



AUSTRALIA

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PARTNERSHIP



# FAITHFUL PEOPLE, EVER FAITHFUL GOD

*Langham Partnership Australia*

**MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025**

Cover Image: Church in Zambia, Africa

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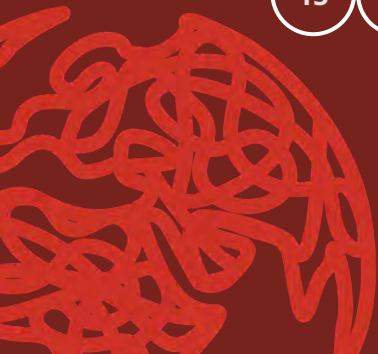
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# A MESSAGE

*from Langham Partnership  
Australia CEO*

A significant part of our role as Langham Partnership Australia is raising awareness of what God is doing through the global organisation to grow and mature His Church. Many of us here in Australia are under the impression that the Church is shrinking and under pressure to remain relevant in an increasingly secularised world.

While this may be true of many churches in the West, it is not the experience of many of our brothers and sisters in the Majority World, who see the Church expanding rapidly through the witness and teaching of faithful followers of Jesus, and who are actively providing salt and light to a people that are searching for meaning and purpose in their lives. The Muslim world in particular is seeing many come to Christ, despite the persecution that often comes their way as a result. In this context it is vital that the new believers are well supported, with faithful, clear and relevant Bible teaching to help them mature in their faith. Through trained pastors and leaders, who have access to high quality, contextually relevant resources, Langham is seeking to partner with the Church in the Majority World to see the Church grow in depth as well as size.

Of course alongside raising awareness, we have as our primary purpose the raising of funds here in Australia to enable this work to continue and expand. We are immensely grateful to our faithful supporters who join with us in this work, many of whom give regularly and sacrificially as they see the strategic importance of equipping the next generation of Bible teachers. Thank you for your partnership with us, through prayer and financial support, and helping us share the inspiring stories of God at work in His world.



**GILLEAN SMILEY**

*Langham Partnership  
Australia CEO*

# SO THAT THE WORD OF GOD MAY SPREAD AND BE GLORIFIED

*with Langham Global Coordinator for Preaching  
Groups Development, Dionisio Orjuela*

Dionisio Orjuela is the newly appointed Langham Global Coordinator for Preaching Groups Development. He lives and works in his home country of Colombia. Dionisio first heard about Langham Partnership 25 years ago through his friend, Jorge. He reflects, "Jorge Atiencia, inspired by John Stott, invited me to be part of a group of pastors who became the first *escuelitas* (preaching clubs) coordinators. Then through Igor Améstegui, our continental director for Latin America, we got to know about Langham Preaching."

### **Growth in ministry and responsibility**

By the grace of God, this and the broader Langham Preaching ministry has grown. Dionisio reflects, "This ministry has been established in 10 [Latin American] nations, with only 2 missing to reach the entire region."

In July 2024 Dionisio was invited to take up a new role as the Global Coordinator for Preaching Groups Development for Langham Partnership. Dionisio has a particular passion for preaching group development, having seen them work powerfully in Latin America.



*Latin American *escuelita* (preaching club)*



Dionisio Orjuela

He shares, “Based on the experience in Latin America, for more than 20 years, we have discovered that one of the pillars to sustain, maintain and grow a preaching movement are the *escuelitas* (preaching clubs). Without them, Langham preaching becomes nothing more than preaching events. The preaching groups help make it truly a preaching movement.”

### **Better preaching and faithful preachers**

After more than 11 years of doing ministry with Langham Partnership in Colombia and Central America, it is extremely gratifying for Dionisio to see how God has and is working through his peers and the preaching participants!

Dionisio shares, “Personally speaking Langham Preaching has helped me to be a better preacher...As a pastor, Langham has helped me to build a team of collaborators who have been trained in *escuelitas* and are the people who share the pastoral and preaching ministry with me.”

Of his new role as Global Coordinator for Preaching Groups, Dionisio says, “My commitment and my dream in my new role is to inspire, support and accompany the national and continental teams. So that each preaching movement in the nations where they already exist and in those where they are going to be established, initiates, maintains and strengthens the ministry of preaching groups, which in turn, nourish and strengthen the preaching movements, all of this so that just as the apostle Paul longed for: “... *the Word of the Lord may spread and be glorified, just as it was among you,*” (2 Thessalonians 3.1).”

## TEAM NEWS

# Meet Amanda Wu

## LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP AUSTRALIA'S NEW YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR



Amanda Wu has recently started at Langham Partnership Australia as our Melbourne-based Young Adult Engagement Coordinator. We're so thrilled to have her and are looking forward to the new and exciting ideas she brings to the team.

Amanda lives in Greater Melbourne, Victoria, with her husband of four and a half years, Fernando, and their beloved Birman cat, Kumo. She is actively involved as a leader at New Life Church, a small Pentecostal community passionate about reaching Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

About her new role Amanda shares, "I have always loved seeing potential and future opportunities in reaching the next generation. I am excited about having the opportunity to try new things and pioneer efforts to reach young adults in the mission of Langham."

