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Langham Partnership Australia

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Cover Image: Church in Kenya, Africa

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A MESSAGE

from Langham Partnership Australia CEO

One of the greatest joys I experience in connecting with Majority World believers is to see the reality that through Christ, we are joined into a body far wider than just our local or even our national Church family. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:12–13, *“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*

It is easy to think of “church” as the people we gather with on Sunday mornings—the familiar faces who share our pews, our cups of tea, and our daily lives. Yet God is continually drawing our eyes outward: to sisters and brothers whose songs rise in other languages, whose lives may be shaped by challenges we can hardly imagine, but who share the same Spirit and the same hope in Christ.

When we hear news from our Programs, or pray for those facing persecution, or celebrate the growth of new churches, we are reminded that we are linked in very tangible ways, not just metaphorically. The joys of our brothers and sisters become our joys; their struggles call us to deeper prayer. And when they are suffering, every part of the body suffers with them. It is a privilege to demonstrate our unity by partnering together to address challenges such as lack of adequate training or resources, because in doing so, the whole body flourishes.

Our true family in Christ is vast, and it is a comfort and blessing to know that others are praying for us, just as we pray for them. We invite you to join with us, or continue to be involved, as we seek to bless the global Church through helping to equip the next generation of Bible teachers and leaders, and to receive the blessing of hearing their wisdom, their insights and stories of their precious faith and perseverance.

May we continue to lift our eyes to this wider vision of the Church: one body, united in Christ, moving together in hope until the day when every nation, tribe and tongue will worship before His throne (Revelation 7:9).



GILLEAN SMILEY

*Langham Partnership
Australia CEO*

TEACHING SOLID THEOLOGY, STEWARDSHIP AND BIBLICAL PRACTICE IN GHANA

with Samuel Sarkodie-Addo

Samuel Sarkodie-Addo lives in Ghana and started Langham Preaching training in 2009 when working with Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students. After completing all the three levels of Langham Preaching training and doing the Training the Trainers course, he applied and received a Langham Scholarship in 2019 after completing his Masters in Religious Studies. He completed his PhD in 2023 at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and is now a university lecturer, author and works at his local church.

Samuel wrote his PhD on *'Church and Politics: A study of the political engagement between some selected churches and Christian politicians for the promotion of good governance in Ghana.'* His focus was to explore how churches are engaging their members who are into politics with faith, and draw on resource utilisation and stewardship to better equip Christians to engage faithfully and have a meaningful impact.

A supportive network

When Samuel started his PhD, he also started work full-time at his church as an administrator, which he continues to do today. He is very grateful to Langham, and shares, "The scholarship program was extremely helpful. In terms of the financial assistance, it would have been very difficult for me if I had not had the scholarship from Langham... it helped me, helped my family, it reduced a lot of financial burden... it was extremely important for my journey."



Samuel at his graduation

Samuel also valued the scholar care through Langham, which sees a coordinator support the scholar holistically. He explains, "The support for my family; praying with me, encouraging me, and always checking up on how the family was doing was very helpful. I don't think we have that in a lot of scholarship schemes and it is unique to have that kind of pastoral counselling advisory and supporting role from the Scholar Carer".

Teaching and equipping

The support and training from Langham brought Samuel great opportunities as a teacher. In 2021 he was offered a lecturing role in Christian leadership at Christian Service University. In 2023, he was also appointed to teach Ethics in Communication Practice. Samuel has written and published 11 books, and gets invited to speak at conferences and churches. He also recently started an initiative in 'Stewardship Advocacy' and hopes to engage the whole country and continent of Africa about being good stewards with resources.



Samuel at his graduation

In Africa, Samuel describes Christian faith as “Miles wide and then an inch deep... as a practical theologian, I see that Africa has a lot of problems with regards to practice.”

He explains, “Africans have not brought the Gospel to bear in our daily lives. Therefore there is an issue of theology—wrong theology, wrong foundation, which is influencing wrong practice. So for me that is what I seek to challenge. That is what I seek to do; how to bring the Bible into everyday practice, politics, governance, in management, institutions and everything... we cannot have good practice if we don't have strong theology.”

