



AUSTRALIA

Langham™

PARTNERSHIP

Equipping a new generation of Bible teachers

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Following Jesus in the Thai culture

Around the world, Langham identifies key Christian publishers to impact culture. In Thailand, Kanok Bannasan is one of those key partners.

Thai Christians, who make up just 1% of the population of Thailand, face a daily reality of isolation and rejection for following a 'Western religion'. People in Thailand think Christians are betraying the King, the Buddhist religion and that they've been brainwashed.

Kanok Bannasan, managed by Tasanee Yanasiddhi, provides essential books that Thai Christians need to follow Jesus in the Thai culture. Between 2014 and 2019, Langham helped Kanok Bannasan publish 14 titles.

Tasanee says: "Christian literature is just like the foundation of the Christian life. Some people say they only need the Bible. But sometimes it's hard to understand. Christian literature can help them to understand the Bible more and more."

The impact of just one book

Langham Graduate Dr Satanun Boonyakiat, Professor at Payap University, Chiang Mai, said Buddhism is entrenched in the culture. One of the biggest challenges facing Thai Christians today is to honour Thai culture but stand firm in the Christian faith.

Together, Langham helped Dr Boonyakiat to write, and Kanok Bannasan to publish, 'Thai Christian Theology'. The book's aim is to equip a nation of Christian leaders and pastors.

Dr Boonyakiat explained: "When I learned that theology is actually an effort of God's people to find out teachings, ways of life, ways of doing ministry that are in accordance with God's truth, and can respond fruitfully and effectively to their own context, to their own questions, the struggles of the people, this is the thing that I want to communicate to the Thai people."

The book starts with stories that Thai people can easily understand and connect with, and many appreciate the resource. Pastor Wittaya Wuttikraikrieng, from Sathorn Church Bangkok, said he can share what he has learnt from this book with his congregation. Without Kanok Bannasan he "can't imagine where we're going to find books that are really helpful like this".

And lay leader Wisan Suwannarat, of First Church of Chiang Mai, says that the production of this kind of literature, contextually in any culture, is crucial — especially in the Majority World.

Heavily affected by Covid-19

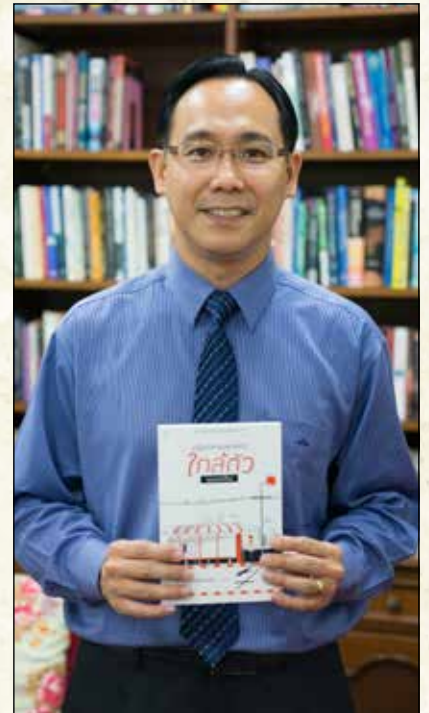
The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on Christian publishing houses around the world. Kanok Bannasan was heavily impacted, as bookshops shut, Christian conferences were postponed and sales slowed. But they were able to continue to use social media and other tools to market books and sell to customers online. **Tasanee said:** "The world has changed in many ways, but we know that God is still in control of all things."

Your support

Through your support, many Christians in Thailand are being helped in their faith.

Tasanee said: "The thing that you've done impacts the life of the people, and moreover you impact the life of the pastor, and the pastor will impact more and more members. How important are the books that can impact another's life!"

The Church in Thailand thanks you for supporting the development of books that bring Christ to the Thai culture.



Langham Scholar Satanun Boonyakiat's book 'Thai Christian Theology' was published by Kanok Bannasan.



The Kanok Bannasan Publishing staff give a Thai welcome in their office in Bangkok.

Program Update - summary of a

SCHOLARS —

Cultivating theological leaders

Langham equips Christian leaders from around the world to serve the church in their nations through a PhD in Bible and theology. Having a PhD helps these leaders go on to better equip their students, lead colleges, start ministries, write Christian books for their context and help to unify the church by bringing denominations together for collaborative ministry. In addition, impact evaluation has shown that 22% of Scholars also go on to advise governments and international NGOs.



This year-

- 84 PhD students from 44 Majority World countries were supported in theological doctoral programs. 22 of these are new scholars who commenced Langham scholarships during the 2020-21 academic year.
- 19 scholars graduated, all of whom have returned to serve in the Majority World. They join a fellowship of more than 325 graduated Langham Scholars serving around the world.
- 3 current doctoral scholars and 3 postdoctoral scholars were supported with study residencies for concentrated periods of study, or research and writing projects, in centres where there is access to excellent library resources and a research community.
- 6 online Regional Scholar consultations were held for current Langham Scholars.
- Langham Scholars had at least 20 articles and 34 books published.
- Scholar Care Coordinators meet with, encourage and pray with current scholars in their region. There was an increase in FY21: two Coordinators from the UK increased their hours and a new part-time Scholar Care Coordinator commenced for Eurasia.
- COVID travel restrictions during FY20 and FY21 have prevented us from sponsoring or participating in any formal conferences as many have been postponed or cancelled.



