

CANADA



Langham[®]

PARTNERSHIP

Winter/Spring 2017



LANGHAM'S AFRICA BIBLE COMMENTARY CONTINUES TO GROW AND IMPACT PUBLISHING AROUND THE WORLD

It doesn't seem possible, but it is now ten years since the Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) was launched in 2006. In the intervening years, it has been translated into five languages (with two other translations pending) and has served as the model for a growing series of commentaries for other regions of the world. (Think South Asia, South America, Russia and the Ukraine, the Arab world and Eastern Europe.) More than 200,000 copies have been sold, and many of these are well used – as you can see in the accompanying photograph. It also has very favourable reviews on Amazon.com.

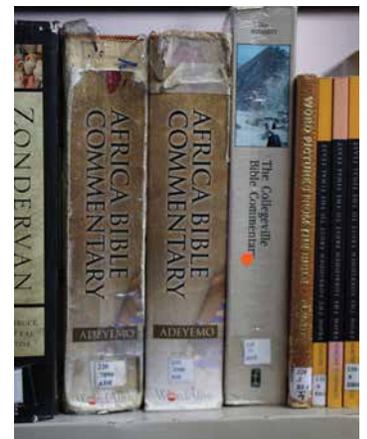
But for all its influence and readability, the Africa Bible Commentary is flawed, as all such books are. It was the first attempt to produce anything like this in Africa, and there was a steep learning curve. Now it is time to prepare for the second edition. We knew this was coming even as we celebrated the publishing of the first edition.

So come June, the Africa Bible Commentary Board will be meeting in Nairobi to review the whole book and come up with recommendations about what needs to be revised and what needs to be added in light of changing situations in Africa and in the world.

There are now five new, younger faces on the board – three men and two women, in addition to those who served before.

Isobel Stevenson from Canada will be at that meeting as she was the editor of the ABC. But she will be flying into Nairobi from Ethiopia, because one of the other fruits of the ABC has been a surge of interest in writing books. So she will be leading a writing workshop for a group of twelve Ethiopian scholars in the days before the board meetings.

Thank God for what this book has already accomplished, and what it will accomplish, and thank you for your gifts that have made this book, the translations, the other commentaries and this Ethiopian workshop possible. ■



A much used copy of Africa Bible Commentary

Langham Partnership Canada announces a new chair of the board



Langham Canada is pleased to announce that Dr. Peter Robinson, professor of proclamation, worship and ministry at Wycliffe College, Toronto is the new chair of Langham Canada. Peter's interest in the working relationship between the Church and the academy and his personal history with Langham and the life and work of our founder John Stott, make him the ideal leader to usher Langham Canada into a new era of ministry. We are excited to see what the next few years hold for this important and unique ministry. *Remember, 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.* ■

A message from Peter Robinson, chair, Langham Partnership Canada

It is a strange time for Christian mission organizations in Canada. While there has been a renewed understanding of the place and importance of mission for the Church, there has also been a shift from focusing on international mission to local mission. The question many churches are asking themselves is how do we more effectively engage with the people in the communities we are a part of?

It is a wonderful thing to see church communities focus on local mission. Yet, at the same time as churches are shifting to a more missional perspective, there has been more uncertainty about the place and importance of international missions. In part this uncertainty seems to be rooted in the recognition that too often our efforts to help others haven't necessarily been appropriate to their needs and as a result haven't resulted in long-term change. We have learned that the most effective way to help others is to find ways to allow them to

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help themselves. This is where Langham Partnership shines.

With its focus on strengthening the Church through encouraging and equipping leaders for the local church, Langham has focused on one of the most effective ways to do international missions. Through its support for Majority World scholars, locally developed commentaries and theological resources and preaching workshops, Langham offers focused and specific help to church leaders appropriate to their particular situations and needs.

Langham Canada's biggest challenge right now is to let more people know about the great work Langham is doing to encourage and strengthen the Church in the Majority World. My request to you is that you might think and pray as to how we can spread the word about Langham so that more people can get involved. Thank you for all your support and how you make the work of Langham possible. ■

By the numbers: What your gifts do around the world

Langham Partnership is involved with at least **131 countries around the world**, 108 of which are Majority World countries.

Langham Partnership operates in approximately **80 different languages**.

In 2016 alone, **73 Langham Scholars from 35 different countries** were supported by the gifts of caring Christians like you. **14 Langham Scholars** completed their degrees and returned home to their home countries and to their ministries of equipping others.

Langham Preaching held **228 training events** in 2016, equipping **10, 200+ pastors and lay leaders in 59 countries** in need

of solid biblical teaching. **500+ preaching groups** of 10-12 pastors and leaders met regularly for ongoing training and mentoring.

Langham Literature supplied **14, 064 biblical books to 592 Majority World colleges** across **77 countries** to help students grow and mature in their faith. With your help, Langham distributed **22,876 biblical books** to Majority World pastors, students and ministry partners in need of study materials. 12 Indigenous publishers were supported last year, and **25 "heart-language"** titles were published. ■



David Tarus, a Langham Scholar supported by your gifts, is wrapping up his studies at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ont. We asked David (DT) to share the impact your support has had on him and his work.

Could you explain the heart of your thesis for our donors and the impact you think it could have in the Church?

