

A campus 'infectious' for the gospel: Alfred Olwa returns to Uganda

Since he has been back visiting Sydney for his graduation, Ugandan Langham scholar Alfred Olwa's Australian colleagues have taken great delight in teasing him with his newly-extended title: 'the Reverend Canon *Doctor* Alfred Olwa.'

But while Alfred will miss Australian informality, he is deeply conscious of what his degree means for his ministry in Uganda.

'In terms of what I have gone back with: it's mindblowing,' he says. 'The daunting thing for me as an individual is how to positively use this opportunity to shape ideas and decisions. I feel a huge sense of responsibility.'

Alfred has spent the last three and a half years in Sydney completing his doctorate on the work of Bishop Festo Kivengere, the influential and passionate twentieth-century Ugandan evangelist. Kivengere, a close associate of Billy Graham, confronted brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin while continuing to hold out God's offer of reconciliation and forgiveness to him.

Alfred's insights into Kivengere's work and his theology of reconciliation have begun to open unexpected doors for him.

Having only just returned to Uganda,



Alfred was asked to present a paper on Kivengere and reconciliation at an exclusive writers' workshop. The workshop involved top scholars and theologians, international genocide-law experts from the Hague and high government officials. The book will explore the relationship between church and state in the fifty years since Ugandan independence.

'I was even able to speak to some of these people who do not call themselves Christians,' he said. 'Because there are issues like love, issues like forgiveness — whether you're Christian or not, you want it!'

Alfred has returned to the thriving Uganda Christian University (UCU), in a country where higher education

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... keeping you informed of Langham's ministry and the part you can play to support this strategic work.

is expanding dramatically. Alfred says that the number of universities in the country has doubled since he left in 2008: there are fifteen new institutions.

But UCU has rapidly become a national leader. 'More and more people are coming to us for doctoral education, for postgraduate education, because they believe we can deliver,' Alfred says. 'My doctorate has equipped me with research skills — I'm able to supervise other researchers.'

Alfred is coordinator of Practical Studies in the faculty of theology, which means he works to equip the cohort of 600 students, future clergy and laypeople, in preaching, mission and pastoral care — anything related to practical ministry.

UCU distinctively attempts to develop its students holistically, and so Alfred's work goes far beyond the faculty of theology. The university has 11,000 students in a range of disciplines, but even lawyers and IT specialists are also trained in Christian worldview, Old and New Testament studies and Christian ethics.

'How do you practice law, in a pluralistic world, as a Christian lawyer?' he asks. 'When a lot of

Continued next page



Some members of LPA Board and staff with Alfred in Sydney



people are thinking that we can be corrupt and ruthless, we're saying, no, it's different. There is a way that we practice our law because we are informed by Scripture.'

He says the university is 'infectious' with gospel work.

'There are Christian fellowships everywhere: lunchtime fellowships, you just can't believe it. You see people sitting alone, or two talking, or a group of people gathered — fifty percent of the time they're doing Christian things. Meditating, praying, reading the Scriptures.'

But Alfred's work will have an impact far beyond the walls of his own university. He is closely involved in developing a new prayer book for the (Anglican) Church of Uganda, working out new liturgical forms — a new

benediction, for example — which will connect with and address the experiences and spiritual thirst of Africans.

'We're recapturing a lot of things that I don't think the missionaries ever did with the Africans,' he says. 'There are things [in the West] that no one cares about, but for us it might be something that would haunt you for life.'

But what has struck Alfred the most in his doctoral studies is the sheer universality of the gospel message.

'This is what God is about!' he says. 'He sent Jesus to put that relationship right, which enables us to put our relationships right with one another, so that we can go on to be ambassadors for the gospel. But I think the challenge is that when I talk to most Australians, they just think,



"Africa needed it! Africa has had a lot of wars. It's suffered a lot of bitterness and pain."

