



LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP HELPS REBUILD THE CHURCH IN CAMBODIA

Since the overthrow of Cambodia's murderous Khmer Rouge regime in 1979, the Cambodian Church has operated freely but faces challenges: cults, the prosperity gospel, and a preaching culture made weak through lack of resources and training.

Langham Preaching aims to see national leaders leading its courses as soon as facilitators can be trained after completing the Preaching program. A local committee now runs Langham Preaching in Cambodia, overseen by Pastor Sin Somnang. Another key leader is Pastor Vachna. Vachna grew up in a Buddhist family, and as a young man, refused to have anything to do with Christians. However, he wanted to play the guitar, so he joined a free music program offered by a Christian group. Vachna soon became a Christian, and before long was pastoring his church. Vachna committed to full-time study, and after three years at Bible school, returned to lead Fellowship Church of Neak Loeng.

Pastor Bo has also facilitated Langham Preaching seminars, including traveling by motorbike among local villages to lead Preaching clubs. He pastors in a remote village near the Thai border. "My preaching was not so clear, and sometimes not so faithful... Langham helped me to stay in the message... three words I have in my mind when I preach: clarity, faithfulness and relevance," says Bo.

"Now I have so much more to give them," says TH, a Cambodian pastor whose family was decimated by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. His family, forced to flee as refugees to the USA, returned

to Cambodia thirteen years later and led TH to faith. Today, TH mentors 12 young pastors, and helps lead Langham Preaching workshops.

Langham Literature has partnered for over a decade with Fount of Wisdom, a Christian publisher in Phnom Penh. Langham is working with our partner to replace the theological and biblical resources destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. Langham has provided Fount of Wisdom with production and publisher development grants, working closely with Timothy Chim, the Khmer manager, overseeing the production of about 45 titles, with five in 2019 alone.

In 2018, Fount of Wisdom released the Khmer translations of the New Bible Dictionary Volume 3 (from IVP), Battling Unbelief (John Piper), and God's Big Picture (Vaughan Roberts), among others. Langham's goal for Fount of Wisdom is to see it become self-sustaining financially from local book sales, by publishing books written locally by and for Cambodian Christians.

Langham Literature also distributes theological and biblical books within Cambodia, including Library Grant book gifts to Phnom Penh Bible Institute, and annual book grants to Preaching facilitators of up to nine books each, and to local pastors.

Cambodia has been terribly scarred by the Khmer Rouge horror, but God is building his Church, through faithful Bible-centred proclamation, supported by excellent resources written in the Khmer language.

As we prepare this newsletter, news continues to arrive about the extent and severity of the Coronavirus worldwide. This will have enormous impact on Langham's work, which is global in scope. Please pray for our leadership as they plan for this challenge. "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." (Ps. 91)

Langham Partnership is there, with your help, rebuilding, restoring and helping to strengthen a Church that has, miraculously, survived and is being made new again in Cambodia.

Let's pray that one day soon God will raise up a leader within Cambodia who will become Cambodia's first Langham Scholar, and provide even more strong indigenous theological leadership.

Find out more about Langham's work with Fount of Wisdom at <https://vimeo.com/273734847>. To read more about the history of Cambodia's Church, we recommend Don Cormack's book, *Killing Fields Living Fields: An Unfinished Portrait of the Cambodian Church*.

Digging Deep into Langham Literature: an interview with Pieter Kwant, director of Langham Literature

Pieter, why is it so important to publish Majority World authors?

Because they have something to say and need to be given a voice: first and foremost to their own people in their own context, answering the questions their people ask and struggle with. But secondly, for us in the West. As the better books are contextualised, the more useful they are for readers in the West, challenging the normativity of western approaches to the Bible.

What have you learned from Majority World authors that has changed how you view the world or even your theology or faith in some way?

I have learnt that it is better to work as a community than alone. That the Gospel is very well suited to different cultures and has a wonderful habit of redeeming the parts that can be redeemed, and challenging the parts that need to be discarded. I started seeing that this is true in my own cultural experience as well. I was challenged to rethink many of my own cultural prejudices.

God taught me to disappear in the process, to *listen* rather than to speak. Encouraging Majority World authors to do it their way, and not my western way. I learned that *being* is more important than doing. Age and experience matter and are worthy of respect. Above all I learned about mutual submission, the wonder of friendship and mutual respect as we seek to serve the Kingdom of God together.