DT: My research aims to provide a theological response to the problem of ethno-political conflict in Kenya based on a reading of John Calvin's theological anthropology (image of God), the Christian life (as renewal of God's image) and political theology. The title of the dissertation is "A Different Way of Being: Toward a Reformed Theology of Ethnopolitical Cohesion for the Kenyan Context."

I begin by tracing the history of ethnopolitical conflict in Kenya and the church's response to it (2 chapters). I show that overall, the church in Kenya hasn't been consistent in providing a prophetic voice to the problem of ethnopolitical conflict. However, following the dark episode of conflict that happened in 2007/2008 and the church's apology to the Kenyan people, the church is now on the way to recovery.

The topic is close to my heart not only because I come from Eldoret, a city that has been the epicenter of conflict, but also because Kenya has experienced conflict every five years during and after a national election.

My passion is to help Kenyan churches to live for Christ above ethnic and political inclinations. A Kenyan Christian recently posted on Facebook a post that encapsulates the struggle of the Church in Kenya in regard to ethnicity and politics. He wrote, "For many Kenyan Christians, our commitment and allegiance follows the order below: (1) Tribe, (2) political party, (3) Christ."

Unfortunately, this post is true. Kenya is headed to a national election this year (2017) in August and the country is already polarized along ethnic and political lines. There is a need to help churches transcend

ethnic and political divisions. Furthermore, many schools are introducing courses on peace, justice, reconciliation, and social cohesion and I want to be at the forefront of the theological discussions on these issues.

Can you tell us the difference Langham has made in your life and ability to do your studies, and the impact being a Langham Scholar has on your life?

DT: Langham has made a big difference in my life. As I wrote in the acknowledgement section of my dissertation, without the help of Langham, I could not afford to study at McMaster even if I sold everything I own back in Kenya.

With Langham's support I was able to focus on my studies without worrying too much about finances. Even more important, Langham is more than a scholarship foundation. It is family. Langham cares. They care so much about us, scholars. They want us to be successful, not just academically, but in other areas of life as well. Fred Gale, the Langham spiritual director, has been such a wonderful spiritual mentor. I have also enjoyed fellowship with other Langham scholars through the annual Langham meetings in the USA. I lack words to express how grateful I am to Langham.

You've participated in the life of the Canadian Church while you've been in Canada. What have you observed? What can we learn?

DT: I have shared before that the Canadian Church can gain invaluable lessons from the Church of the Majority World. I think I will point to only one lesson: loving Jesus wholeheartedly despite the challenges of life. The Church in Africa doesn't have much in terms of wealth and resources but they have the passion, vibrancy, and robustness of following the Lord. The Church in Africa



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flourishes in the midst of overwhelming challenges. The poverty and sociopolitical challenges have become the flames that fan the fire of faith. I long to see the Church in Canada following Christ in the midst of the wealth and prosperity of Canada. I pray that people here won't surrender their faith to the deception of prosperity and consumerism.

What message do you have for Langham Canada donors and friends?

DT: I thank all donors and prayer partners for their generosity and support. Your generosity enables people like me afford studies in top-notch schools such as McMaster Divinity College. All I say is Kongoi mising (Kalenjin: Thank you so much).

My plan is to return back home with my family and serve God in theological education. I am also thrilled about future plans as a researcher. I see a lot of research opportunities especially in reformed theology in Kenya. My research has shown me that there is so much that need to be done. Lastly, I have requested to join Langham Preaching team in Kenya so that I can train people to become better preachers. I want to assist in training people like my father who are preachers but lack theological training. By so doing, I will give back (in a small way) to fulfilling Langham's vision. ■

Have you considered a legacy gift to the work of Langham in your will?

Every Canadian donor can make a lasting legacy gift to the work of Langham Canada and impact the Church of the Majority World for generations to come.

Planned giving – leaving a gift for Langham in your will – enables donors to make larger gifts through estate planning than they may have been able to make in their lifetime.

It is easy to do. And everyone can do it!

Here is some of what you need to know to consider making a legacy gift to Langham Canada.

- Anyone with a will can make such a gift. Sometimes the gift is a percentage of the estate (which means it will grow as your estate grows), others choose to designate a specific dollar amount to their charity of choice.

- You can speak to your lawyer directly to include a legacy gift in your will. There are also planning giving advisors who can help with these plans.

- Be sure to have the correct legal name of the charity in your will. In Langham's case the correct legal name is Langham Partnership of Canada for Global Christian Education, Inc. (BN 119241537RR0001).

- If you decide to designate a gift to the work of Langham Partnership Canada in your will, please let us know so we can thank you now!

A legacy gift to Langham Partnership Canada is simple to arrange and has a profound impact on the Church around the world, equipping it for mission and growing it to maturity in Christ through the ministry of pastors and leaders who believe, teach and live by Word of God.

YOU CAN BE PART OF LANGHAM'S MISSION!



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– David Tarus, Langham Scholar

**WILL YOU HELP LANGHAM EQUIP MORE SCHOLARS, PASTORS AND PUBLISHERS LIKE DAVID?
THE IMPACT IS MULTIPLIED AS THEY LEAD CHURCHES, SEMINARIES AND SCHOLARSHIP
IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.**

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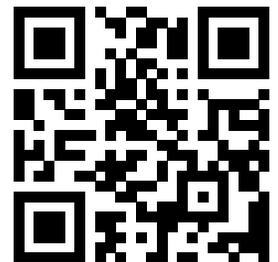
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