



LANGHAM PREACHING IN AFRICA: AN INTERVIEW WITH FEMI ADELEYE

Femi Adeleye (FA), Director of Langham Preaching for Africa, spoke with Steven Van Dyck (LP), Langham Partnership Canada's Executive Director, about the joys and challenges facing Langham Preaching in Africa. Femi is Nigerian and lives in Accra, Ghana.

LP: Can you tell us about Langham Preaching in Africa?

FA: Before COVID, we were a growing and strong movement. Langham Preaching Africa's first training seminar was held in Ghana. Soon after, Zimbabwe followed in 2006, and then Nigeria in 2007. We are now in 26 countries, including some very challenging contexts. South Sudan is one of them, because of the war and the genocide that took place there. But, we find that sometimes the more difficult the terrain, the more eager people are to do this work. In South Sudan all training is run in Arabic. We are particularly strong in places like Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa, and recently, Burkina Faso's preaching clubs have been growing.

LP: Can you explain how the preaching clubs work?

FA: A preaching club consists of persons who have gone through our training program, but don't want it to end with just one event. They want to meet regularly with others and continue to study and learn to preach. When they study the Scriptures and come across difficult texts, sometimes pastors don't know whom to turn to, and commentaries don't have what they need. But a preaching club is like a circle of accountability, where they can help and pray for one another.

LP: How has Covid-19 impacted the work?

FA: Covid has been a major challenge. Even pre-COVID, our medical facilities were inadequate in many countries. But with the virus, it's even more challenging. Facilities are overstretched, medical personnel can hardly cope. This has also affected our work, because now we cannot meet face to face as we used to do. So, we do much of our training and preaching club meetings virtually by zoom. But in the African context, it's a major challenge. Many pastors we work with, including the training facilitators, live where internet access is difficult or nonexistent. Some have phones but live where there's no electricity. They go to the nearest community where someone has a generator to charge the phone, and use it for a couple of days before having to go back to recharge.

Last week, I met with the leadership of all 14 Southern African countries. During the call, at least four or five dropped off due to network delays. Many of our movements don't have adequate resources, including no laptops. They use their phones, or someone's iPad.

LP: You have written about the challenge of the prosperity gospel in Africa. What is it, and how can you address it?

FA: The African church has grown significantly. The common phrase is, "the centre of gravity of the Christian faith has shifted from the North to the South." In some parts, churches are full, people take part in worship service with commitment, and want to live out the gospel in their lives. We celebrate this. However, with growth comes the



West African leaders consultation

challenge of discipleship. A major issue is the rise of the so-called prosperity gospel, the health and wealth gospel. Because of the acute poverty in some places,

this is attractive especially to the young generation. In my own country of Nigeria, we have pastors with their private jets. You won't find this teaching where the Church is being persecuted, such as in Khartoum, Sudan. It thrives in relatively affluent countries with a huge gap between rich and poor. Increasingly, this issue arises among participants in our Preaching program, so we study the Bible together to show how the gospel is not a shortcut to wealth. From Latin America and other parts of the world, Langham Scholars have written about corruption, and are engaging well with the health and wealth gospel.

LP: We know that Langham trains both women and men equally. Can you tell us about the women being trained in Africa?

FA: If I showed you pictures from South Sudan, you'd see that most of those being trained are women. When one person saw the pictures from South Sudan in our newsletter, she asked, 'Are there any men being trained?' Some women would say, 'Even if we're not allowed to preach in our church, that doesn't stop us from leading Bible studies and teaching the children.' The national coordinators in Botswana (Gaolekwe Nkwapi) and Uganda (Barbara Tumwine) are women, and also the regional coordinator for Eastern Africa (Mercy Ireri, from Kenya).

LP: What countries in Africa right now give you the most hope? Where is God on the move, visibly and in an exciting way?

FA: I'm glad you added 'visibly,' because we are surprised by how God works invisibly, till it comes to light. Nigeria has a lot of promise. Nigeria is one of the most vibrant movements because, from the very beginning in 2007, they established a good national structure to provide accountability for all the facilitators. They have a strong network of national trainers and facilitators. They have five preaching clubs. But they are not concerned only with Nigeria. They regularly send facilitators to South Sudan to assist with the training, and they pay the way. They don't receive any funds from Langham Preaching International, the funds are raised locally.

Ethiopia also shows much promise, with several people coming on board as trainers and facilitators, and plans to pioneer the work in Eritrea. The Ethiopian church is the fastest-growing on the continent, much faster than Nigeria or South Africa. The Ethiopian Church is a missionary church, sending missionaries elsewhere in Africa and the world. Borders with Eritrea finally began to be opened last year after many years of hostilities, and there was reconciliation, which was an opportunity to start work in Eritrea.