Beatrice Ang from the Philippines (above) and David Nacho from Bolivia (below) are both currently studying in the UK.



However, Langham continues to maintain strong and active ties with a number of international theological organizations, and sponsoring should resume in FY22.

- Scholars contribute to conference discussions as part of their academic development. COVID restrictions have made in-person participation impossible in FY21, but many scholars and graduates have taken advantage of the numerous online events that have taken place.

LITERATURE —

Developing and distributing biblical resources

Very few biblical books are available to Majority World believers in their heart languages. Of those that are available, even fewer are written from their context. Langham works with indigenous writers, editors and publishers in the Majority World to develop biblical resources that equip the local church. From our warehouse in the UK, Langham sends out thousands of biblical books to hundreds of Majority World bible colleges and seminaries each year. We also provide preaching resources to pastors and students participating in Langham Preaching programs.



This year-

- 16,563 Bible-centred books were supplied to 633 Majority World colleges across 80 countries to help students grow and mature in Christ. 9,582 of these books were supplied to 627 colleges free of charge through the Library Grants program.
- 13,940 Bible-centred books were distributed to Majority World pastors, students and ministry partners in need of study materials. 5,262 of these books were supplied free of charge to participants at, or Coordinators of, Langham Preaching seminars.
- 5,561 Bible-centred books were distributed to partner Majority World publishers.
- 22 indigenous publishers in 17 different countries were supported in the production of 55 local language titles, through the awarding of Publisher Grants.
- 13 local writers in 12 countries were supported through Writer Grants.
- 6 Majority World Editors were mentored and 1 Majority World writer trained.
- Langham Literature published 46 books, 33 by Majority World authors/contributors, and 7 by Langham Scholars.

Activity for the 2021 financial year

- Langham Literature supported the publication of two ground-breaking Bible Commentaries (The Branch Exposition of the Bible: New Testament and the South Asia Bible Commentary — Hindi translation), and actively worked on 18 more Bible Commentary projects. There are too many to give details on all of them, but one highlight was the publishing of the Portuguese translation of the Latin American Bible Commentary in Brazil in both print and electronic versions. Work continues on the contextualized Central Asian Bible Commentary which will be printed in the Russian language with the use of particular religious terminology. In addition, there will be translations into three other Central Asian languages but only in electronic format (because of security reasons).
- The new Carlisle (UK) Warehouse/Service Centre Project has been completed and all staff had moved in by September 2021.
- Digitisation: Our goals are to transform Langham publications into fully digitized and searchable formats, and transform some Preaching resources into audio. During FY21, 30 titles were digitized for Logos bible software. Development work also commenced on a new e-reader platform to securely deliver Langham publications, as well as preaching-specific resources, from other publishers to end users in the Majority World.

PREACHING —

Training pastors to preach the Bible

Around 80% of pastors in the Majority World never get to attend Bible college! Langham trains pastors and church leaders in over 60 countries to teach the Bible, equipping them to biblically shepherd their churches.



This year-

- 204 preaching training seminars were held in 54 countries. 54% of the seminars were virtual (online). There are 98 Langham Preaching Movements in 85 countries around the world, but some had to pause Preaching seminars during FY21 due to COVID. Connectivity remains a barrier in countries where electricity and/or internet access is unreliable and so a Connectivity survey has been undertaken to ascertain the needs and limitations of the different Preaching Movements around the world. Please pray for pastors who have not been able to meet in person or connect virtually.
- 8,909 pastors and lay leaders were equipped to teach God's Word (1,691 of these are local indigenous Facilitators and Preaching Club coordinators). Training has been led by 620 local Facilitators, who are equipped and working together in teams to train others.
- 1,193 preaching groups of 7-10 pastors and leaders are meeting regularly for ongoing training and mentoring.

- 6 global or regional consultations/forums or leadership meetings were held, involving 220 leaders and/or coordinators from across the world to review, learn, train and plan. All of these were remote (online).
- Although hindered by the pandemic, during FY21 new movements did begin in East Timor, Big Country East and with the Hispanic diaspora in the US. In addition, an online project in North West Asia has led to three new movements being commenced in two Central Asian countries.



Our Langham Program Directors are facing various challenges. Please pray for them!

Scholars Director Rev Dr Riad Kassis (left) lives in Lebanon, which is in severe economic crisis.

Preaching Director Rev Dr Paul Windsor (centre) has been in New Zealand throughout the pandemic and is feeling keenly the distance between his home and the rest of the world (where Preaching staff are located in various places).

Literature Director Pieter Kwant (UK) is heading toward retirement and would appreciate your prayer for the appointment of his successor.

