

AUSTRALIA



LanghamTM

PARTNERSHIP

Equipping a new generation of Bible teachers

Thanks

Wendy!

Langham itself was scarcely 8 years old when Wendy Toulmin took on responsibility for its affairs in Australia. She and Graham had returned to Australia in 1978, after two years in London as secretary to **Michael Baughen**, Rector of **All Souls Church, Langham Place** — during which time, of course, she got to know the Rector Emeritus, John Stott. John asked Wendy to handle any donations from his friends in Australia for the work of his two young trust funds — the Langham Trust and the Evangelical Literature Trust (now combined in Langham Partnership since 2001). That she did, with the help of several bishops who knew John well — Jack Dain, Donald Cameron, Paul Barnett, and then Rob Forsyth, who became the first Chair of **Langham Partnership Australia** (later followed by the present Chair, Trevor Cork).

In 2001, however, the **Langham Partnership International** was formed and Langham Partnership Australia was one of the founding members, with Wendy (who had already served Langham for two decades, apart from the years she and Graham were serving in D.R. Congo) as its Executive

Officer. Wendy's first action in that role was to invite John Stott (insist, actually!) to come for a tour of the major cities of Australia, which he did in **July 2002**, accompanied by myself as the new International Ministries Director for LPI. The tour was a great attraction (I still have the T-shirt!) in which thousands not only heard John Stott for the last time, but also saw and heard the Langham vision and mission, often for the first time.

From then on, Wendy threw heart and soul into promoting the awareness and income of Langham in Australia. Tirelessly, she visited churches, colleges and individuals, produced newsletters and appeals, connected with publishers and like-minded agencies. Year after year, she organized itineraries for myself and other senior Langham staff, with detailed planning and diligent follow-up. Under her leadership, enthusiasm, creativity and sheer hard work, LPA has grown steadily in numbers of supporters and significant growth of income.



John Stott with Wendy Toulmin in London 2005

But Wendy was never merely a fundraiser. With the same missionary heart that had taken her and Graham to Congo, she wanted to see the Langham vision actually implemented in the regions closest to Australia — the Pacific and South East Asia. Langham Literature projects were conceived, funded and achieved. In 2007 she spearheaded the planting of Langham Preaching movements in Vanuatu, then Solomon Islands, then Papua New Guinea which have flourished to maturity. And in the past few years she has brought Langham Scholars to Australia from Uganda, Tonga, Myanmar and Pakistan — and cared for them and their families. Hers has been an all-round Langham leadership role.

As Wendy leaves us, the Langham family worldwide is losing its longest continuously serving staff member. 'Losing' her only as a member of staff, but not as a much-loved friend, inspiration and example.

Thanks, Wendy! Langham Partnership owes you so much. John Stott chose wisely, but even he could not have imagined what would result from his simple request to an Aussie secretary back in 1978.

Chris Wright
International Ministries Director



The first Langham Preaching event in the Pacific: in Vanuatu in 2008. Wendy pioneered Langham Preaching in the Pacific, coordinating multiple events over the years in Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Welcome Gillean!



The Langham Partnership Australia Committee is pleased to announce that Gillean Smiley has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Langham Partnership Australia. Gillean currently works for Peirson Services in Brisbane, after working in senior executive roles in the South Australian Public Service, the SA Bible Society and the Bible Society in Australia.

Gillean will attend the Langham Partnership International Council meetings in the USA in late October, prior to commencing full duties in late November.

Gillean says, "Equipping local teachers and preachers in the majority world, so they can better help people understand

the Bible, and in turn grow in their understanding and maturity as Christians. Given that the most effective local evangelism will be coming from those well equipped, mature local Christians, it's hard to imagine a more exciting and important thing to be doing! I am honoured and grateful to be joining the

team here in Australia, and can't wait to begin!"

Gillean's appointment opens a new chapter in Langham Partnership's work in Australia.

We look forward to your continued support for that work.

Langham Preaching: What's it all about?

Langham Preaching is about training in a way which builds and sustains an indigenous movement of Biblical preachers which changes the culture of preaching in the Majority World.

Let's take each of those words or phrases in turn to describe what Langham Preaching is about:-

Preaching: Langham is committed to preachers and preaching. "We believe that God wants his church to grow up. We believe that the church grows through God's Word, and that this Word comes to people, primarily, through preaching" (John Stott).

The Majority World: Langham is committed to those countries where the need is greatest, where the resources are fewest, and the growth in the church is fastest. But it is often "growth without depth". Under God's gracious hand, we are committed to seeing depth develop.

Biblical preachers: Langham is committed to that brand of preaching which opens a biblical passage and frees that passage to provide the shape and purpose for the sermon because the preacher remains in that passage for the duration of the sermon.

Training: Langham is committed to an

approach which complements homiletics (as taught in theological colleges) — and often supplements it as well. We aim to be more practical, working with fewer and simpler skills practiced and modelled repeatedly, so that we build a training that is more transferable without the need for an abundance of resources. The Level 1 seminar introduces the foundations of Biblical preaching. Level 2 typically covers the theme of preaching from the New Testament, and Level 3 tackles preaching from the Old Testament.