South Africa, apart from the good things going on locally, has helped to pioneer and support the work in Malawi, as well as in Botswana. These are signs of hope. We see movements to support others, including in Ghana, where they are partnering with Liberia to support them to do training. That kind of twinning relationship is quite encouraging.

LP: Thank you, Femi.



All-Africa Consultation from 2017

Introducing the new International Director of Langham Partnership International

After an extensive search, Rev. Tayo Arikawe, BSc, MTh, has been appointed as the new International Director of Langham Partnership International, effective April 1, 2021.

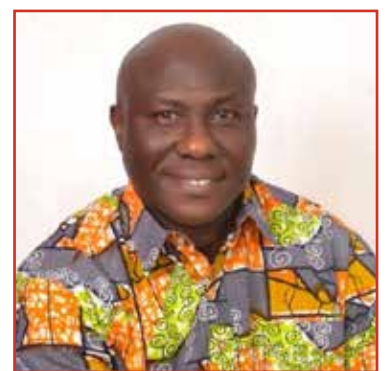
Tayo Arikawe, from Nigeria, has served in church planting and pastor training ministry in several countries in Africa, the UK and continental Europe, seeking in each case to align biblical mission theology with clear strategic vision and effective practice. Tayo, who lives in southwest London with his wife Calista and son Mekus, has also worked to strengthen relationships and missional vision among the diaspora Christian communities in the UK. Since 2017, Tayo has served as the Director of Ministries at London City Mission.

Chris Wright, who has been International Ministries Director at Langham Partnership since 2001, will continue to serve in an

ambassadorial capacity within the senior leadership team of Langham Partnership.

"At Langham Partnership we are delighted to welcome Tayo Arikawe as our new International Director. We are grateful that God has led us to a man of such character, skill and experience and we look forward to continuing to help equip the global church under Tayo's leadership," says Jill McGilvray, Chair of Langham Partnership International Council.

Langham Partnership Canada looks forward to working with Tayo as our International Director, and welcomes him to the global Langham Partnership family.



Langham Literature's New Headquarters

For over 12 years, Langham Partnership has used a rented warehouse in Carlisle, in northern England, for Langham Literature's operations. As Literature has grown, this space has become increasingly inadequate. At times up to 14 staff have been squeezed into a tiny office with so little privacy that they must go to their cars to make phone calls.



Langham Literature, as a reminder, works to strengthen and equip leaders of the Majority World Church by providing them with excellent evangelical books.

Two years ago, a great opportunity came available -- a warehouse for sale in Carlisle ideally suited to our needs. There is room for expanded offices, 100 per cent more warehouse space, and suitable parking, in a central location.

This new site will allow for an increased global role for Langham as a leading publisher of theological and biblical literature written by and for the Majority World Church.

The new office space will also be used by Langham International staff (including finance, and program oversight directors). Renovations have been delayed by Covid, and when Roman ruins were found during the work, the project was further delayed by the archeologists. However, everything is on track now for the warehouse to be in service by August of this year.

Owning our own building will mean saving annual rental payments going forward, and free up more cash for programs once the building is fully paid for. To date, about £1.3 million of the total £1.8 million project cost has been raised, and we are praying for Langham supporters around the world to fund the remaining £500,000 so that Langham won't need to use any of the credit line we have been extended to finance the purchase.

Langham Partnership Canada is working on a new project to make it even easier for Canadians to purchase titles from Langham Literature. Stay tuned for future updates.



Introducing a Langham Podcast

Dr. Chris Wright, author of many books, including *The Mission of God*,

is hosting a podcast featuring leading global church leaders, who can help us understand the joys and challenges facing

our Majority World brothers and sisters. Chris served as Langham's International Ministries Director for years, and is now serving on the senior leadership team in an ambassadorial position. We are happy to have the opportunity to hear this renowned scholar interview such leaders

as Rico Villanueva from the Asia Graduate School of Theology, Manila; Daniel Santos from McKenzie Presbyterian University in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Femi Adeleye, Langham Preaching Africa director and many more. For the links to these podcasts, visit www.langham.org.

2021 is John Stott's Centenary

As you know, Langham founder John Stott was in the very forefront of the world evangelical movement in the 20th century. He saw early on that the centre of gravity of the global Church is shifting to the Global South, and established Langham Partnership to further that vision. Today, we are all part of that growing mission.

Langham Partnership's global members are all sharing in celebrating John's birth. Langham Partnership Canada will be part of it. If you don't already receive our monthly eblasts, please visit www.langham.org, or email us at Canada@langham.org to sign up. We will be sending you links over the next few months as we look back on John's life, and forward to what God is doing and will do in the Majority World. In April, there will be a thanksgiving service for John's life, livestreamed from All Souls Church in London. Further details will be posted to our website.