What projects are Langham Literature working on now that you are especially excited about or want to tell our readers about?

Langham is working on 19 special projects, and each one holds its own excitement and challenge. But the thing that excites me most

about these projects is that they are all there at the initiative of Majority World scholars, and we have been asked to come alongside. It is a very humbling and exciting place to be in for Langham. Take the *South Asia Study Bible*. The vision was born in India. I was not very excited, as we have little experience to bring to the table, but when the local team made their pitch I was blown away by the professionalism of the proposal. Just so encouraging!

What do you want Canadian donors to know about Langham Literature?

Langham Literature is where the rubber hits the road. With 45-50 publications published every year, Majority World-related and authored in most cases, with 700 Library grants going out and supporting many faculty and libraries. In addition, we train many Majority World writers and editors. We also support 20 local publishers around the Majority World. We are working with hermeneutical communities on 19 major creative projects, one-volume and multi-volume projects in all parts of the Majority World. The local demands are high, the logistics challenges huge and the resources limited. And that is where Canadian donors can make a real difference.

You can find out more about the work and publications of Langham Literature by visiting www.langhamliterature.org. Langham's work with a Christian publisher in Benin, West Africa is profiled in Langham's vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/359624020>.

Remembering John Stott

Langham Partnership is the ministry begun by John Stott, one of the most influential authors and evangelical leaders of the past century. His impact on the Church – maybe especially in the Majority World through the work of Langham – is almost measureless. We have asked Canadians to share some of their special John Stott memories, as we near the centenary of his birth in 2021.

For many, Rev. John Stott was an incomparable expositor of God's Word but for me, he was a Christian poet. As a young

Christian, I read and admired his books. When he came to Hong Kong to speak in revival meetings, I naturally went. It was at the concert hall of the City Hall. On the very big and wide stage, Rev. Stott stood politely, speaking gently, yet firmly. What I admired about him the most was how he mixed Biblical exposition with free recitation of many familiar beautiful old hymns. At that moment, he was a poet who recited heart-felt poetry, expressing God's truth with human reaction to His truth. It was a sumptuous, spiritual meal. The wondrous contentment that I felt afterwards has been the greatest in my life.

– Kwong Hung, Ph.D., Adjunct Instructor, Canadian Chinese School of Theology at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto

Report from the Executive Director

The past several months have been busy for Steven Van Dyck, Langham Canada's executive director. The October 2019 Langham International Council meeting was held in Lebanon, at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. The seminary has five Langham Scholars, including Riad Kassis, head of the Langham Scholars program, and Emad Botros, who is in the final stage of his PhD program at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, ON. ABTS is a key institution in the Middle East, providing a safe place of study for Christians who have come to Christ out of many faith traditions.

Riad Kassis also visited Canada in January, where he met with several donors with a special commitment to the Scholars program, and also spoke at Peoples Church, Toronto and Redeemer University.

In November, Steven represented Langham at a conference for the external organizations which work with CEOSS, a large evangelical NGO in Egypt. CEOSS's president Dr Andrea Zaki is a Langham Scholar. The attendees included representatives of Christian supporting agencies from Denmark, USA, UK, Sweden, France, Holland and Germany. Steven presented a seminar on why reflection on the meaning of 'development' inevitably raises theological and Christian worldview issues, and how Langham Scholars in many settings around the world are exploring these questions -- in a wide range of cultural and political contexts, but pointing to the One God who is God of all the nations.

We have been busy in Canada as well. In January, Langham was represented once again



Almess and Emad Botros

at Vancouver Missions Fest, and this visit gave Steven an opportunity to meet more Langham friends in BC. He then travelled to Winnipeg, where for the first time, Langham Canada was represented at the Winnipeg Mission Fest in early February.

Plans are well underway for Chris Wright's upcoming October visit to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where he will speak at Crandall and Acadia Universities, and in Fredericton and Halifax.

"As I visit with friends of Langham old and new, I am struck by the depth of their commitment to the original vision of John Stott, to build up the next generation of Bible teachers in the Majority World," says Steven. "That vision is being lived out all over the Majority World, and it's partly made possible because of the Canadians who are saying 'yes!' to the invitation of this unique and really impactful, deeply practical ministry."