Training **which builds and sustains an indigenous movement:** Langham is committed to smaller seminars designed to spark a movement as people gather regularly between the seminars in local fellowships for encouragement and accountability. And to nurture this regionalised movement the emphasis gradually slides across to the training of local facilitators. So the event which is the seminar becomes that brief moment in time when the infection is introduced, after which we pray that a 'benevolent virus' might spread. So while participants often gather looking for an event that contains something useful for themselves, we are even more interested in how they will scatter into a movement with something useful for others.

An **indigenous** movement: Langham is committed to an outcome that is sustainable within the country and with limited resources. Before a programme is commenced, a line-up meeting is held with church leaders from across the denominations and across the country to plan and establish local ownership. While in the early days of our partnerships foreign personnel and funding is prominent, as a given movement develops it becomes increasingly regionalised as local facilitators working at the grassroots become the focus. Then when a movement reaches maturity, it will be identified by regular gatherings of these facilitators that will be directed locally.

An indigenous movement of biblical preachers which **changes the culture of preaching:** Under God's gracious hand Langham is working towards changing the culture of preaching. And as that transformation in preaching takes place we believe it can lead on to the transformation of the church ... and then as the church transforms there is the expectation that there will be a transformation of the often troubled countries in which these churches are embedded. This is because biblical preaching helps the church grow up into maturity and a mature church, living as salt and light and full of grace and truth, is the God-ordained agency for the transformation of societies.

Langham Preaching worldwide in 2014

- Preaching movements in 55 countries.
- 400 volunteers training over 10,000 pastors and lay preachers.
- More than 200 training events.

Home is Where God's People Are

In late August, the second Training of Trainers for Sri Lanka Langham Preaching was held in the capital Colombo. Contributing to the training for the first time was **Rev. Kanishka Raffel**, an Australian with Sri Lankan parents who is the Rector of St Matthew's Shenton Park in Perth. It was a most profitable week!

Alongside the training, there were meetings with church leaders in preparation for a re-launch of a Level 1 Langham Preaching in Sri Lanka next year. God-willing, Kanishka will take the lead in facilitating the Preaching training in Sri Lanka from this point forward. He writes about the week they recently shared:

"Although my late parents were Sri Lankan, I have never lived on the island except for a brief eighteen months when I was eight years old. So it was an absolute thrill for me to spend a week with a diverse group of brothers in Christ — Sinhalese and Tamil made "all one in Christ Jesus". Each of them is committed to the faithful proclamation of God's Word for the strengthening and upbuilding of God's church. Their love for one another, and for the Lord and His people, and their humble and joyful dedication to the work of feeding and caring for the sheep was inspiring.

As we met with denominational church leaders, we were greatly

encouraged by their support for the work of Langham Preaching. They were enthusiastic to promote careful attention to God's word and patient explanation of God's truth to equip all God's people for the works of service He has prepared in advance for them to do. The Sri Lankan church faces many challenges including shortage of native language resources, ministering to people in great need or poverty and even opposition from nationalist groups. It's a privilege to have the opportunity to serve the Sri Lankan church through the work of Langham Preaching."



Sri Lankan Langham Preaching Trainers receive gift of the Africa Bible Commentary from LPA



Lokki, Country Coordinator (left) and Kanishka (right) meeting with Rohan Ekanayaka from Margaya Church.

Words To Build Bridges With — Publishing For Unity in Burma (Myanmar)

How do you start bridging the deep divisions that issue from decades of civil wars? This is the challenge in Burma (Myanmar).

Ethnically the nation consists of 142 people groups, with 116 different languages. Transition to a new government in 2011 has led to a measure of peace after more than six decades of civil wars between minorities and the military rulers. There have been tenuous improvements in human rights. But the wounds of endemic conflict will take decades to heal.

Christian missionaries were expelled from this majority Buddhist nation in 1966. Yet the church has continued to grow ever since. Today there are well over 3 million Christians! Sadly the church is also very divided: with more than 90 denominations, often separated along ethnic lines.

Paul Windsor (Director of Langham Preaching) who has visited the region said: 'While Myanmar is on some sort of road towards democracy, there is

something particularly evil about a regime that crushes the human spirit for as long as this one. It has been almost as long as the biblical exile, with the similar consequence of giving the people no living memory of any other reality. It creates a different brand of injustice which requires a different brand of restoration than what might be found elsewhere.'

And Christian publishers wondered: Is there a task for us?

Some years ago, the **Association of Theological Education in Myanmar (ATEM)** identified a common theological language as one strategic goal. Having a shared understanding of the key concepts of the Christian faith among the various denominations and ethnic groups is essential for dialogue.

The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms by Derek Mckim was found to be the most helpful existing resource. Definitions cover a range of theological disciplines, such as biblical studies, church history, ethics, ministry and philosophy.

Next, with the support of Langham Literature, ATEM

undertook the mammoth task of 'translating' each of the 6,000 entries into the official majority Burmese language. This meant re-working the expressions and finding terminology that will make sense to believers across the complex, multi-ethnic church in Myanmar today.

