Los Anonos. He shared his story of stepping into the ministry God called him to, and how the Latin American Bible Commentary is shaping him and his church.

MINISTRY IN HARD CIRCUMSTANCES

Elias is known for his generosity with his time and energy to help people with the practical and the spiritual. From a house that needs painting, to someone who needs food brought to them, to a family struggling with grief and in need of prayer and comfort - Elias is reliably there.

The community his church is in is a challenging one. People work hard in jobs like cleaning and construction and it's not common for people to have gone to university. There are lots of families, but also a lot of drugs. Sadly Elias has seen drugs impact various people, including taking the lives of many teenagers.

It's a heavy environment, but God is still at work! Elias says, "There are a lot of people thirsty for the Word of God because of all that stuff happening there."

STEPPING INTO MINISTRY WITH THE COMMENTARY TO AID HIM

Before taking up the job as pastor Elias was a member of his church, Light of the World Church, for five years. He moved into the role of pastor in early 2022. He says, "I already was ready to be a pastor. I knew my call was to be a pastor, so I was waiting. I was waiting for the initial call of the Lord."

His experience has been one full of the miracles of God! Even in the initial months of being pastor, Elias saw many changes in the church. He has also learnt a lot about patience and love.

Elias says, “The church is growing. People are coming back, including people that left the church.” There has also been an increase in members giving to the church financially, and donating other needed things - like musical instruments!

Before becoming a pastor Elias was impacted by the Latin American Bible Commentary personally. As soon as he could access it he read it a lot alongside the Bible, and it taught him a lot. Now it is helping his congregation!

He shares, “The church is very happy because right now they are studying Hebrews. And they are using the commentary for studying the Hebrews. So they are like, wow! The commentary helped me to start a ministry as a pastor with confidence.”



Elias reflects, “There is a lot of ignorance of the scriptures in the church. The church needs to know the Word [of God] and they individually need to study the light of the gospel.”

The Latin American Bible Commentary is a big part of enabling the people in Elias’ church to understand the gospel and to know the Word of God intimately for themselves.



Please be praying for Elias and the maturity of Christians throughout Latin America

Sign up for Holy Week Devotions

This month we've got another opportunity for you to hear Majority World Christian reflections on the Bible.

Following the success of our Advent 2023 devotional series, we are pleased to offer you another daily devotional series, this time for Holy Week 2024. The series will run from Monday 25 March up until Easter Sunday (31 March).



The reflections are taken from the Africa Bible Commentary, with a prayer for each day taken from Yohanna Katanacho's book *Praying Through the Psalms*. Yohanna is a Palestinian Langham author who teaches at Nazareth Evangelical College in Israel.

Send an email to australia@langham.org to be added to our email distribution list for this series of daily devotions.



Prayer Points

MARCH

From mid-March, the Langham International Scholars Selection Committee will begin to meet to decide on semi-finalists for scholarship awards. Pray for wisdom and guidance as to whom they should give the scholarships.

APRIL

Please pray for indigenous evangelical publishers in the Majority World. Pray for discernment in understanding local needs, wisdom in appropriate title selections, and professionalism in production.

MAY

Yohanna Katanacho, Palestinian Langham author, will be in Australia this month and we will be holding events in Sydney and Melbourne where he will speak. Pray that these will be successful, and that we will raise more ongoing supporters for the work of Langham Partnership.

JUNE

Pray for the new Scholars Director, Dr Lina Toth, as she begins in the role full time this month. Pray that she will have wisdom as she leads the Scholars team.

JULY

Pray for the Preaching Club Coordinators who lead Preaching Clubs around the world. Establishing and maintaining Preaching Clubs is central to the work of Langham Preaching. The Clubs play a huge part in ensuring that Preaching Movements are indigenously led and self-sustainable.

AUGUST

Pray for Langham Scholar Joseph Byamukama from Uganda as he leads the Veracity Fount ministry there. Pray for Langham's Scholar Carers around the world who support Scholars in their studies.

Preaching Training Calendar

Please pray for these preaching training events. Where countries are considered sensitive, regions are given instead of the country name.

4 -10 MARCH: URUGUAY, GUYANA, HUNGARY, PHILIPPINES

11 - 17 MARCH: PHILIPPINES, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND

18 -24 MARCH: GUYANA, BELGIUM

25 – 31 MARCH: ROMANIA, FIJI

1 – 7 APRIL: ARGENTINA, CROATIA, SLOVENIA, SWITZERLAND, ETHIOPIA, SPAIN

8 – 14 APRIL: GLOBAL SEMINAR, VANUATU

15 – 21 APRIL: PHILIPPINES, SOUTH AMERICA, BELGIUM

22 – 28 APRIL: PHILIPPINES, SPAIN, AUSTRIA

29 APR – 5 MAY: ALBANIA, SWITZERLAND, SPAIN

6 - 12 MAY: SOUTH EAST ASIA, VANUATU

20 - 26 MAY: AUSTRIA, VANUATU

27 MAY – 2 JUNE: FRANCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

24 – 30 JUNE: CAMBODIA, GUATEMALA, FIJI, ASIA-SOUTH PACIFIC LEADERS MEETING

JULY: MIDDLE EAST

AUGUST: SOUTH ASIA, MEXICO

These are the Preaching events we know are scheduled at the time of printing. Many more will be added! To get regular prayer updates, subscribe to the weekly *Preaching Prayershot*. Contact Jenny at australia@langham.org to be added to the list.



Give to support the work of Langham Partnership

Join us as an ongoing or seasonal financial partner

Your donation to Langham Partnership helps the church in the Majority World to grow as mature disciples of Jesus.

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Please include your surname in the description of your gift.

BSB: 032 837 ACCOUNT NO: 144 002

GIVE VIA CHEQUE

Make your cheque out to *Langham Partnership Australia* and post it to:

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GIVE VIA CREDIT CARD

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