Supporting the mission

Langham Partnership is equipping people all over the world to reach more people with the Gospel. Samuel shares, “Langham is a very strategic ministry; very important in the scheme of God's mission. If you look at the three key areas of scholarship, preaching and literature, these are very helpful. And I have benefited from all three, and I've been involved with all three. I would say that anyone who has the opportunity, should get involved whether through the [Preaching] training, through literature, and then through the scholarship or partnership, and also those who are willing to support so that Langham can continue. We are reaching a lot of people across the continents and the nations of the world, and I believe that a ministry that has integrity, that has credibility, and has a history of impacting, is worth supporting.”

Thank you and Goodbye

JENNY BAWDEN

We have come to a moment in the life of Langham Partnership Australia, when we pause with gratitude to give thanks for Jenny Bawden, who has poured her time, talents, and heart into the work of God's kingdom among us. As Jenny steps into retirement at the end of September, after working with us since 2012, we are aware of the enormous contribution she has made and how much she will be missed.



Jenny's faithful service has been marked by a quiet strength, a gracious spirit, and a tireless commitment to seeing God's Word take root and flourish across the globe. She has been the voice you hear when you ring Langham. She has overseen the administrative details that make sure your gifts are accurately recorded and receipted, and developed warm relationships with many of you as she has kept you informed of what has been happening not just in Australia but in our global Church family. There are many challenges in operating in a team that is spread across four states in Australia, yet in working for the most part alone in Springwood, she has consistently demonstrated her commitment and faithfulness in managing the office, and also in contributing to the operational and administrative tasks required to keep an international organisation functioning.

Many preaching program participants have benefitted from her careful collation of course materials, and likewise scholars often struggling with English as a non native speaker have appreciated her keen proofreading skills and advice. The Board of Langham Partnership Australia has appreciated not just her minute taking, but also her arrangement of all the small details that enable them to meet and oversee the ministry.

Jenny's contribution has never been only about tasks. It has been about people. Her warm welcome, her thoughtful listening ear, and her prayerful concern for colleagues and Program partners alike have made a difference for all who have come into contact with her. She has modelled what it means to serve Christ with humility and steadfastness, and in doing so, has reminded us all that kingdom work is not about our own name, but about His.

As Jenny retires, we are grateful for all she has given, and wish her and her family well for the future. We celebrate the countless hours, the willing contributions, and the genuine commitment to Langham she has offered over the years. And we pray that this new season of life will be rich with rest, joy, and fresh opportunities for Jenny to delight in the Lord who has guided her steps so faithfully.

On behalf of Langham Partnership Australia, and with thankful hearts, we say: well done, good and faithful servant.

“She has modelled what it means to serve Christ with humility and steadfastness, and in doing so, has reminded us all that kingdom work is not about our own name, but about His.”



Jenny with Australia CEO, Jill McGilvray - Chair of Langham Partnership International Council and LP Australia

FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL AND INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION IN CAIRO

with Rania Hendy



Rania Hendy

Rania Hendy is from Cairo, Egypt. She received a Langham Scholarship in 2018 and has recently graduated with her PhD from Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky (US). She is a Professor in the Old Testament at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC) and **is the first evangelical woman in Egypt and the Middle East to have a PhD in this field!**

Pursuing her calling against the odds

Rania graduated with a Masters of Divinity in 2005, and her Master's of Theology in 2007 and felt called to further her studies with a PhD. She knew it was going to be a challenge, she shares, "The tuition is extremely high for us. I always felt the need to do my PhD, but I knew that it was impossible because a married woman here in Egypt cannot leave her family and go for a long time to study. Nobody would understand that."

She was given the contact of Langham Partnership, and after what she thought was a phone call to ask for a college recommendation she was sent the application to apply for a Scholarship. The opportunity to apply for the scholarship was an answered prayer.

She shares, "I started to pray in this direction and I said, Lord, it's really hard to leave my husband all of that time. So I need real confirmation from you, to clarify for me and my husband that this is the right direction and this is the right time. And Langham was one of the great confirmations from the Lord."