The task was completed towards the end of 2013. And more than 50 seminaries have already started using this dictionary as a resource for their Bible students — the next generation of Bible teachers, preachers, evangelists and leaders of the church in Myanmar.

Give thanks to God! Pray that through the Holy Spirit this work will build bridges: to facilitate communication and unity between the ethnically and denominationally divided believers in Myanmar.

Langham Scholar Ronald Lal Din Suah comments: "In a country like Myanmar every theological student struggles with English — even many of the theological teachers struggle. So to have this resource in Burmese will really help our people. Thank you!"



Farewell to Ronald Lal Din Suah

At this time we also want to say farewell to Langham Scholar Ronald Lal Din Suah, his wife Mary and children Jedidiah (14 years), Bruce (13yrs) and Rody (11 years) as they head back to Myanmar in December.

Ronald has been in Australia for about four years and his family with him for the last three years.

During that time Ronald has successfully completed his PhD at Ridley College Melbourne, a process Ronald describes as "hard, but enjoyable and worth doing".

Ronald says achieving his PhD has helped develop his confidence to do more study in the future. He says, "I want to thank Langham Partnership for all the financial,

emotional and pastoral support we've received".

While studying, Ronald has also pastored in the Melbourne Mizo Church, a growing church of refugees from Myanmar, who will certainly miss Ronald and the family as they return home.

Ronald will take up his former position as Old Testament Lecturer in the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in the capital, Yangon.

Ronald and Mary would appreciate prayer for each member of the family as they reintegrate back into life in Myanmar, a country that has changed a lot in recent years. Ronald also requests prayer that



the medical treatment he has been having in Melbourne for a hearing loss can be finalised before they return home.

Please keep this family in your prayers as they begin the next chapter of their lives back in Myanmar.

In the Midst of Ebola: A Call to Prayer for the Church in Sierra Leone & Liberia



"If one member suffers, all suffer together . . ." 1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

Our hearts are increasingly drawn to the suffering in West Africa as the Ebola crisis continues to worsen—and particularly to Sierra Leone and Liberia, where Langham's preaching movements are well developed. We wanted to share with you an update we received from Chris Jonah, the country coordinator for Langham Preaching in Sierra Leone, one of the countries hardest

hit by the outbreak. He shared with us the sad news that some pastors and "prophets" are using this crisis to spread a false gospel—including saying that the outbreak is a result of God's judgment. Though many of Langham's training events have been cancelled in Sierra Leone, Chris and other volunteers have been working to minister to those affected where they can. This includes going on the radio to share encouragement from God's Word. He writes:

"It is very serious and we need God's intervention. We have been able to contact the Langham folks in all the towns we have work (15 towns) with the exception of Makeni and Kambia. We continue to make phone calls to pray for and encourage all to trust and hope in God. Our churches are trying to help but the situation is bad . . . We would appreciate it if our worldwide fellowship would continue to pray for us. There are new infections all over the country; prices have gone up significantly. Some areas and specific houses have been quarantined, and another doctor and nurse died yesterday. All the major airlines have

stopped flying here, borders have been closed, and motorbike taxis, which are the main means of transport, are now required to stop running at 7:00 p.m. There is general hardship especially in the regions that have been quarantined . . . We were on the radio yesterday, Sunday, for one hour encouraging all to continue to trust in God—especially Christians. We shared from Romans 8 about the Spirit-filled, justified life. This does not exempt us from the challenges of this current time but v. 28 says God is at work for our good. It was a phone-in program, and we had a very good interaction with the public."

John Stott said "the church's first duty toward society and its leaders is to pray for them." Would you join us in praying for God's grace, mercy and healing on our brothers and sisters throughout West Africa?

Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints . . . Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.' (Romans 12:12, 13, 15)

Update On Other "Aussie" Scholars

Qaiser Julius continues with his doctoral studies at Melbourne School of Theology. Recently Qaiser was a speaker at the Freedom of Religion conference hosted by the University of Queensland. Pray for him as he continues his research. Pray too for his wife Rahila and children Homilia (11 years) and Hanan (8 years).

If you've been receiving our newsletters for a while, you will recall reading about Langham scholars who have previously studied in Australia to gain their doctorates. Alfred Olwa (Uganda) and Ma'afu Palu (Tonga) are both continuing to teach at colleges in their own countries. Both have also had recent speaking

opportunities in other countries in their regions. Please pray for them both, that God will grant them strength and wisdom as they manage their many responsibilities.



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AUSTRALIA

Langham

PARTNERSHIP

Our vision is to see churches in the Majority World 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 offers doctoral scholarships for theological leaders who will lead churches and train the next generation of Bible teachers in their home countries

Langham Literature provides preachers and Bible colleges with evangelical literature and mentors indigenous writers, editors and publishers

Langham Preaching establishes national movements for continuous training in expository biblical preaching.



Langham Preaching seminars are all about getting into God's Word. Please pray for Langham Preaching events across the world — see the enclosed prayer slip for Preaching events to be held over the next six months.

For a weekly update, subscribe to the emailed Preaching Prayershot at <http://au.langham.org/get-involved/sign-up-for-email-updates/>



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 the Langham Australia office on 02 4751 9036.