Pray for Christians in "sensitive" countries

Langham Partnership works in many "sensitive" countries.

In all three of our Program areas- Scholars, Literature and Preaching – we do our work in places that we can't publicise in newsletters or on our website.

This may be due to the political situation, because Christians are a minority and/or because Christians face persecution in these places.

We'd like to share what is happening in these difficult parts of the world... but we can't! Drawing attention to the work could put our partners living in these places at risk.

Although we can't share their stories with you, will you still pray for Langham's people and partners in difficult places? In each of these countries, pray:

- For the Church to grow and mature
- For theological education to be strengthened
- For pastors and church leaders to be trained to teach God's Word well
- For Christians to get literature that strengthens their faith
- For safety and protection of Christians, especially pastors

Thank you for your prayers!

God's Word for Today's World shared with Langham Preaching clubs across the globe

Langham Preaching has embarked on an exciting new project to provide a resource for Preaching Clubs around the world in celebration of the John Stott centenary.

The aim of the project is to translate John Stott's seminal book 'God's Word for Today's World' into many languages and provide it with a discussion guide written by the Langham Preaching leadership team.

So far, translations into 14 languages have begun or are already completed, including Kiswahili, Amharic, German, French, Tagalog, the Indian languages of Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi and Kannada, as well as Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian and Indonesian.

Over 1,900 English books, 1,700 French books and 3,800 books in other languages will be distributed to 7,400 participants along with the discussion guide. More than 60 countries are involved.

In 'God's Word for Today's World', John Stott concisely demonstrates the power, authority and relevance of the Bible for every Christian – in every culture and generation. He urges us to hear and obey the Bible in today's context.

Langham Preaching's Global Leadership Team read this book as part of their weekly meetings in 2021. Following this, they created a series of questions for each of the five chapters for Preaching Clubs to discuss.

Alongside the discussion guide, the team created a video for each chapter. Langham Preaching's Director Paul Windsor said in his introduction to the guide: "We wanted to create an opportunity to be thankful, by finding a way to bring the heart of John Stott's ministry into the heart of this Langham Preaching ministry.

"John Stott was a man of the word of God. He believed it, studied it, preached it, wrote about it and lived it. So we turned towards his little book, God's Word for Today's World, and decided to create a resource that could be used in our preaching clubs in as many heart-languages as possible."

He added that the Langham Preaching team's hope is that readers will be "encouraged to keep walking with the word of God in today's world".

You can join in!

The Preaching team is encouraging Langham supporters to read along with our brothers and sisters in the Majority World! The book, which has just five chapters, can be ordered through the Langham Literature website: langhamliterature.org. The discussion guide and videos are also able to be shared. Contact us and we will send you the online link!



Gillean Smiley, Langham Australia Executive Officer writes: Behind the Scenes in Christian Ministry

When God lays a vision on the hearts of His people, we need to identify the best means of bringing that vision to practical reality. Sometimes this means we need to involve ourselves in the world of organisations and their management. As Christians, the way in which we organise our "business" and conduct our business affairs needs to be an example of best practice in caring for people, managing resources with integrity and efficiency, and being accountable for both.

Langham Partnership internationally has grown from a small group of people personally connected to John Stott and his vision, to a global partnership with staff and volunteers operating in over 150 countries. Underpinning the ministry is an administrative structure that provides support in managing global finances, IT, and other shared responsibilities. The Langham Partnership International Council will be meeting in April, chaired by Langham Partnership Australia's own Board Chairwoman, Jill McGilvray. Please pray with us as we review and explore the best ways to support, encourage and hold accountable the Program work (Scholars, Literature and Preaching) as well as the National Members – those countries with a formal relationship to the global Partnership, engaged in raising funds and awareness for the ministry as a whole as well as supporting program work in their region.

Meanwhile, Langham Partnership Australia is undergoing organisational changes that are designed to enhance our ability to pursue and facilitate the vision. Our change in structure from being an incorporated association registered in NSW to being a company limited by guarantee, registered

nationally, will not have any impact on the way in which you interact with us on a day to day basis. However it will strengthen our ability to operate nationally and increase our flexibility to pursue other goals such as seeking tax deductibility for some donations. Our national Board and staff have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure we are operating at the highest level of performance in regard to financial management, especially for funds sent overseas, risk management, management of people and other functions that enable us to do the work safely and with the highest integrity. Up to date information about relevant policies can always be found on our website at www.langham.org along with information about the programs we deliver.

Organisational management, policies and procedures only thrill the hearts of a small, specialised group of people, but they are important in being able to demonstrate wise and godly use of the resources with which we have been entrusted. Thank God for the diligence of the Langham Boards, both nationally and internationally, as they work to ensure transparency, accountability and best practice in all areas of our operations. Please pray for us as we seek to gain tax deductible status for some donations here in Australia, and that this may result in an increase in the funds available to us.

As always, you're welcome to contact us at australia@langham.org to request copies of our Annual Report, financial statements or other documents. We trust you'll find them a strong foundation for your continued confidence in how we are using the resources with which God has blessed us.