

CANADA

Langham™

PARTNERSHIP

Spring 2016

A VISION FOR LANGHAM CANADA

CHRIS WRIGHT (CW), ACCLAIMED AUTHOR, GLOBAL SPEAKER AND INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR FOR LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP SHARES HIS HOPES FOR LANGHAM CANADA, HOW PREACHERS AND LEADERS GROW THROUGH LANGHAM'S WORK AND HOW LANGHAM FITS INTO THE GREAT COMMISSION.

How have you seen Canada's role in Langham Partnership evolve over the years?

CW: The roots of Langham Partnership in Canada go back to the visits by John Stott, decades ago, and the many friendships he formed back then. So some of our longest and most faithful supporters are those who were friends of John Stott and wanted to support the ministries he had founded.

Since then, the vision that God gave to John has captured others who now support the Langham programs for their own intrinsic importance – namely to strengthen the ministry of the Word and the teaching of believers in countries where resources are so lacking, so that the Church grows to maturity and is more effective in its mission in its own surrounding cultural context.

What are your hopes for Langham Canada?

CW: My hope is that the change I have just mentioned should continue, but more rapidly.

We need more and more Canadian evangelical Christians to commit themselves to standing alongside their sisters and brothers in the global Church, and to see Langham as a means of doing so.

I'd like to see Langham become a major source of quality information about the realities of Church growth, opportunities, needs and challenges, and then a means of channeling prayer and financial resources to where the needs are greatest.

I want Langham Canada to grow financially, but not for its own sake, but for the sake of churches where God is at work but resources are lacking (resources of trained pastors, good books, theological education, etc). I am sure there is unrealized potential among concerned and engaged Evangelicals in Canada to become

committed supporters of Langham, and thereby to be in partnership with such churches.

In what ways does supporting Langham fit with the mission of a globally minded Canadian church congregation?

CW: I think Langham can function like a conduit or portal - in both directions. Langham can bring to a church information and understanding of the realities of Christianity outside the West, and sometimes visitors from such regions.

And the church, through Langham's agency, can be in spiritual and material fellowship with some of the liveliest believers in the world, who in spite of their needs and the realities of persecution, suffering and poverty, continue to engage in God's mission in their context.

You are speaking in Ottawa in May about how churches can integrate their mission with the great commission. How do you see Langham's role in the Great Commission?

CW: We need to understand that all our efforts in mission (and they can be many and varied) must be integrated around the Gospel itself at the centre - the gospel of the kingdom of God in Jesus Christ as Lord, God and Saviour, and what God has done through Christ to reconcile the world to himself.

That's why it is important to notice that the so-called great commission begins with the affirmation of the Lordship of Christ over all creation, and includes not only evangelism (presupposed in the command to make disciples and baptize them), but also *teaching*.

I call it "Great Commission Line 3."

And that is where Langham fits in.

Langham's vision and mission is to strengthen the teaching and

The great commission is not just about evangelism and church planting, but about making and teaching disciples, and that is where Langham certainly fits in. We are a “great commission ministry!”

preaching of God’s word so that new disciples are better equipped to “observe all that Jesus commanded.”

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Can you share with us how satisfying it has been to see Langham Scholars take their place in leadership positions in their home countries over the years?

CW: There are now about 350 Langham Scholars serving all over the world. The great majority are engaged in theological education, as teachers in seminaries. But many have also risen to positions of leadership. Some are seminary principals. Some are bishops or church leaders in other ways. Some are respected voices in the secular arena also, or heading significant work in NGOs, writing, publishing, Bible translation, development projects, etc. The really satisfying element in this is the

multiplication factor. Through investing in a single man or woman, in great depth and considerable cost, we contribute to the multiplication of his or her ministry for a lifetime of influencing others for good.

It is impossible to measure the full impact of this – only God knows for sure. But we have enough evidence to know that it is very great and that is a constant encouragement and joy.

The South Asia Bible Commentary is one of Langham’s most recent literature projects. What role will it play in the Church in South Asia?

CW: It was launched in October 2015. It is published in India itself, and is already selling very well in English. Soon it will be available also in Hindi, Tamil and Urdu. Some people may remember the impact that the first evangelical one-volume commentary on the whole Bible (the *New Bible Commentary* published by IVP), had for the strengthening of the evangelical church in the West after World War II.

Well, here is the first ever one-volume commentary written entirely by South Asian scholars. It will be a huge asset and resource for preachers and ordinary believers who want and need to get their heads around the Bible in far greater depth than before.

What is the greatest growth area you see in preachers who go through the Langham preaching workshops?

CW: The universal testimony of those

who participate in Langham Preaching programmes is that they now take the Bible far more seriously than before, and that they now know how to go about handling it well.

Many say that their congregations are pleased and encouraged by the change in their preaching.

Some find that their churches grow as people are hungry for the word of God, and will come to where they get fed with it.

Through the ongoing Preachers’ Clubs, many pastors find constant encouragement to persevere in the task and learn from one another.

A major impact is also in the sheer fact that they now realize the importance of setting aside time for proper preparation and study of the text, and the challenge and satisfaction of planning their preaching ahead – not just grabbing a text and heading to the pulpit. One pastor said to me, “The greatest benefit of attending the Langham Preaching Seminar last year was the end of the Saturday night panic!”

If you were able to invite Canadian Christians into Langham’s work around the world, what words would you use for that invitation?

CW: Join the party! Don’t miss out on what God is doing around the world, and get in there and play your part! ■

Updates from two Langham Scholars in Canada

David Tarus

studies at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ont.

