



CANADA

Langham<sup>®</sup>  
PARTNERSHIP

Fall 2018

## AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS WRIGHT, INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR OF LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP

*Author and leader Chris Wright shares how mission is changing around the world, Langham's long history of partnership with other ministries and respect for its ministry partners*

**Langham Canada (LC):** You have a bird's eye view of missions that not many of us have. You will be speaking in Canada about the changing world of global missions. Can you tell us a bit about how mission is changing globally?

**Chris Wright (CW):** The biggest change over the past decades has been the shift from mission being largely from the western nations to the rest of the world, to today's reality that the majority of the world's Christians live in the Majority World. And now a much higher proportion of those engaged in cross-cultural mission are from those parts of the world as well. Mission is from everywhere to everywhere. Another shift has been a growing awareness and acceptance that mission is a much broader concept (in theology and in practice) than evangelism alone, or the responsibility of missionaries alone. The centrality of the Gospel must be maintained, of course (otherwise our mission becomes mere philanthropy), but the good news of the Gospel is what motivates, characterizes and permeates the whole of our lives, work and relationships as disciples of Christ.

**LC:** Does Langham have to adapt its own approach these days, or are we perhaps better suited than some organizations for today's changing world?

**CW:** John Stott's original vision (going back to the 1970s) for the ministries that now work together in the Langham Partnership was undoubtedly for the resource-rich western Church to share its resources (e.g. of theological literature, seminary education, etc.) with the poorer churches of the Majority World. However, he strongly resisted any form of paternalism or dependency, and encouraged our colleagues in the Majority World to grow their own visions, projects and ministries - with indigenous leadership and viability.

That has been the Langham way and still is. As a result, we rejoice that there are strong indigenous ministries birthed by Langham in countries where western "missionaries" could not operate. Many of our Langham Preaching movements now have matured to be completely self-sustaining in funding and leadership. We partner with a number of indigenous evangelical publishers in very challenging countries. And Langham Literature is now publishing and making available in the West a whole range of books written by Majority World authors. Some of our Langham Scholars are leading and teaching in seminaries

that can now offer their own high-quality doctorates in biblical and theological studies. Langham has become part of that changing reality of the Global Church, namely that in the years to come it will be the Western Church that stands in need of support and help from the life and vigour of the churches of the Global South.

**LC:** Langham has always walked beside the Global Church, helping to equip it to grow in maturity. How is that more important now than ever?

**CW:** John Stott's great slogan was that the problem with the Church all over the world (not just "out there" in the poorer parts of the world) was "growth without depth." That is, he could see that the Church was growing phenomenally in some places in evangelism and numbers - but without matching depth of discipling, spiritual and moral transformation, and good pastoral leadership. Without that growth in maturity, the Church is very vulnerable to false teaching, cults, syncretism, and the predatory scourge of the "prosperity gospel." The Apostle Paul prayed and pleaded with his churches to "grow up" in Christ, in their knowledge of the faith, in living lives pleasing to God, and in endurance and perseverance under suffering. All of those things are more necessary than ever, as Christians all over the world face so much opposition, hostility, or simply contempt and suspicion. Langham Partnership's vision still begins with that biblical desire "to see churches equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ." That will never be irrelevant!

**LC:** Looking back on the last year, what would be your "Langham highlight"?

**CW:** My highlight would be visiting Myanmar (while aware of the terrible suffering of the Rohingya people there). It was my first visit in several years. I helped to establish the Langham Preaching movement there more than ten years ago. I taught for a week at the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology and spoke at their Graduation Ceremony. This is a college where Langham has made significant investment in their library and we have two Langham Scholars teaching there. And I also participated in a training event for the now fully national leadership of the Langham Preaching movement in that country - hearing about some of their expeditions to hold biblical preaching training for rural pastors in very remote parts of the country where no westerner would ever be allowed to go. God's Word is on the move! ■

# Langham equips the next generation of Bible teachers

Langham works alongside Christian leaders around the world, equipping them with skills and tools needed to teach and preach God's Word to grow the church with depth and maturity. Every day, we hear stories of congregations and communities being changed, new ministries being started and indigenous leaders catching the vision and running with it. Our aim is to see the effective preaching of God's Word equipping God's people for their mission in the world.