'But brokenness in the world is everywhere,' he says. 'Behind every human being I see, I see an amount of brokenness. When you listen carefully in conversations, before long you can see it. You can see the need for the Lord, because he is the way out.'

Andrew Robinson, LPA

Welcome **Riad Kassis**



Langham Partnership is delighted to announce the appointment of **Rev Dr Riad Kassis** to joint roles with Langham Partnership and the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE). Riad has been appointed as the International Director for Langham Scholars and the International Director of ICETE.

As **International Director for Langham Scholars**, Riad will direct the operation and strategic development of the program, which now encompasses more than 300 scholars around the world. As **International Director of ICETE**, Riad will provide leadership for ICETE in fulfilling its mandate to promote excellence in evangelical theological education worldwide.

Riad, himself a Langham Scholar, lives in **Lebanon**, and serves as visiting professor of Old Testament at The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. He has also served as Director of the J. L. Schneller Institute in West Bekaa, Lebanon, and Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe for Overseas Council (OC). He is a respected lecturer and author in Arabic and English.

Reflecting on his changing role Riad said,

"I am excited that my joint appointment by Langham and ICETE is a concrete example of partnership and collaboration. I look forward to synergizing our efforts as we seek the expansion of God's church and kingdom through theological education."

In a joint statement at the time of the Press Release, **Chris Wright** (International Director, Langham Partnership) and **Paul Sanders** (current International Director of ICETE) wrote:

"There is so much overlap between the world of ICETE, with its global network of regional associations of evangelical theological institutions, and the worldwide fellowship of Langham Scholars, many of whom serve in

these same institutions, that it makes abundant sense for the same person to give creative leadership to both. We are delighted to welcome Riad into combined executive roles within our two organizations, to which in many ways he already belongs. We look forward to increasing and fruitful synergy for the benefit of the church and its mission in the world, for the glory of God."

Coming up:
Dr Chris Wright, International Director Langham Partnership, speaking at Men's Katoomba Convention February/March 2013. The theme of the Convention is "Follow me — men of Jesus".
mkc.kcc.org.au

Please consider whether you are able to support this strategic ministry of training those who will train other Christian leaders in their countries.

In your prayers for Langham Scholars,

Praise God for each of these men and pray for:

- **Riad Kassis** as he leads the overall International Scholars Program — for wisdom and guidance in strategic planning
- **Alfred Olwa** as he teaches in the Theology Dept at UCU and is involved in the Anglican Church in Uganda — for strength and wisdom in his many tasks
- **Ma'afu Palu** in Tonga — that God may grant him all he needs to teach and help lead in the College at Sia'atoutai as well as evangelise in the local area and be involved in local churches
- **Ronald Lal Din Suah** of Myanmar (Burma), currently studying in Australia — that he will have clarity of thought and wisdom as he writes his doctoral thesis and that God will continue to provide his family's living expenses (particularly rent costs as they have moved into another house).
- **Qaiser Julius** of Pakistan, currently studying in Australia — giving thanks for his recent time speaking in New Zealand and praying that his studies will continue to progress well and that his family's needs will be provided.

Karma versus **Grace** in Cambodia

In Cambodia a famous saying sums up **the inescapable law of karma: 'Do Good, Get Good'**. The 'iron law' of karma teaches that people who do bad deeds will receive bad in return, and people who do good will receive good. This may be quick in coming, or may carry over to a future existence or even to future generations. You must be careful not to pile up too much bad merit — in a future life someone may torture you like you harmed that insect as a child!



The church in Somkul commune where 'Yesu Yang' is now preached

But indigenous Christian publishing house '**Fount of Wisdom**' is **turning the traditional cocktail of Theravada Buddhism and animism on its head**. Being Cambodian themselves they know best which ideas need challenging and how to do it most effectively. With support from Langham Literature they are preparing

to publish a commentary on the book of Romans under the title '**RECEIVE GOOD, DO GOOD**'. It explains how Romans 1-11 sets out the foundations of the Christian faith — a gospel of free grace and freedom from sin through Christ. This is the good we first receive. Then in chapters 12-16 Paul gives clear, practical guidelines for how the gospel must then transform the way we live. **The law of karma is one of works and fear; the gospel of God begins with His grace**. We receive salvation freely from God, and then have the Spirit's power to imitate Jesus.

