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A Passion for Transformation across Africa

Langham Scholar Dr Sunday Agang has a passion to see Christians in his native Nigeria equipped to live with bold faith that brings the Gospel outside of the church and seminary walls and into society. Nigeria is ranked #12 on Open Doors' list of the top 50 countries where persecution is very high. He says Christianity might be growing in Nigeria, but his concern is whether it is positively making an impact in the society. As a theological leader who obtained his PhD with support from Langham, Sunday has a platform to serve as a powerful voice in his nation. Today he is a community leader and professor at the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) Theological Seminary. He understands he has a powerful platform from which to create awareness, inspire change, and multiply impact.

African Public Theology

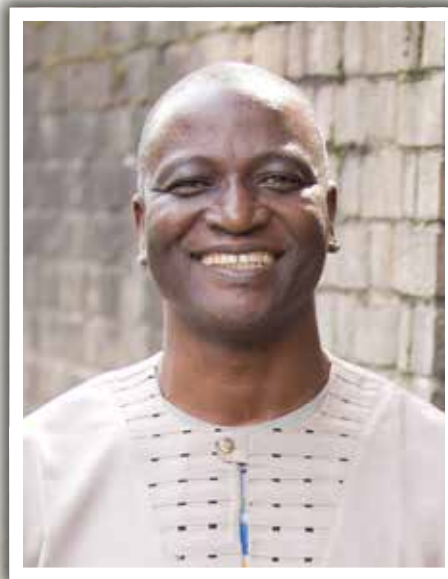
Last year, while on sabbatical in South Africa, Sunday started working on a book project in collaboration with other theologians from across Africa. Still in the works, the book is titled African Public Theology. Sunday says it is aimed at changing the orientation of education in Africa. This "new education," he explains, "will eventually help the continent return her youths that have been leaving the country for greener pastures". Not surprisingly, the book also intends to promote a commitment to fight corruption. Sunday says it's about building a new Africa where elected leaders work for the interests of their people.

Practical ministry to society

If Sunday doesn't sound "religious" for a theologian, it may be because he doesn't agree with those who tend to think there is a dichotomy between life in church and in society. "Our theology should be able to speak to public issues, public policies, particularly how these public issues are impacting society," he says. Sunday debunks the age-old notion that theologians just sit in an ivory tower, completely detached from reality. On the contrary, Sunday tells his students that "ministry is not just to the church but also to society." He challenges his students

to use their education to help solve the problems in their community.

He recalls one student who, after graduating from the seminary, put together courses for young drug addicts. The program was a success, so much so that those young people got off drugs and finished school — some even pursuing masters and doctorate degrees. Another student of Sunday's had a church that shared boundaries with a Muslim



community. Because Sunday taught him that Christianity should impact society, the student didn't only minister to his church people but extended the same love and care to the Muslim neighbours. The impact was astounding. Sunday notes that if an attack erupted in the area, the church was protected. "The Muslims would come over and say, 'That church you are not touching; it's our church!'"

Impact in the community

Sunday's leadership leaves a big impact in the lives of his students. And his influence extends well beyond the walls of the seminary. Sunday is Vice President of GAWON Foundation, a community-based organisation that supports widows, orphans and vulnerable children. Their goal is to equip and empower marginalised members of the society

through programs such as education, agriculture, health, multipurpose co-operatives, and skills development. Sunday tells the story of a widow who took out a loan from GAWON, bought several sewing machines, and started teaching women how to sew. Today, her business is growing and she provides employment to women in her community.

Grateful

"All of those things have come because of [where]... God has taken me, and I am so grateful," adds Sunday. He admits that before receiving his theological training and doctorate degree, he wasn't open to other perspectives. "But my training exposed me to the need to listen and pay careful attention and to learn from other voices." It has helped him establish relationships with different denominations and work with them to bring people together and meet their needs. "To be an advocate of the marginalised and the oppressed, to think beyond my own context, to go outside my agitation and see things differently," he explains. "I couldn't have imagined that without my PhD training."

Now there's a new excitement in Sunday's voice. The seminary is starting a new program — a PhD in public theology, expository preaching, and systematic theology. These are Sunday's areas of specialisation, and the program is part of his vision for the college. "I... see myself there — contributing, training and preparing people for the African continent."

You make a difference

Langham Scholars like Sunday Agang are helping shape the religious, political and economic landscapes of their native countries. This is through writing books, teaching courses, starting new ministries, and training church leaders. They are multiplying disciples who lead others to advance God's kingdom in places that are fragile, like Nigeria. Thank you for supporting Langham as we equip biblical leaders around the world.



