



## THE WORK OF LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP SHINES IN UGANDA

“I want to bring God’s truth to the broken beliefs and systems that lead to poverty,” says Emmanuel Mukeshimana, a Langham Scholar teaching at Bishop Tucker School of Divinity, a seminary affiliated with Uganda Christian University (UCU). It is a beautiful campus, with palm-lined walkways and stately old buildings, offering breathtaking views stretching to Lake Victoria shimmering in the distance. Over a century ago, Bishop Tucker, an early Anglican missionary, founded the seminary which now sits at the heart of UCU, today a leading school in Africa, with several thousand students, and academic programs in over fourteen disciplines.

Emmanuel himself has a PhD from UCU and helps teach Bishop Tucker’s 300 students, who are being prepared for ministry throughout East Africa.

Emmanuel decided to respond to the poverty he saw in East Africa by equipping himself theologically. It led him out of the classroom to found Square Ministries Africa, which aims to provide education and micro-loans. The charity especially focuses on young women and widows, often among the most vulnerable in his society, by providing projects such as loans to buy a sewing machine for a start-up tailoring business. The ultimate hope is to introduce Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Emmanuel laments the lack of trained pastors able to meet Uganda’s spiritual needs. “In Uganda and in East Africa in general we have a shortage of trained pastors... over 75% of church workers do not have theological training.”

The Ugandan church has faced open persecution at several points in its history. Its very founding in the 1880s was shaped by martyrdom. The tyrant king sentenced scores of young men to be burned at the stake – royal pages who chose to defy his orders for the sake of the Gospel. To this day, Ugandans celebrate June 3, the anniversary of

their deaths, as Uganda Martyrs Day. But nothing could stop the new church’s amazing growth. New believers wanted to become literate so they could read the Bible. As a result, the same word in the local language was settled on to mean both “believer” and “reader.” Among these very early “readers” was Apolo Kivebulaya (c.1864 - 1933), one of Uganda’s very first missionaries, carrying his new faith into then-unevangelized eastern Belgian Congo.

Today, Langham is still addressing this passion to read and learn among Uganda’s Christians. Langham has sent gifts of hundreds of books to schools like Africa Renewal University (ARU) through its Large Library Grant program. In 2018, thanks to its renovated and well-stocked library, ARU successfully applied to the Ugandan government to run a Masters program. Since 2007, Langham has also been supporting Kiwoko Bible Institute with gifts of books to establish their library.

From the beginning, Ugandan Christians have committed to training church leaders. Idi Amin’s most famous victim was Anglican Archbishop Luwum, assassinated in 1977. The last friend to see Luwum alive was Festo Kivengere, who escaped on that terrible day from the same police compound, and eventually on foot out of Uganda. The year before, Festo Kivengere had preached alongside John Stott at Urbana 1976. Langham Library has published *Ministry of Reconciliation* by Langham Scholar Alfred Olwa, about Kivengere’s global ministry. Alfred Olwa finished his PhD at Moore College, Sydney, Australia, then returned to teach at Bishop Tucker, and in 2017 became Anglican Bishop of Lango, his home area in northern Uganda.

Langham Global Ambassador Chris Wright has known Alfred Olwa for many years, and attended his 2017 consecration as bishop in a football stadium with over 10,000 other witnesses. Chris wrote then: “Alfred Olwa is well aware of the flourishing Langham Preaching movement



**Joseph Byamukama at Graduation**

in Uganda, and will undoubtedly encourage the clergy now entrusted to his episcopal care to benefit from its training. That way many more than the 10,000 who attended his consecration will be helped to grow with depth and spiritual maturity.”

Langham Scholar Joseph Byamukama graduated in April 2025 with a PhD from Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia. He writes for Gospel

Coalition Africa, and in 2024 Joseph established the Fount Church in Uganda’s capital, Kampala, and Veracity Fount, a ministry that seeks to equip the local church. Veracity Fount aims to help form pastors for fruitful ministry, through sustained mentoring and a commitment to spiritual and academic formation. It offers a library of over 5,000 volumes by leading African and Western evangelicals, such as Kwame Bediako, Conrad Mbewe, Chris Wright, Don Carson and many others. Joseph’s vision for Veracity Fount is to renew and revitalize the Ugandan Church through contextual theological research and resources.