Do you know someone who cares about the Church of the Majority World, and sees all the potential and possibility of working alongside them? We'd love to hear from you and Steven will reach out to them personally to tell them about Langham Partnership Canada. Email Steven at steven.vandyck@langham.org, or call 416-899-4013.

Langham, Lebanon and COVID-19

Lebanon is a key country for Christian work in the Middle East, given its historical commitment to full religious freedom, and its pivotal position between the west and the Arab world. Our Langham friends there tell us that Lebanon is currently undergoing excruciating instability.

Beirut's Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) was the venue for Langham Partnership's 2019 international council. Five Langham Scholars teach at ABTS, including Dr. Riad Kassis, head of Langham Scholars, Emad Botros, currently completing his PhD at Canada's McMaster Divinity College, and Hikmat Kashouh, who pastors an impactful church in Beirut, and is profiled in a Langham vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/334719510>.

In October, country-wide protests began across Lebanon, prompted by concerns about economic and political mismanagement. These are growing, as the economy deteriorates. Lebanon recently defaulted on its national debt. Our Langham friends in Lebanon report that since October, banks have been shut more than open, and the value of the Lebanese pound has been plummeting. The World Bank recently stated that 40% of Lebanese citizens could soon be living in poverty.

The COVID-19 crisis is also hitting Lebanon hard. Travel between hard-hit Iran, Syria and Lebanon is frequent and only loosely

controlled, making the situation worse. Schools, universities, courts, parliament, museums, places of entertainment and restaurants have been ordered closed.



This situation is impacting directly on the work of Langham team members, scholars and other Christian partners in Lebanon, and we can assume in many other countries. Riad Kassis, for example, was scheduled to speak at a national conference of Presbyterian pastors in Alexandria, Egypt in late March, which has been cancelled, as has a Langham Eurasia Graduates Forum scheduled for Moldova.

During this era of global economic uncertainty, let's remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Majority World, many of whom are in countries already living on the edge. For all the dislocation we are experiencing from the COVID-19 crisis, it will likely be much worse where many of our partners live and work.

Let's pray together that God would care for their immediate needs -- for daily provision and protection -- and that ministries which have been set back by this crisis would soon be restored. Let's also give thanks for the churches, preachers and scholars already strengthened by years of Langham partnership and training, who will stand ready to help their communities and congregations through this difficult time.

Update from a Scholar

Emad Botros, a Langham Scholar from Egypt supported by Langham Canada, is completing his PhD at McMaster Divinity College. He has returned to his sending school, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary. Emad and his wife Almess currently mentor six students. Emad is also working on several books, including *Reading Genesis from the Bangladesh Context*. This commentary is part of Langham's sponsored series *Windows on the Biblical Text: Reading the Bible from the Context of Islam*. Emad writes to us from Beirut:

“At the moment I am working on the final chapter of my dissertation, *Reading Jonah in the Context of Islam*. My aim is to finish the final draft by March 30, bringing to an end almost six years of hard work. My prayer is for strength, and clear thinking, to see me through. During the fall semester, I taught Research Methods and OT Survey at ABTS, and have just finished teaching OT Interpretation. As we all know, the time we spend with students outside of the classroom is equally important, and maybe more, to the time spent with them in the classroom. Thank you to all the Canadian donors who help make my work and study possible.”



It is a joy to join with Langham Partnership to see the kingdom of God flourish in the beautiful country of Zimbabwe! During these extremely challenging days, we are grateful to be able to bless ordinary believers and pastors with the monumental work that is the Africa Bible Commentary. As a Canadian working in Africa, I also appreciate the gift of gaining greater insights into the Word of God through the eyes, hearts, and wisdom of African scholars. Thank you, Langham Partnership for helping us all grow in wisdom and understanding.

Natalie Watson

YOU CAN BE PART OF LANGHAM'S MISSION!



WILL YOU STAND BESIDE THE CHURCH IN THE MAJORITY WORLD, AND OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS THERE WHO ARE SERVING IN SUCH DIFFICULT TIMES AND SITUATIONS? THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE, BUT THE GREATEST IS LOVE.

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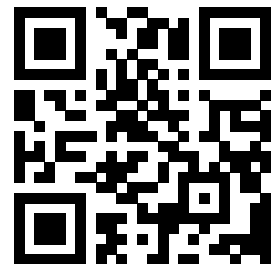
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