Amanda has a first-hand appreciation for the need and value of Langham's work. She says, "I value how God uses and moves people from all around the world, and I find it exciting to hear the stories of the impact that scholars make in their own countries. I also appreciate that books are published in the local languages, along with contextual commentaries framed within the culture of each country. From my own experience, I struggled to find enough resources to complete my thesis, which required examining texts through an Asian cultural lens, and wish I had known about what Langham does sooner."

*Please pray for Amanda as she settles into the team!*



# *Reflect on* HOLY WEEK

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

Would you like to receive a devotional by email from Langham each day of the week before Easter?

This year's series is called "To the Cross" and is taken from writings about Jesus' journey to the cross by our International Ambassador, Rev. Dr Chris Wright.

You can sign up for this series by emailing [australia@langham.org](mailto:australia@langham.org).

You can also read the devotions on our website.



# SEEING REALITY IN THE PAGES OF THE BIBLE

*with Mauricio Solis*

Pastor Mauricio Solis has been serving in Costa Rica for the past 23 years. Previously a psychologist, now he is at the forefront of leading his congregation at West Abundant Life Church in San José. The publication of the Latin American Bible Commentary has shaped his teaching and his ministry.

### **The gospel preached to everyone**

West Abundant Life Church is located in the west of San José in an area of major growth. It's in a middle-class community, but also very close to two very poor neighbourhoods. This brings two worlds together often in the church.



Mauricio explains, "I have passion for the social things, for the deprived people, the ill, and I started to preach to addicted people. And they started to come."

This tension between people's circumstances is an ongoing challenge in their context. However, it doesn't dampen Mauricio's heart to see all people hear the good news of Jesus and be welcomed into fellowship with Him and His people. For Mauricio, good contextual preaching is at the heart of this!





## Resourcing pastors and people

Mauricio appreciates how the commentary gives him such a clear social context for his preaching. He explains, "The explanation of the Bible in this commentary comes from people that know my reality and help me to understand—with different eyes, but with the same culture. When I read this commentary, it's like I put on the glasses of Latin America to read about Latin America, to preach to my Latin American context and needs. I don't have any other way to get information like this."

## From Latin America to the world

There is so much the global Church can learn from each other, and Mauricio sees the Latin American Church as a rich community with much to share.

He says, "I believe that the Church in Latin America can offer to [the Western] Church transformation through looking at how we live life with simplicity, doing a lot with very few resources. Looking at the courage of people facing risk and facing danger and expressing their own faith and this sense of community, of communion that we have. I also think we have learned to depend on God."

### AUSTRALIAN-SUPPORTED SCHOLAR UPDATE

## *Joseph Byamukama*



Joseph lives with his wife Daphne and two young sons in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Uganda has a population of just over 50 million people, 82% of whom identify as Christian. The Church in Uganda struggles with competing non-biblical worldviews that influence what Ugandan Christians believe.

### **Ministry and study**

Joseph is a pastor-theologian and founder of Veracity Fount and the Fount Church Uganda. Veracity Fount is committed to equipping the Ugandan Church to be theologically sound and mission-minded.

They run small group training sessions, publish podcasts and host a theological library. Visit [veracityfount.org](http://veracityfount.org) to learn more, or hear Joseph himself describe what Veracity Fount does on YouTube @veracityfount.

Joseph is a gifted theologian. He received his Masters in Divinity from Gordon-Conwell seminary in the US and has been studying for his PhD through Ridley College in Melbourne since 2022, supported through Langham Partnership Australia. The topic of his PhD thesis is “Early Intertextual Christology: How Isaiah Shapes Jesus’s Lordship in Acts”.

Two of his examiners commented that his was one of the best PhD theses they have read!

### **Current projects**

Veracity Fount’s latest project is a docu-series called The Ugandan Gospel that will explore and respond to the alternative ‘gospel’ teachings rooted in the traditional African worldview prevalent in Ugandan churches, highlighting the power of God in saving sinners through His Son by His Spirit as revealed in Scripture.

The docu-series will analyse five common doctrines, examining their origins and impact considering biblical and historical theology. They aim to deepen discipleship and evangelism by clarifying the gospel and stressing the sufficiency and supremacy of the gospel of Christ over any other means of salvation suggested by African traditional view-influenced teachings in Ugandan Churches.

They would love to expand the series to cover Sub-Saharan Africa but that depends on whether or not they can secure funding. However, the issues they cover in Uganda are pertinent to Christianity on most of the continent.

We are delighted to welcome Joseph and Daphne to Australia in late March/early April to celebrate Joseph’s graduation at Ridley and give some of our supporters an opportunity to hear him speak.