“I am currently working on chapter three of my dissertation on a reformed theology of ethnic cohesion for the Kenyan context. I just came back from a two-month research trip in Kenya. It was a successful trip where I got to spend a lot of time at the National Archives in Nairobi doing research, in addition to visiting family and friends and accomplishing several ministries. I hope to finish the first draft of my research by the end of the year. Please keep me in prayer so that I can accomplish my writing goals. Also pray for my family; we are expecting our second born child, a boy, in April.”

Chandra Wim

studies at Wycliffe College in Toronto

Having completed my first Comprehensive exam on the History of Biblical Interpretation, I’m now in the process of preparing my second Comp exam on the contemporary discussions of Virtue Ethics, Virtue Epistemology, and Ascetic/Pneumatic Epistemology. These are areas that I’m less familiar with, as they are more into the social science and philosophy than strictly theology.

The theological stuff that I will deal with is also quite new for me: Mysticism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Pentecostalism, and their conceptions of religious epistemology. So this second Comp is (more) difficult.

Yet, I like every bit of it as it stretches my

theological imagination and broaden my horizon of learning theology. Pursuing a Ph.D. while parenting two young kids (Glorianne is almost four and Gregory is almost one year old now) and serving part-time at church, also broaden my horizon of possibility, even if at times it means less sleep, no more leisure reading, and back pain. But I take all of these as part and parcel of spiritual formation to be a theologian who is also a saint (in the broadest sense). I look forward to July-August when we will go back to Indonesia to visit our friends and relatives, as well as to teach a master-level intensive course in my home seminary. Your prayers are most appreciated. ■

Your impact with Langham Preaching around the world

“Together with local partners, we are nurturing **dozens** of preaching movements, working through **hundreds** of local trainers and preaching clubs to equip **thousands** of preachers every year,” says Paul Windsor, Director of Langham Preaching.

There are at least 62 preaching movements around the world right now. An exact number is hard to pin down because movements sprout and spread – exactly what Langham intends to happen. Windsor pegs the number of active, local trainers to be more than 500, “and I’d estimate that 10,000 preachers each year come within the orbit of Langham Preaching’s ministry.”



Canadian Jennifer Cuthbertson is the Langham Preaching Coordinator for Trainer Development. “In Langham Preaching we do not view our training seminars as stand-alone events. We envisage them as steps in the creation of biblical preaching movements. And Preaching clubs are foundational to preaching movements. These small-group gatherings consolidate the teaching of a training seminar: participants continue to meet at regular intervals to study and learn together, support one another by praying for and with each other, and preach and evaluate sermons.” ■

Langham Literature encouraging writers around the world

Paul tells us to “press on toward the mark,” but sometimes God tells us to stop and look back too. That is one reason he gave us the Sabbath as a day to rest and reflect on what he did in creation and in delivering us from slavery. I am not very good at resting and looking back, and I suspect I am not alone. But sometimes God grabs us and swivels our heads around so that we notice what he has done in the past.

This has happened to me twice in recent months, both times in relation to work I did for Langham way back in 2010. That was the year I went to Ghana and Nigeria, in much fear and trepidation to lead writer’s workshops.

In Ghana, the fear was because half the participants were from Francophone Africa. I can read French, but cannot speak it or follow a rapid conversation. So how on earth was I going to help French writers? But God must have given me the gift of tongues, for we are currently in the final stages of preparing a commentary on *Jérémie et Lamentations* written by Dr. Bungishabaku Katho from Congo, who was at that workshop.

One of the English participants was Dr. Sunday Agang from Nigeria, who told me

his life story over a cup of coffee in the hotel in Ghana. Today I sent off a file containing his book, *No More Cheeks to Turn*, in which he tells how he changed from an angry young pastor bent on revenge to a peacemaker urging Nigerian Christians to show love despite the persecution they are enduring.

In an email, Dr Katho said, “If this book ever get published it will be in memory of your West Africa Writers’ Workshop in 2010 at Ghana”

Going on to Nigeria, my fear was more physical. Jos had recently been rocked by violence. It was only three days before the workshop that I was given the all-clear to come. On the way to the workshop, we drove past burnt out homes and the destroyed market, and we had to end early each day because everyone had to be home before curfew. Some of the participants had lost friends in the violence.

I did not know what could be accomplished in such traumatic times. Certainly, the young editor I was hoping to train made it clear that she was eager to get out of Jos and find a safer place of employment. But



in November last year, at a conference in Singapore, a large Nigerian greeted me with a roar of “Isobel, you are my mother! And you have many grandchildren you have never met!” Pusonnam Yiri had been at that workshop in Jos, and had caught the vision for Christian writing. He now conducts his own workshops, and sent me pictures of my “grandchildren” attending such a workshop.

Thank God for his encouragement to me by giving me a glimpse of the fruit that Langham is producing. And thank you for your sponsorship and prayer so long ago – this fruit is your fruit too! ■

– Isobel Stevenson, Senior Editor,
Langham Partnership



Langham Vision & Mission

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.

OUR MISSION

is to strengthen the ministry of the Word of God through:

1. Nurturing national movements for training in biblical preaching (Langham Preaching);
2. Multiplying the creation and distribution of evangelical literature (Langham Literature); and
3. Strengthening the theological training of pastors and leaders by qualified evangelical teachers (Langham Scholars).



“We need more and more Canadian evangelical Christians to commit themselves to standing alongside their sisters and brothers in the global Church, and to see Langham as a means of doing so.”

Chris Wright, International Ministries Director of Langham Partnership

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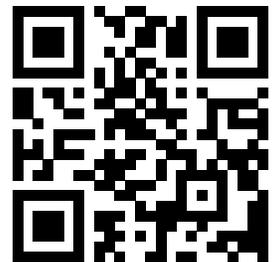
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