God opened the doors

Rania studied the Old Testament, and for her dissertation she wrote about Isaiah from chapters 40 to 55. Her PhD is titled, '*Second Isaianic mirroring of the creative imagination of Yahweh in light of the philosophical imagination of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*'.

Rania shares, "Isaiah had a very highly imaginative mind as they described him. But they don't explain 'What do they mean by imaginative mind?' So I took it from there and started to study about the philosophy of imagination."



Rania at her graduation

Using her gifts to inspire the next generation of women and men

Since completing her studies, God has opened many opportunities for Rania. She shares, "Having a PhD does not only enable me to lecture in the seminary, but it opens many doors. From the time I returned back, I have been invited to many seminars outside of the seminary, involved in panel discussions and in big conferences... I try to be a role model for other women. Our seminary is not small...but we have a lot of women now. I try to inspire them, but also inspire men when I tell the story about how my husband was supporting me, because he felt like we, together, are fulfilling God's call."

Rania is grateful for the Langham scholarship, not just financially as she would not have been able to complete her PhD without it, but also for the care and support with the provision of a mentor during her studies. She shares, "I'm really so grateful...I wouldn't have been able to impact so many lives as I'm doing now. Langham doesn't only support me financially, they've been supporting me spiritually as well. I have a mentor and he's been with me during the whole process, encouraging me, praying with me, coming to visit me every year at Asbury. It's kind of like they are trying to take care of everything, including your own spiritual life because the journey is hard; psychologically, physically, spiritually, so that's the holistic pastoral care. I'm so blessed to be part of Langham."

HELPING TO EQUIP PASTORS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO TEACH THE BIBLE FAITHFULLY

with Johannes Mtumo Mngomezulu

Johannes Mtumo Mngomezulu lives in Eswatini in Southern Africa, and is the leading pastor at his local church. He is also the National Chairperson for Langham Preaching.



Johannes Mtumo Mngomezulu

Johannes was introduced to Langham by his brother, and after learning about the ministry he was “hooked” straight away. He shares, “I had just completed my Bachelor of Arts in Theology, and then as he was explaining about Langham, I was so hooked by the fact that they actually teach on how to preach biblical truth from the Bible.”

The need for biblical truth

He shares, “What we see here in Eswatini is that more emphasis in the pulpit is the healing gospel and also the prosperity gospel...Langham brought back the biblical truths in the pulpit that should be preached, rather than making emphasis on the prosperity and the healing gospel.”

“When I was doing Langham level one, I realised that Langham is actually bringing a simple model that enables you to just get the right message from the passage.”

As a pastor in his local church, Johannes uses the expository preaching method, and uses what he learned through the Langham training, “I employ much more of the model that I learned from Langham rather than what I learned from college, because with this model from Langham, it's a shortened version of what I learned in the college. It's more practical,” he explains.



Langham Preaching leadership team in Eswatini

Teaching and equipping

Johannes also works for the Faith Bible College, and has introduced Langham Partnership to the students. Over 200 pastors have completed various levels of the training, and are in local Preaching Clubs. He shares, "That's where we keep the fire...so that after doing level one, they don't go back home and they forget about everything...We meet every first Sunday of the month, we have literature that we get from Langham, and sometimes we read through the books...Or we get into a passage from the Bible where we read the passage together and then we look into what God is saying in the passage."

Johannes is passionate about helping pastors be trained to teach the Bible faithfully and relevantly. He shares, "Our main dream is that as we preach here in Eswatini we need to preach one message from the pulpit. We have seen Langham help us through that, because we bring pastors, as many pastors as possible for Langham training. Our feeling is that the thereafter [the pastors] will be preaching basic biblical truths. That truth has to actually help the people change their way of living, change their character, change their behaviour. That's what we're looking for."

Book Club LAUNCH



Our first Young Langham Book Club has just wrapped up reading and discussing their first book, *Breakfast on the Beach* written by Johannes Van der Bijl. Every two months Club members will read and discuss online a book written by a Langham Scholar or author and if possible the author will join the final online call to speak about the book and to answer questions.

One of the Club members, Cameron, shares his experience of the Book Club, "The Langham Book Club was advertised at my church, and I joined because I wanted to expand my Christian reading and thought that the Book Club would give me a deeper understanding of the books we were reading."