Langham impacts church plants in typhoon-hit Philippines

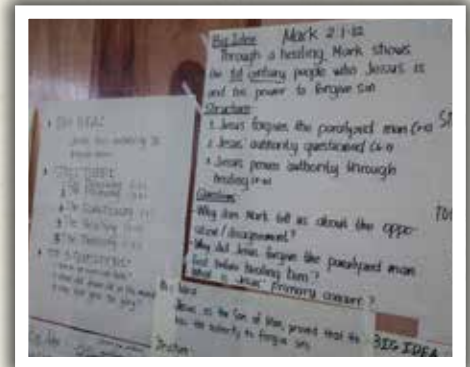
By Philip Nicholson, Langham Preaching's Regional Coordinator for East Asia.

In 2013 Typhoon Yolanda devastated the islands of Samar and Leyte in the Visayas region of the Philippines, killing 6,000 people, leaving many homeless and destroying the local economy.

The growth of these churches has brought the challenge of training leaders, especially amongst rural people with limited education. And so, when Langham Preaching began training in the Philippines this year, a number of people were sent from the Visayas to be equipped and to take this training back to the churches there.

Sent to train others

Over 70 preachers from across the Philippines gathered in Manila for the first level of Langham Preaching training in January. And many of these had been sent specifically to be able to train others in their own church networks and regions. The training was characterised by typical Filipino exuberance with lots of singing, dancing and laughter even during Bible study times. It was an exciting week seeing the hunger of people to know how to better understand and teach the word of God.



Group work discussion sheets



Now, a few months later, already a number of preaching clubs have started meeting in Manila, Mindanao, Samar, Talac and other locations across the country. These include some people who did not attend the initial training but are keen to learn.

Impact seen already

Others have reported that the training has already had an impact on how participants are preaching. One lady said that her husband is now preparing his sermons earlier in the week, rather than starting on Saturday. And when he preaches he is staying in the text rather than moving on to other topics.

And many are taking what they have learned and training others. An OMF project called 'Bukang Liwayway' plants churches in the squatter communities of Manila and provinces. They have already begun training local leaders in these churches.

A team from the Visayas is translating training materials into the local language, Waray. The plan is to run another Level 1 seminar using a mix of Tagalog and Waray later this year.

Church growing in poor areas

The vision of Langham Preaching is to see a movement of biblical preachers training others in their local contexts.

It is exciting to see that those who attended the training in Manila have immediately taken this to heart and are eagerly equipping others to faithfully teach and pastor their churches, especially in the poor urban and rural areas where God has been growing the church in the Philippines.

Preaching in Papua New Guinea

A couple of weeks ago, Langham Preaching training was held for about 30 church leaders in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. This was funded through your generous support for our South Pacific Appeal in June.

Please pray that those who have been trained will put their learning into practice, and preach God's Word faithfully, clearly and in a way that is relevant to their hearers.

Please pray that this group will form into active preaching clubs, to get the encouragement and motivation they need to keep going!

Pictured here is Willie Toito, a local pastor, and Tim Johnson from Melbourne who both helped to facilitate this training, along with Jonathan Inapelo, another local pastor. Pray for them and for the Preaching work across the whole of PNG, that God will raise up many true preachers of the Word.



Sarawak: Headhunters with New Hearts

"He killed a man." This was the first thing I was told about Pastor Michael who attended the initial Langham Preaching training held in Sarawak, East Malaysia. The training was taught in the Malay language by a team from Indonesia and was focused on preachers working amongst the indigenous peoples in Sarawak. 35 people attended the training, including both indigenous and Chinese pastors and leaders.



Pastor Michael

Michael is from the Murut people in the hills of north Sarawak. He completed primary school and then his life was characterised by drunkenness, gambling and violence. He had 5 children from 3 different wives.

The indigenous people in Sarawak were headhunters 100 years ago, but today many are Christians. Michael met Jesus 5 years ago and his heart and life were transformed. He soon decided to go to a local Bible school for two years and started working as a pastor. Two years ago he was sent to work in Stalun, an Iban longhouse village on the coast near Sibü. It is accessible only by small boat. So Michael had become a missionary; working in a different environment, a different culture and learning a new language.

Within Stalun there are over 1000 people in 10 longhouses. But only 3 longhouses have been reached with the gospel. And another religion has sent a teacher and built a place of worship to also try to convert the village. Michael and the Christian longhouse leaders know they need to be able to strengthen the believers to stand firm and to be an effective witness. So three of them joined the Langham training to learn how to preach in a way that is faithful to God's word and relevant to the people they serve.



Langham Preaching training is about getting into the Word



Malay training material

The training was not easy for them because of their limited education. But Michael carefully recorded every session, took lots of notes, and plans to use these to revise and practise what he learned.

The Borneo Evangelical Mission Immanuel church in Sibü also supports this small church with regular visits and help with preaching. Nanny, an elderly Chinese lady who speaks Iban and often visits was asked, how do you reach the Iban. Her answer was simply, "With love."