# *Learning from the ministry of Ronald and our brothers and sisters in Myanmar*

*Recently, CEO Gillean visited Langham Graduate Ronald in Myanmar. Here is her reflection on his context and work.*



*Gillean With Riad (the Langham International Director) and Ronald*

My time in Myanmar in February this year gave me greater insight into the difficulties of Christian leaders working to help the church grow in maturity. It is not easy to provide the resources and opportunities for learning that they would wish to have available, even as they operate in a context of economic and social pressure.

Despite the challenges for Myanmar Christians, my overwhelming impression was of a generous, gracious and committed people, faithfully and courageously witnessing to their Lord. And how encouraging it was to see firsthand the leadership and ministry of Ronald, a Langham Scholar who studied for his PhD here in Australia and is now Principal of the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST).

He is a wonderful example of the fruit of a Langham Scholarship, as he not only supports preaching ministry and leads and teaches in the theological seminary, but also continues to write. His current project is to complete the first ever Biblical Theology in the Chin language, targeted at ordinary Christians in the churches as well as students.

Ronald is introducing new courses to MEGST this year, to cater for the growing demand and expanded student body, and also has personally supervised many of the Doctor of Divinity candidates.

I thank God for the opportunity to travel to Myanmar and walk for a short time beside my brothers and sisters who are embodying the vision of Langham Partnership!

# PRAY with us

## BIANNUAL PRAYER POINTS

**MARCH:** Ugandan scholar Joseph Byamukama and his wife Daphne will visit Australia at the end of the month for his graduation, which takes place at Ridley Melbourne on 5 April. While in Australia, Joseph will speak at events in Perth, Adelaide, and Melbourne. Please pray for all the planning for these events and pray for God's blessing on Joseph and Daphne as they celebrate Joseph's scholarly achievement.

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**APRIL:** Langham Preaching Clubs are small groups of 8-10 people who meet regularly to pray, prepare, and share together. Pray for the coordinators of these clubs around the world as they encourage and nurture attendees to continue developing and deepening their preaching skills.

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**JUNE:** Please pray for the Scholar Care Coordinators (SCCs) as they build relationships with their scholars. Pray for wisdom and the ability to see beyond the scholars' academic needs and serve holistically. Also, pray for the SCCs as they balance their time among numerous other responsibilities, including family, church communities, and ministries.

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**JULY:** Each year, there are countries that request a Langham Preaching work to commence in their nation or for their people group. Please pray for our leadership teams as they follow up on these requests and work closely with local church leaders, seminaries, and pastors.

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**AUGUST:** Please pray for Langham Partnership Australia as we seek to grow and gain more support from Australian Christians for the global work. Pray that God will give the staff and board wisdom in how to connect with Christians in Australia and how best to share the richness that comes from the global Church with the Church in Australia.

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# PREACHING TRAINING CALENDAR

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

**2-8 MAR:** WEST AFRICA (2), GHANA, AUSTRIA, MYANMAR DIASPORA (THAILAND)

**9-15 MAR:** SOUTH ASIA (2), SE ASIA, LIBERIA, MYANMAR DIASPORA

**16-22 MAR:** SOUTH ASIA, WEST AFRICA, LIBERIA, HUNGARY

**23-29 MAR:** THAILAND, CROATIA, WEST AFRICA, SE ASIA

**30 MAR-5 APR:** SE ASIA (2), SOUTH ASIA, ETHIOPIA

**6-12 APR:** SE ASIA, CENTRAL AFRICA, SOUTH ASIA, LIBERIA

**13-19 APR:** CENTRAL AFRICA, SE ASIA

**20-26 APR:** CENTRAL AFRICA, SOUTH ASIA

**27 APR-3 MAY:** CENTRAL AFRICA (2), SE ASIA, AUSTRIA (3)

**18-24 MAY:** SE ASIA, THAILAND

**25-31 MAY:** SE ASIA, THAILAND

**1-7 JUN:** SOUTH ASIA

**8-14 JUN:** CROATIA, SOUTH ASIA

**15-21 JUN:** SOUTH ASIA, LIBERIA

**22-28 JUN:** ALBANIA, SOUTH ASIA

**29 JUN-5 JUL:** SOUTH ASIA, SIERRA LEONE

**6-12 JUL:** SE ASIA

**13-19 JUL:** WEST AFRICA

**20-26 JUL:** SE ASIA

**27 JUL-2 AUG:** ASIA & SOUTH PACIFIC MEETING (IN SYDNEY)

**3-9 AUG:** MONGOLIA

*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](mailto: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.

*Please note that only donations made to Langham Literature are tax-deductible.*

## GIVE VIA DIRECT DEPOSIT (PREFERRED)

Please include your surname in the description of your gift.

**Langham Partnership Aus BSB:** 032 837 **ACCOUNT NO:** 144 002

**Langham Literature Aus (Tax-deductible) BSB:** 032 837 **ACCOUNT NO:** 376 903

## GIVE VIA CHEQUE

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**PO BOX 530 SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777**

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*Please note: we are charged a fee for credit card donations.*



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