"After reading the book, I most enjoyed having the opportunity to speak with the author and understand the motivations and thought processes he used to write on certain topics. I enjoyed *Breakfast on the Beach* very much. I was a bit sceptical about a book that introduced extra-biblical themes, but I thought it was done very thoughtfully. I enjoyed the incorporation of historical research with the gospel story. Describing the disciples' emotional reactions in certain situations gave a richer context to the story."

"I am looking forward to expanding my understanding of my Christian journey and once again interacting with the author of the [next] book. I think the Book Club is a great experience that helps expand your understanding and encourages you in your Christian journey."

“ I couldn't recommend it highly enough. The facilitation and insightful questions asked by the moderator really made the whole experience much richer. ”



The Book Club will soon be starting their second book, *Global Kingdom, Global People*, by the esteemed Melba Padilla Maggay from the Philippines. The first online meeting will be on 25 September. Scan the QR code to learn more and to sign up, or visit au.langham.org/bookclub

SEPTEMBER: Please pray for Jenny Bawden, who is retiring from Langham Partnership (after over 13 years as our Administration and Supporter Relations officer) at the end of this month and hopes to secure some chaplaincy work in 2026. Pray for our new staff member/s replacing Jenny, that they will learn quickly about the ministry and their new responsibilities.

OCTOBER: Please pray for our Langham PhD Scholars studying split-site from Australia (they study from home and make annual visits to their colleges). Pray for Emmy from Thailand who is studying at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. Pray too for Amara (not her real name) from a South Asian country who is studying at Ridley College, Melbourne.

NOVEMBER: Please pray for indigenous evangelical publishers. Pray for discernment in understanding local needs, wisdom in appropriate title selection, and professionalism in production. Pray that Langham Literature will know how best to support publishers in the Majority World.

DECEMBER: Pray for our Langham Preaching Continental Directors who oversee the staff teams in Latin America, Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. Pray for wisdom and strength as they lead disparate teams around the world from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Pray too for International Preaching Dr Paul Windsor as he leads the team.

JANUARY: Please pray for the international Governance Review that is happening across the global ministry. Pray for wisdom and direction as we seek the best way forward in our administration and management, so that Langham's ministries will continue to equip the global Church to grow into maturity in Christ in the most effective way possible.

FEBRUARY: Please pray for graduated Langham Scholars as they seek to write for the global Church. Pray that God will help them find the time to do this and give them wisdom in choosing topics and resources that will best help the Church.

PREACHING TRAINING CALENDAR

7-13 SEP: SE ASIA, SOUTH ASIA, GHANA, PHILIPPINES

14-20 SEP: SOUTH ASIA, WEST ASIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SERBIA, SPAIN

21-27 SEP: SOUTH ASIA, SE ASIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

28 SEP - 4 OCT: SOUTH ASIA

5-11 OCT: SOUTH ASIA, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, CZECH REPUBLIC

12-18 OCT: PHILIPPINES, THAILAND(2), BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND

19-25 OCT: KENYA, CAMBODIA, SPAIN

26 OCT - 1 NOV: PHILIPPINES

2-8 NOV: GHANA, SWITZERLAND

9-15 NOV: SPAIN

16-22 NOV: ESWATINI, GHANA, SPAIN

30 NOV - 6 DEC: SOUTH ASIA

7-13 DEC: ZAMBIA (2)

4-10 JAN: SOUTH ASIA

18-24 JAN: LIBERIA

25-31 JAN: SWITZERLAND

8-14 FEB: MADAGASCAR (2)

Please pray for these scheduled Langham Preaching training events. For sensitive countries, the region is given. This is what is currently scheduled, but lots more events will be added in the months to come. To pray in a more informed way for the Preaching program, sign up to receive the weekly email from the Preaching team. Send an email to australia@langham.org and we will arrange for you to be added to the distribution list.

THANK YOU
for your prayers

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Amara* from South Asia. She has received a Langham Scholarship for a university in Australia but is having visa delays. Please pray her visa will be approved so she can visit Australia to continue her study.

*name changed for security

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