We encourage you to visit two new websites with lots more information about John Stott and the centenary celebrations: www.johnstott.org and www.johnstott100.org

You can be involved in the work of Langham Canada

Churches around the world are growing, yet it's often a growth without depth as 8 in 10 pastors lack biblical training they need. That's why Langham exists, to equip pastors and leaders to faithfully teach God's Word.

Langham Partnership, with its mission to train preachers to teach the Bible, to train scholars to lead pastors of the future, and to provide literature to pastors, seminaries and Bible colleges around the world, is a strategic and logical fit for missional-minded Canadian churches.

We would love to have you and your church more deeply involved. We can provide you with multiple copies of this newsletter for distribution to your congregation. Our executive director can meet via zoom with your outreach and mission team, or the entire congregation if you would like, to present the vision and mission of Langham and invite you to join us. Email [Steven Van Dyck](mailto:Steven.VanDyck@langham.org) at canada@langham.org to begin the conversation.

Langham Continues to Grow in Mongolia

Since 2014, approximately 60 Mongolian pastors have received training through Langham Preaching. A growing network of six Preaching Clubs meet to practice preaching together, and for encouragement and accountability. Langham Preaching seminar participants come from many denominations, with varying levels of preaching experience. To date, Langham has trained two local facilitators, to enable program delivery in their mother tongue. Covid-19 has temporarily prevented new Preaching seminars, but the Preaching Clubs continue.

Langham's growth in Mongolia parallels the growth of the Church there. Unknown to many Canadian Christians, the past 30 years have witnessed an amazing work of the Spirit in Mongolia. Officially, at least 35 per cent of Mongolia's three million people practice Buddhism, with 2.1 per cent Christians. In 1989, when communism fell, there were four known Mongolian Christians. By 2000, Christians were estimated at 8,000 to 10,000, and today, over 40,000 believers meet in hundreds of churches throughout the country.

Communism had closed down religious life, but there are now 600 churches, filled with first-generation believers, young, and spiritually vital. But they face new challenges from outside theological influences. Langham aims to help give Mongolian pastors the strong foundation needed to address these changes.

Bayarjargal Garamtseren ("Bayar") is Mongolia's Preaching Club coordinator. He brings together all three Langham ministries in one impressive person. A Langham Scholar, Bayar earned his ThM degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, then earned a PhD in Biblical studies at Cambridge University (2014). Bayar heads a team working with the Mongolian Union Bible Society to produce the first translation of the entire Bible from the original languages into Mongolian.

Bayar has identified solid theological and biblical literature as a priority need for Mongolia's Church, to equip pastor-teachers and lay Christians

to share their faith, and resist false teaching. Over the past 10 years, Langham Literature has provided 91 books to Union Bible Theological College in the capital city Ulaanbataar (which narrowly beats out Yellowknife as the world's coldest capital city), and over 630 subsidized books to UBTC and the Mongolian Union Bible Society. There are many challenges. Translators are expensive, given the attraction of lucrative jobs with the many mining firms operating in Mongolia's burgeoning economy. The lack of seasoned Christian leaders means that people like Bayar are spread very thin, working as pastors, teachers, and NGO executives.

Langham has funded numerous titles over the past several years, including translations of *The Challenge of Preaching* (John Stott), *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* (Fee & Stewart) and several Chris Wright books. Langham is now working with an exciting new publishing initiative founded by Bayar, Erdem Buteel. They published a Mongolian translation of Chris Wright's *Sweeter than Honey* in 2019, to coincide with Chris' visit that year, and are planning Mongolian versions of Chris Wright's *The Mission of God's People*, and J.I. Packer's *Knowing God*.

Erdem Buteel works with Langham through the Publisher Development program, which identifies Majority World Christian publishers with entrepreneurial skill and a vision for publication of indigenous authors in their national language, and helps them achieve financial self-sufficiency through sale of books which address the deep questions asked within their culture.

Langham Literature is thrilled to participate in this exciting venture. You can see other such national publishing ventures profiled in Langham videos available online on our vimeo channel (go to vimeo.com and search Langham Partnership. Look for videos on Benin, Thailand and Cambodia especially).

You can also watch Langham Canada's recent interview with Bayar at www.langham.org/interview-with-bayar-garamtseren-langham-preaching-coordinator-for-mongolia/

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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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Remember to email us at canada@langham.org to request a zoom meeting with Steven Van Dyck, executive director of Langham Canada and the outreach and mission team at your church.