It is a message that is being understood, and lives are indeed being transformed in Cambodia. The church has grown from only a few hundred in the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge slaughter, to around **250,000** today. The author of the commentary on Romans works in Ratanakiri province where many tribal groups are turning to Christ and away from spirit worship. Villager Klan Ly, 56, said she had completely abandoned her fears of black magic after finding Christ. 'Now Jesus protects us and my old Buddha cannot use the black magic on us anymore'. In the village of Somkul, about 80 per cent of the community have **given up on spirits and ghosts in favour of the Word of God**. A small wooden church has emerged where the word of Jesus Christ, or 'Yesu Yang' to the Jarai, is

now preached. **Those who preach and study it are thankful for the books produced by Fount of Wisdom**. Thon Chanthol, currently a student at Phnom Penh Bible School said:

'The books which Fount of Wisdom publish are so useful, especially the 'Bridge Bible Commentaries' which help me when preparing sermons. Other books I have used include 'Know Who You Believe', 'God's Big Picture' and 'Dig Deeper' These books have really helped me to understand more about God and how to live as a Christian.'

Fount of Wisdom is a prime example of **how an indigenous publishing house can effectively speak into a culture**, through books that bring God's word into the local context. Local believers can open up God's truth in culturally relevant and appropriate ways. Fount of Wisdom also regularly sends books to pastors in Ratanakiri as part of their 'Pastors' Packs' initiative.

Langham Literature is assisting Fount of Wisdom through a programme of training, mentoring and financial support for the production of selected titles in the local language. Funds are now being sought for the production of titles such as 'How to Read the Bible' by M Tay, and an exposition of Revelation 1-3 entitled 'What Christ Thinks of the Church' by John Stott.

Please pray for Fount of Wisdom in their task of helping grow and strengthen the church in Cambodia. Pray that they would have vision and wisdom. Pray that their books would penetrate deep into the tribal corners of the country and that God's Word would penetrate deep into the minds and hearts of the local peoples. **Pray that they would be freed from the fear of bad karma, and be transformed instead by the free grace of God.**

Colin Macpherson, Langham Literature

Please pray for the ongoing work of Langham Literature across the world:

- Give thanks for the strategic work of Fount of Wisdom Publishing House in **Cambodia** and pray for continued strengthening of the leadership there and Langham's ongoing partnership with them.
- Pray for the editorial team and all those involved with the development of the **Slavic Bible Commentary**, an important project for Langham Literature in this region.
- Give thanks for the blessing of some unexpected funds for publishing projects at the Union Bible Theological College, **Mongolia**, and for the appointment of a full-time translator and production manager. Pray that speedy progress can be made on some much-needed titles for Mongolian believers, preachers and students.
- Pray for the ongoing work involved with developing the **South Asia Bible Commentary**, that challenges will be overcome and that work on it will continue to progress.
- Give thanks for recent meetings to discuss new books in the **African "Hippo"** series. Pray for the **English** and **French-speaking** teams as they work together to publish new titles by African authors.
- Give thanks for the many good evangelical books provided by Langham Literature each year to Bible and Theological colleges in the Majority World. Pray that the Literature Program will continue to grow in strength and reach across the world.

Will you consider how you can pray for and give to the work of Langham Literature? Getting good Christian books into the hands of believers, students, pastors and church leaders is essential for the growth and maturity of the Church in the Majority World.



Ethnic Jarai villagers carry a cow to be butchered to appease the spirits

Taking Langham Preaching's Training of Trainers forward ...