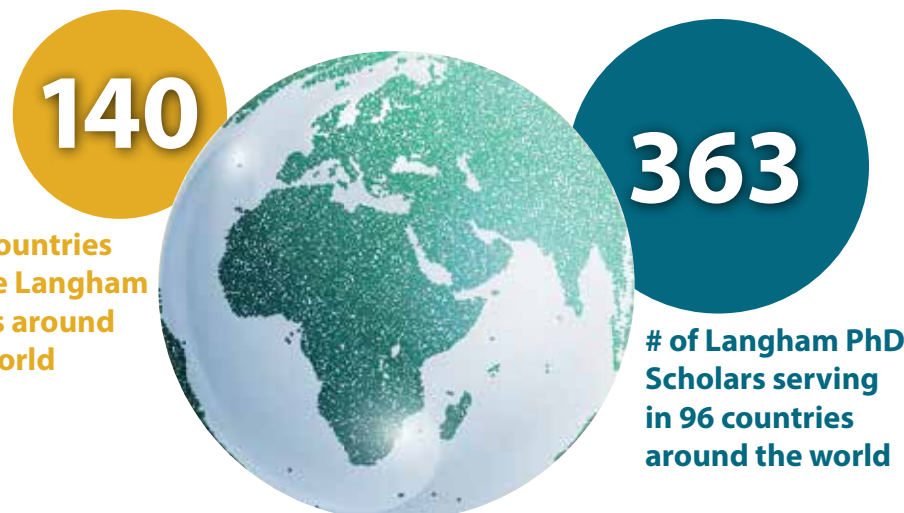
Such resources help prepare Uganda’s pastors for the challenges facing the local Church. Prosperity Gospel teaching and neo-gnostic cults are deceiving many Ugandans, especially since African traditional religion has historically created a spiritual understanding of a God who exists to solve problems and alleviate suffering. Rather than seeking a personal relationship with the God who is worthy of worship for who He is, many Ugandans go to Him for what He can offer. This African Traditionalist worldview explains the rise of deliverance ministries in some Ugandan churches that focus on, for example, generational curses and sins and exorcisms, undercutting the Gospel’s liberating message. Other young people are moving to Islam, for both philosophical and sometimes financial reasons.

Langham Preaching has for 23 years worked to ensure the next

generation of Uganda’s pastors remains biblically faithful and theologically well-grounded. Some surveys put Uganda’s evangelical population as high as 37%, but Joseph Byamukama believes these figures seriously overstate the health of the Ugandan church, creating a dangerous complacency about the future. The pressures of the prosperity gospel and other cults, a drift back to traditional religion (sometimes under cover of liberal theology), and growing secularism as Uganda’s youth are increasingly influenced by trends from the West, make a commitment to sound teaching increasingly important.

That has been the burden of Barbara Tumwine and her husband Paul Majoli, Uganda Langham Preaching movement coordinators. They have worked as a team since 2023; Barbara had been the coordinator for nine years previously. There are currently eight active facilitators and sixteen preaching clubs. Barbara reports that there are many preachers in Uganda working at a grassroots level, in lunch hour fellowships, house groups or overnight prayer meetings, who are passionate but very often with a low level of biblical understanding, 40% with no theological education. For 23 years, Langham in Uganda has aimed to raise the level of preaching by encouraging in-depth biblical study and training, and expository Bible-centred preaching. The Ugandan church community has embraced Langham’s ministry, and since 2023, Langham’s Ugandan work has been entirely locally supported. Prior to Covid, Langham Preaching worked with about 200 pastors and lay preachers a year, and while the total has gone down since, the aim by 2028 is to reach 500 participants.

Uganda has a dramatic church history, and many Ugandans today identify as evangelicals. The concern for leaders like Joseph and Barbara is that the church is wide but shallow, and without strong teaching and preaching, is vulnerable to harmful theologies and secularizing trends. By supporting Scholars like Emmanuel and Joseph, and Preaching leaders like Barbara, and the writing of biblical and theological materials by people like Langham Scholar Alfred Olwa for schools like Kiwoko Bible Institute, Langham Partnership’s vision is to equip a new generation of Ugandan Bible teachers.





# ACTS OF GRACE FOUNDATION SUPPORT THE WORK OF LANGHAM

By Frances Wilson

I work with Acts of Grace Foundation which has supported Langham Partnership Canada's Literature work in the Middle East. The foundation also supports a ministry, Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC). In March 2025, I visited AOC's work in the town of Stung Treng, Cambodia and met a local church leader who, after coming to know Jesus, led his entire family to the Lord. Today, forty other families in his village have come to faith in Christ through their witness. AOC is partnering with this community to build a church where they can train up young church leaders.

AOC's national director, Pisey, is also the Langham Cambodia Preaching Club leader in Stung Treng. I was thrilled to learn this when he wore a shirt with the Langham logo to dinner! Imagine how excited we both were to learn that we shared the Langham vision in common. The next day, we met another church leader who – after persecuting Christians verbally for many years – came to Christ through the witness of another elder in the community. He is now the pastor in his community.

Since then, they have led twelve more families to know Jesus. In addition to AOC's partnership, Pisey has connected this pastor with the Stung Treng Langham Preaching Club to equip him to teach his growing church.