Praise God for people like Michael and Nanny who are serving the gospel in their different ways, with limited resources and facing external pressures. And praise God that Langham Preaching is able to support this work by encouraging and equipping people like Michael.

Pray for those who have received training in Sarawak. And pray that this small work will develop so that the churches amongst the indigenous peoples there will be able to stand firm and grow despite limited resources and increasing external pressures.



Please remember to pray for the church in the Big Country in Asia. Pray that, despite increasing difficulties, church leaders will still be trained to teach the Word to their people.
Pray for the situation in Hong Kong!

Frances Whitehead, John Stott's 'right hand', 'promoted to glory'

On Saturday 1 June Frances Whitehead, John Stott's secretary of nearly 60 years, died peacefully at home at the age of 94.

Despite the relative freedom that singleness brought him, John Stott would never have achieved everything he achieved in his 90-year life were it not for Frances Whitehead. Her legacy is truly unique:

- She was John's secretary for nearly 60 years, of which the first two decades or so were spent as the All Souls church secretary. Though in reality, that essentially meant being John's.
- She helped him with his correspondence and organisation of all the various projects, charities and movements that he created. Apparently, in his heyday, John would write/dictate 30 letters a day, many of them substantial and complex.
- She handled most of the administration of the old Langham Trust and Evangelical Literature Trust for many years.
- She typed up the manuscripts of almost all of John's 50+ published books, including the greats like *The Cross of Christ*, *The Message of Romans (BST)*, *The Contemporary Christian*, *The Incomparable Christ* and his wonderful swansong, *The Radical Disciple*.
- She helped to manage his care and visitors after his retirement, including making sure that those who went to visit him in his retirement home didn't

all descend on him at once. In his Will, John named her as his "friend and Executor".

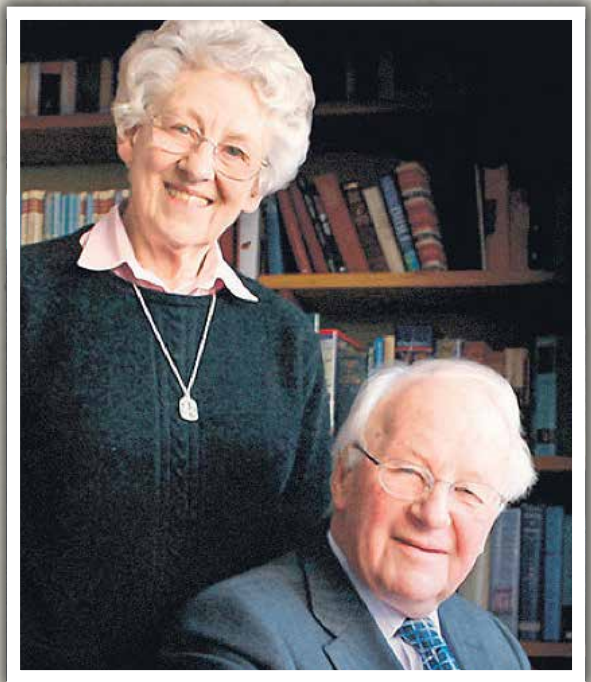
Phenomenal woman

Frances was a phenomenal woman, in a unique partnership that, by God's grace and enabling, served the global church in multiple ways. She was, as her biography by Julia Cameron is titled, 'John Stott's Right Hand'. This biography tracks Frances' life and glimpses her ancestry to find what lay behind the dogged determination, fiercely protective streak, occasional imperious tone, and ready, warm laughter she brought to her role as John Stott's secretary. Their partnership was unique, effective, and not without humour. It has been described as 'one of the greatest Christian partnerships of the 20th century'. You can purchase this biography through Koorong.

For us in Langham, we always count John Stott as our Founder. But it is unquestionably true that Langham is part of Frances Whitehead's legacy too.

Totally dedicated service

Frances was still very active when Langham Partnership International was formed in 2001. She took a constant prayerful interest in all that the three programs of Langham are doing around the world, and was delighted with how things have grown so much.



We are thankful to God for a life well-lived in His service, and in totally dedicated service to one of the greatest of the Lord's own servants.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Frances Whitehead was held at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London, on Friday 21st June 2019.

Would you consider blessing Langham through a bequest in your Will?

Have you considered tithing from your Will? Our founder John Stott modelled great generosity in directing all the royalties from his books to Langham's foundational ministries, supporting the Church in the Majority World.

Could you also support this wonderful legacy? Please contact the office for assistance with the correct wording of a bequest donation.