## A snapshot of Langham impact so far this year!



### Langham Preaching

- Held **323 preaching training seminars**
- **Equipped 10,350+ pastors** and lay leaders to teach God's Word, through training led by **500+ local facilitators**, who are equipped and working together in teams to train others
- Provided training to resource and develop **525 local facilitators** and preaching club coordinators through seminars and workshops
- Shepherded **850+ preaching groups** of 7-10 pastors and leaders meeting regularly for ongoing training and mentoring



### Langham Literature

- Supplied **16,780 Bible-centred books** to **693 Majority World (MW) colleges** across **83 countries** to help students grow and mature in Christ
- **Distributed 41,139 Bible-centred books** to MW pastors, students and ministry partners in need of study materials

- **Supported 15 indigenous publishers**, in 12 different countries, in the production of 41 local language titles, through the awarding of Publisher Grants. 17 local writers in 16 countries were supported through Writer Grants
- **Published 41 books**, including 24 Langham Global Library, 8 Langham Monographs, 6 Langham Preaching resources, and 3 Hippo Books. 30 of the books published were by MW authors or contributors and 12 of these books were by Langham Scholars



### Langham Scholars

- **Supported 69 students** from 39 MW countries in theological doctoral programs
- **Celebrated the graduation of 14 scholars** – leaders who will go on to shape their nations with a biblical worldview as they teach in seminaries, start salt and light ministries, and serve at the highest levels in government – and join a fellowship of more than 300 graduated Langham Scholars serving around the world ■

## Building Langham Preaching in Haiti

*Steven Van Dyck, Langham Canada's executive director participates in work in Haiti*

In 2016, a team of pastors in Haiti, chaired by Guenson Charlot, asked Langham Preaching to consider coming to their country, to work with them in improving the level of preaching in their churches. I was able to participate this summer and came away very impressed with the Langham Preaching program, and with the dedicated pastors whose ministries are so enhanced by Langham's work.

Langham's Preaching program has three levels: Level 1 is an overview of why and how to preach; Levels 2 and 3 focus on preaching from the New and Old Testaments respectively.

During our first week in Haiti, 28 pastors met near the capital city of Port-au-Prince, half of them new participants, and the rest in Level 2. Each morning, a model sermon was preached, which was then critiqued by the others. Participants learned about the keys to an effective sermon – faithful expository teaching of the text, clarity of expression, and relevance to the hearers. Early afternoon, participants met in groups, to discuss how to develop a model sermon together based on an assigned text.

The second week, convened near the northern city of Cap-Haitien,



was for 25 Level 1 participants. During the week, as participants came to know and trust each other, the level of sharing grew deeper. By the end, when one of the leaders preached on 1 Peter 5:1-4, everyone in the room knew why it was an excellent sermon, and how they could aspire to such preaching. These two weeks give reason to hope that a culture of good preaching will take root in Haiti, and become a model for the Caribbean region.

Faithful preaching of Scripture will change societies, one person at a time. After being there, I can imagine this happening in Haiti.

Participants represented a cross-section of Haiti's Protestant churches -- Baptist, Wesleyan, Pentecostal, Disciples of Christ, and many independent churches. Dieuseul Ferdinand (whose wife Guilandy also participated) pastors a Wesleyan church in Cap-Haitien, with

about 1,200 members. He says his biggest challenge in ministry is coping with endless requests from poor congregants. He shared that he mostly sees two types of preaching: too theologically heavy to be accessible, or too emotional to be useful. The participants were discovering the need to preach the full gospel.

Jean-Baptiste Junior, 35, is a pastor in a 220-member Baptist church in Port-au-Prince. Jean-Baptiste's major ministry challenge, he says, is supporting converts who abandon widespread voodoo practice and therefore are forced to leave home. Youth ministry is also an important challenge in Haiti's cities, given the poverty and lack of outlets for young people. Jean-Baptiste trains leaders, and understands the role of preaching in the life of the church. After this week, he said he realizes that the power of Scripture is unlocked when it is preached systematically, faithfully, clearly, and in a manner relevant to the hearers.

Siméon Désauguste, another participant, envisions using Langham Preaching among the Haitian diaspora living in neighbouring Dominican Republic. Siméon's friend pastors a Haitian congregation in the Dominican, and since his first visit to them last year, he has been thinking of how to reach them. Many congregants are illiterate, he shared, and pastors have no training.