We also visited a remote tribal village which for thirty years has been unsuccessfully petitioning the government to come and drill for water. At the invitation of tribal leaders, AOC is currently drilling in this village. When we visited the site, we were told that they had hit rock less than a metre below ground level and held out little hope for success. We prayed over the site together and were excited to learn later that evening that they had hit water! It is the first time this village has had a lasting, local supply of clean water. Pisey and AOC were then able to introduce this village for the first time to Jesus Christ, who is Living Water.



*Frances Wilson with Pastor Chi Chav, Elder Pan Chanthorn, and Langham Cambodia Preaching Club leader and AOC national director Pisey (L-R).*

## THE POWER OF WORDS: REACHING PEOPLE THROUGH ORAL TEACHING

Mercy Ireri is Langham Preaching East Africa coordinator. Her journey of faith began at the age of twelve when her father, an ordained Anglican priest, unexpectedly told her one Saturday evening, "You're twelve, you're old enough to share your testimony of salvation." Though taken aback by the comment, it sparked a realization for Mercy: if she was going to speak to others about Jesus, she needed to know Him personally. This led her to start reading her Bible.

Growing up in Eastern Kenya, Mercy was blessed with a strong foundation in Christian theology. Her grandparents were among the first followers of Jesus in their community after missionaries arrived, and her father's role as a priest impacted her faith.

However, Mercy quickly realized that her experience was not shared by many in Kenya. Illiteracy remains a significant barrier for many, preventing them from reading the Bible and forming a personal relationship with Jesus. For many communities, the only way to hear the gospel is through local pastors, but even then, some pastors have limited theological training, making it difficult for them to guide their congregations effectively.

Access to the Bible is also a challenge. While translation efforts continue, many communities still depend on oral teachings for scriptural knowledge. Langham Literature and Langham Scholars are trying to ensure that these communities can read and hear the Bible in their mother tongue.

After studying in the UK, Mercy returned to Kenya and was

introduced to Langham Partnership. Through a preaching seminar in Uganda, she felt called to support the formation of "preaching clubs" across Kenya, helping pastors continue practicing their biblical teaching skills.

Over time, she visited pastors working among unreached people groups in Northern Kenya and saw their deep passion for spreading the gospel despite their low literacy levels. In response, Langham Preaching developed seminars designed to be completely oral to support and equip these pastors with biblical preaching skills.

At one of these seminars, Mercy preached the gospel to a congregation. Her message had to be interpreted by the local pastor to ensure it was understood.

Five months later, Mercy revisited the congregation, and a young girl ran up to her and recited parts of the sermon she had delivered. The girl, who had remembered the message from the previous visit, had been reading the Bible to her illiterate parents, as were many other children in the community.

Mercy's experience highlights the importance of oral teaching in reaching unreached communities in Majority World nations. She wrote, "If people cannot hear about Jesus, how can they get to know Him?" This conviction led Mercy to accept her present appointment as Langham Preaching East Africa coordinator. Langham's mission continues to provide vital support, ensuring that even in the most challenging environments, the gospel can be heard and understood.

***"Nothing is more necessary for the building up of God's church in every age than an ample supply of God-gifted teachers. Yet I wonder if this need has ever been greater than it is in our own day."***  
***-- John Stott, founder of Langham Partnership***



Dr. Chris Wright, Langham's Global Ambassador, was the featured speaker at the missions conference at Light Presbyterian Church in Mississauga, ON on March 28-30, 2025. More than 1,000 people from 101 Toronto-area churches attended. We were happy to welcome Chris back to Canada. Chris is seen here with (L-R) board member Aaron Sun, board chair Peter Robinson, board member Manasseh Muvandimwe, executive director Steven Van Dyck, board members Sarah Kim, Elizabeth Denbeigh and Ben Tshin, and Langham Scholar Andy Kuo.

## WHY I SUPPORT LANGHAM CANADA

*By Denis Nikitin,  
Winnipeg*

The *Slavic Bible Commentary* was given to me as a present in 2017 in Russia when I was ordained as a pastor. This book became my favourite book next to the Bible. It is very helpful in preparing sermons and Bible studies and for my personal spiritual growth, and I use it all the time. It is also very relevant given its understanding of Slavic culture and mentality. When we were moving to Canada, and packing our luggage, I told my wife that this book had to go with us. My wife looked at me with wide eyes: if we put this book with 1800 pages in a suitcase we would not be able to pack many other things along with it. She went out of the room and in a minute came back, carrying a tote bag. She smiled, and said, "This is the bag for this book." I laughed and said, "You are right. If anyone asks me, I will just say: this is my guidebook, I will be reading it on the plane." Here in Winnipeg, I continue serving as a pastor among the Slavic community. We also do outreach among Ukrainian and Slavic people who came here due to the war. This book helps me a lot. Thank you for this publication and God bless you!

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