Dr. Jennifer Cuthbertson of Richmond, Canada has joined the Langham International Preaching team as Coordinator for Trainer Development. Langham Preaching encourages indigenous preaching movements, locally owned and developed, with teams of national trainers who work to equip a new generation of preachers in their countries. Jennifer brings years of crosscultural work and study to the Langham family.

After visiting several Langham Preaching Program events and meeting seminar participants and volunteers on three continents, Jennifer says that she admires their strength of character and dedication as ministers of the Word. She recounts experiences in several different countries and writes,

"During a consultation held in **Kenya** earlier this year, we heard many anecdotes concerning Langham Preaching seminars held in spite of the seeming impossibilities of travel and communication, shortages of money and illness. Next to one man's account of making a bed for the night under a tree and being "disturbed" by a dangerous wild animal, perhaps the most triumphant story was of the seminar interrupted — and then resumed — as bullets flew inside their

meeting place from a battle raging on the street. Even war could not dissuade these students of the Word!

Did you know **Indonesia** is the world's fourth most populous nation and home to more Muslims than any other country!? In June 2012, 85 pastors, teachers and lay workers from across Indonesia (a span of 5,271 km) completed the third of three Langham Preaching seminars and scheduled three Training of Trainers seminars over the next year. The vision: a preaching movement enveloping the islands.

The first regional seminar in **Peru** occurred in Huancayo — high in the Andes. I watched as these brand new preaching seminar participants joyfully and with gratitude immersed themselves in learning that required their continued, intense effort. In Lima, former seminar graduates attended a refresher day. One elderly man travelled overnight by bus just for that day and returned home overnight to preach the next morning!

People come to Langham Preaching seminars because of our good reputation, but stay committed to the program because of the transformation happening in their own lives, their congregations, and communities.

The Word of God continually proves itself among us as compelling and powerful!"

Please pray for Jennifer and others involved in the Preaching ministry, that the training of trainers will multiply the efforts of Langham Preaching around the world, to grow the church in depth, as it grows in numbers.

Pray specifically for the Papua New Guinea Training of Trainers 3-6 December 2012 and for Andrew Reid and Rosie Crowter as they facilitate the group.

Please pray too for the Pacific Preaching Consultation with Jennifer and Paul Windsor, in Brisbane, February 2013, with key national facilitators coming from PNG, Solomons, Vanuatu and Tonga.



Jennifer (top left) with others involved in Langham Preaching in Africa

Training Preachers During Ramadan

All around the world, Muslims give themselves to fasting and prayer during the month of Ramadan. It is also the time each year when Langham Preaching trainers in Pakistan give themselves to the training of preachers. Asif, Chris, Sam and Benjamin form the Pakistani team and organised three week-long training seminars during Ramadan this year — two in Karachi and for the first time, one in Hyderabad. That is three in one month. "Does this qualify for the Guinness Book of Langham Records?", asks Asif.

Benjamin is the youngest member of the team. The disability of blindness has not prevented him from completing his Master of Divinity studies and travelling the length of the country by train each year for the Langham training. While Benjamin

remains committed to working with the Karachi team each year during Ramadan, he is among those in Pakistan who have a burden for neighbouring countries, "I intend to go into Persia for a week to plan and to pray for an open door into that land".

The Preaching seminars in Pakistan are well-received. Dr Ashkenaz Khan, Principal of Zarephath Bible Institute in Rawalpindi, Pakistan wrote, "Dear Langham family, we just had Langham Preaching levels 2 and 3 and were

blessed by the ministry of Dr Barker and Dr Windsor. Thank you for helping Pakistani preachers to learn better preaching skills as well as passion to preach the Word of God."

As you pray for this wonderful work in more than 60 countries, please consider financially supporting Langham Preaching to continue in countries like Pakistan and for the team to be able to respond to requests from many others.



Benjamin leading participants in prayer

Response Form

LPA is involved in exciting projects, will you stand with US? Wendy Toulmin AM (Exec Officer LPA)



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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.



Staff of FoW with Colin Macpherson & family

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 Langham Australia.