Participants were encouraged to form Preaching Clubs during the coming year – small groups of pastors, who meet regularly to discuss their preaching, and evaluate each other's sermons. Since my return to Canada, I am hearing back from participants who are doing this.

Langham Preaching is not an event, but a process. Everyone could see that clearly. Many new pastors are eager to participate in 2019.

Even since my return to Canada, committee member Pastor Elie Arius has participated in a conference of 1,500 pastors where he described this year's seminars, and many among them asked how they could participate next year. However, attendance will depend on



**Langham Preaching: Langham provides training and ongoing mentoring to grassroots pastors and lay leaders to study and teach God's Word so that they can shepherd their churches to grow in Christ.**

the financial support Langham is able to give. This year's originally planned enrolment was cut by half due to lack of funds. The pastors contribute to the cost, but in a poor country like Haiti, most funding comes from outside. Many pastors are bi-vocational, surviving on outside jobs such as driving a taxi, and have already made a significant financial sacrifice by attending since they are losing a week's pay, and must provide for the support of their families during the week.

It would be a blessing to the Haitian church, but no less to Langham Canada, if our Canadian Langham family could make a particular commitment to promote and expand this ministry in 2019. Are you willing to make a designated gift to Langham Preaching Haiti for 2019? Given the quality and enthusiasm of the Haitian leadership, there is good reason to hope that Haiti will soon be a model for Langham for the rest of the Caribbean region. It would be wonderful to see Langham Canada and Langham Haiti commit together to this vision. – *Steven Van Dyck* ■

## Global update on Langham Scholars

Seventeen new Langham Scholars have been welcomed into the Langham family for 2018/2019. The application process is difficult and thorough. These scholars made it and we applaud them. They will be studying in schools such as the London School of Theology, Wycliffe College, Melbourne School of Theology, and Asbury Theological Seminary. The next generation of Bible teachers are being equipped, thanks be to God. Here in Canada, Witthaya Phuttharaksa is a Langham Scholar from Thailand, studying New Testament at Wycliffe College in Toronto. "I would like to thank Langham and friends of Langham for supporting me. Your support provides an opportunity for me to continue my studies in Canada so after graduation I can help to strengthen the Church in Thailand. Thank you so much, and God bless you," says Witthaya.

**Langham Scholars: Langham scholarships equip future theological leaders—godly men and women who will go on to shape their nations for Christ as they start to teach in seminaries, develop new ministries, and multiply disciples**

## An endorsement

**Rev. Dr. Harding Ng** is the senior pastor of Toronto Christian Community Church (TCCC) and a supporter of Langham Partnership Canada. He shares why the mission of Langham is so important.



*"The work of Langham Partnership in upgrading theological education and training/mentoring in developing countries by providing conferences, seminars and literature for Christian workers due to lack of resources fits a niche in fulfilling the Great Commission, by emphasizing discipleship! In my frequent visits to various mission fields the most urgent call is still to "train the trainers," so that national leaders themselves can be trained and trusted to finish the job!*

*Dr. John Stott has left a legacy of upholding the primacy of biblical preaching and Dr. Christopher Wright has further enhanced the strong linkage of a holistic gospel and discipleship which penetrates the different strata of society so that it can impact global evangelization and missions. Langham Partnership shows sensitivity to the local culture and leadership by partnering instead of a paternalistic approach."* ■

# How you can be involved in the Langham mission

We believe the work of Langham Partnership Canada is exciting and essential. Our unique ministry – with its three connected but separate pillars of Scholars, Literature and Preaching – works hand in hand with indigenous churches and leaders around the world as they preach the gospel, build disciples and walk their Church toward the deeper spiritual maturity that we all strive for. Langham Partnership Canada is a perfect fit for mission-minded, globally-aware evangelical churches and Christians in Canada who desire clear, measurable impact in return for their involvement. Would you like to know more?

Steven Van Dyck, our executive director, would love to meet with you in person or over the phone to explore the many opportunities available for greater involvement. Email us at [Canada@langham.org](mailto:Canada@langham.org) and visit us at [www.langham.org](http://www.langham.org) ■



## YOU CAN BE PART OF LANGHAM'S MISSION!



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