Gillean Smiley Langham Australia Executive Officer writes:

Langham Partnership is in the wonderful position of being a "good news" organisation. Of course we are all in the business of sharing the Good News of Christ with the world, but Langham has the opportunity to work with people from all over the world who have heard and accepted this Good News, and now want to grow deeper in their faith and understanding of God's Word. We have the joy of sharing the good news with you about the wonderful things God is doing around the world, in and through

His Church. And in the last month or two, there has been a real reminder of how much we have to rejoice in, with the story we shared in the August eNews (check it out on our website if you haven't seen it). We heard how a 14 year old boy was being used by God as a preacher in Lesotho, through the Preaching training that was happening there. Now, read the response that came from a pastor in Lesotho, after hearing that we had shared this story: "You will never get to understand how proud and humbled we are as the nation

and the church in Lesotho about this story of Lipallo ... How exciting and encouraging! How lovely for Lesotho's flag to be up and seen by the whole world with something POSITIVE and God-honouring. You have now changed me to share this story with our local newspapers and media houses for God's glory."

Praise God for how we can rejoice together, all over the world, as we see Him at work!



Preaching Calendar

Please pray for these Langham Preaching events:

September 1-7	SE Asia(2), South Asia(2), Liberia(2), Benin(2), Romania, Peru
September 8-14	Benin, Colombia, Croatia, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Liberia
September 15-21	South Sudan (3), Sri Lanka, Liberia, Trinidad & Tobago
September 22-28	DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Trinidad & Tobago, Liberia
Sept 29-Oct 5	Australia (aboriginal pastors), SE Asia (3), Mexico, Zimbabwe, Liberia(2)
October 6-12	Lesotho (2), Chile, Zambia
October 13-19	South Africa
October 20-26	Burundi, Solomon Is, Sierra Leone(2), Macedonia
Oct 27-Nov 2	Solomon Is, West Africa, SE Asia, Liberia, Zimbabwe
November 3-9	Burundi, Spain
November 10-16	Colombia, Montenegro
November 17-23	Costa Rica, Liberia
November 24-30	Liberia
December 1-7	Zimbabwe, Burundi, SE Asia
December 8-14	Liberia (2)
Dec 28-Jan 4	SE Asia (2), South Asia, Guatemala
January 5-11	Trinidad & Tobago
January 19-25	Peru
Jan 26 - Feb 1	Philippines, West Africa, Paraguay
February 2-8	Croatia, Fiji
February 9-15	Slovenia, Fiji
February 16-22	Peru

Cut off this slip and use it to pray for Langham's ministry.

Where countries are considered sensitive, the region is mentioned rather than the country.

These are the events we know are scheduled at time of printing. More will be added over time. If you want to pray for Langham's Preaching program and have an email address, please contact us to request the **Preaching Prayershot** weekly email. We highly value your prayers!

Response Form

My Gift

I want to —

- Give \$ regularly — monthly / quarterly / annually (circle whichever applies).
- Give a one off gift of \$
Please make cheques payable to Langham Partnership (Aust) or complete card details over the page.

Please use my donation:

Where Most Needed \$

Langham Scholars \$

Langham Literature \$

Langham Preaching \$

My Total Donation \$

- I would like to receive the monthly eNews
- I would like to receive the John Stott daily Bible Study
- I would like to receive Daily Thoughts

My Address

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr/Rev.

Family Name

First Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone

Prayer Points

- Please pray for George Bishai as he completes his PhD in Alexandria (Egypt). Pray for Anwar Berhe as he returns to Australia briefly for his graduation in November.
- The Langham Scholars' staff team will be getting together for their annual meetings in Scotland in late September. Pray for them as they travel from all corners of the world to be together. Pray for wisdom in the decisions that are made during these meetings.
- The LP International Council and Executive team meet in Lebanon in October; pray that they will have wisdom and skill in managing the ministry.
- Pray for all those involved in ongoing writing, editing, translation and printing work on the following One Volume Commentary projects: Slavik Bible Commentary translations, Central Asian Bible Commentary, Central Eastern European Bible Commentary, Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) revision, ABC Amharic translation, South Asia Bible Commentary translations into Tamil, Urdu, Hindi, Bangla and Malayalam.
- To help meet the needs of the growing Church in the Majority World, Langham is seeking to grow more rapidly. To double our ministry over the next five years and carry forward the enhanced impact for an additional ten years, we need strategic growth funding **in addition** to our regular support. Please pray for us as we seek to raise additional funds over the next three years.

Giving to Langham Partnership

The best way to give is via **direct deposit** into our bank account, as we don't pay any bank fees for these transactions. Please include your surname on the message with your gift, so that we can identify and receipt it appropriately.

Our Account Details Are:

Langham Partnership Australia
(Westpac Springwood NSW)

BSB: 032 837 **Account Number:** 144 002

If you would like to start giving regularly (or want to change your mode of regular giving) please email australia@langham.org or call the office on 02 4751 9036.

Thank you for your support!

Credit Card Donations

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