



# Langham<sup>TM</sup>

PARTNERSHIP

Equipping a new generation of Bible teachers

## 'May their tribe increase!'

### Langham Volunteers

Langham Partnership has always been blessed by the involvement and contribution of volunteers. For some of us, this is through faithful and regular prayer, while others are able to share financial resources from what God has given to us. We are hoping there'll soon be more opportunities for those of us unable to "go", to offer the practical gift of time and energy in supporting activities right here at home. However there is another group of volunteers who are making an invaluable contribution to our programmes right around the world.

The **Langham Preaching Volunteers** are men and women who freely give their time, energy and expertise to facilitate Seminars or coordinate and lead Preaching Programmes in their local regions. Inspired by God, 'the purpose of Langham Preaching went straight into their hearts!' either when they experienced it themselves or witnessed others having their 'eyes opened' to an expository way of preaching from the whole of Scripture.

**From Australia**, we have generous volunteers who continue to travel to those places where support is needed to help establish and grow local Preaching networks, while there are also numerous Aussie missionaries (not employed by Langham but by other mission agencies), who help to coordinate and support Langham Preaching events across the world. Of course our Scholars continue to be involved when they return home, leading and supporting programmes in their own regions.

Examples of some of our volunteers who have been invaluable in the Preaching Programme include

- Rory Shiner, David Baker and Kanishka Raffel from Perth
- Andrew Reid and Tim Johnson from Victoria,
- David Cook and Steve Young from NSW.

The locations in which these and other volunteers have supported the Preaching Programme include Chile, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Pakistan!

Langham Partnership provides funds for travel expenses and contributes to the cost of the events — accommodation, books and so on — but the preparation and time out of already very busy schedules is volunteered and often also generously supported by the Church or ministry in which they are based.

**Our goal is for each country to become equipped to run training events with indigenous trainers and facilitators.**

Indonesia is a great example here, with 30 volunteers having completed their own "train the trainer" and now undertaking

the training of others right across Indonesia. However in some places there has been no prior Langham training, and it is here that we provide international facilitators to help with initial training. It is especially exciting to see volunteers from the Majority World as facilitators — for example, Nigerian facilitators recently trained preachers in South Sudan.

Emmanuel Oladipo moved from being a volunteer with LPUKI to fulltime employment with Langham Preaching in 2009. He explains:

"What do a Kenya fabrication engineer, a Ugandan Pharmacist and an Ethiopian theologian have in common?... they are all active volunteers spending an enormous amount of time and personal resources to encourage Langham Preaching in their respective countries. What would the ministry be like without their selfless input, and that of others like them around the world?"

Each volunteer brings a unique contribution: Gordon Woolard, for example, I consider to be an 'unusual' American — he speaks a second language, and this he uses to train our colleagues in Francophone Africa.

David McCahon was a research scientist who served for many years as a Baptist pastor before volunteering to facilitate preaching seminars in West Africa in his retirement.

**Continued on page 3.**



Participants at the 2014 National Level 2 Preaching Training in Indonesia

# 'Do you know what you are reading?'

## The Africa Bible Commentary for Madagascar

On Sunday 12 October 2014, the Malagasy translation of the *Africa Bible Commentary* (ABC) — **Hevitenin'ny Baiboly** — was launched with a colourful ceremony in **Antananarivo, Madagascar**. Pieter Kwant, Luke Lewis and Solomon Andria from Langham Literature attended the launch.

Especially since visiting the island, Pieter says, he understands how important a local translation is **for the Malagasy people, and particularly for pastors.**

**Malagasy** is the **common language** of all 18 tribes on the island and key to their **national identity**. It is a **literate language** — and the Bible has been crucial in preserving it: in 2015 they will celebrate 180 years of the Bible in Malagasy (the oldest mother-tongue translation in Africa!)



The amphitheatre filling up for the launch event

Madagascar is the 4th largest island in the world and has a population of 23 million. About 50% of people are Christian, but with big denominational divides: Roman Catholic making up half, with Reformed Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anglican and Pentecostal denominations making up the other half. *Hevitenin'ny Baiboly* is a unique resource in their own language. As such it has great potential to draw believers together across their denominational divides. This was shown at the launch, organized in conjunction with the Malagasy Bible Society, Fikambanana Mampielany Baiboly Malagasy (FMBM), who is also the official distributor in Madagascar.

People started filing into the open-air arena soon after 13.00 hrs. Large trees provided some shade. Eleven church choirs had been invited — some denominational, others from rural areas, representing different tribes. Skilful conductors drew songs in an exuberant variety of musical styles from the enthusiastic singers. The joyful spectacle reminded us of John Stott's observation in *The Birds our Teachers* about how unique

among the religions of the world the singing of Christians is!

In the audience were dignitaries, such as the Mayor of Antananarivo Mr Ny Hasina Andriamanjato, and two Malagasy Academy Members, Dr Frédéric Randriamamonjy and Mrs Esther Randriamamonjy.

Rev Yvette Rabemila, translator and member of the Committee of Reference of the Malagasy ABC Project, referred to Philip's words in Acts 8 — 'Do you know what you are reading?' This is exactly the purpose of *Hevitenin'ny Baiboly*, she explained: 'It helps us understand the meaning of the Bible for ourselves!'

Then Dr Solomon Andria, editor of the Commentary, spoke. As a Madagascan by birth, there was no doubt that this translation was close to his heart.

He spoke passionately about how the vision for this book had started, way back in 1974 at a gathering of African theologians who asserted that the Bible is not just a book 'for the North' but also for Africa:

*This book explains simply, and in a Malagasy way of thinking, the word of God. Some comments in the original ABC were difficult to understand, others had no meaning in the context of Madagascan life. But these things have been attended to by the local team of translators during the 4 years it took to*



Coordinators of the Malagasy ABC Project, (back l to r): Solomon Andria, Pascal Ratovona (IFES coordinator, and retired lecturer from the ISTE theological institute in Antananarivo), Christiane Ravelomanana; front: Yvette Rabemila.

*complete. This is not just a commentary using Malagasy words, it uses Malagasy meanings!*



Unusual 'locals' meet Hevitenin'ny Baiboly

Prof Christiane Ravelomanana Randriamampionona, senior lecturer at the University of Antananarivo, had led the team of translators: 'As a group we did not know each other when we started', she said, 'but God put us together and he gave us the ability to do this work.'

She explained the rigorous selection criteria for participants, and the strict process they followed:

*Those who have worked on it know how difficult it is to translate into Malagasy from a Western language — from a Western way of thinking to an Eastern ... Also, there are not yet clear and exact rules for Malagasy grammar — and there are regional differences. This all made it difficult ... I can testify we received God's grace during the execution of this work. To God be all the glory!*

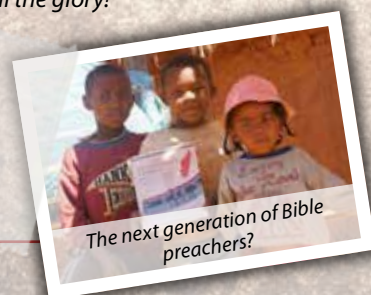
Rev Charles Walter Randriamampianina, a Lutheran Church pastor and member of the Committee of Reference, **thanked Langham Partnership for their support.**

He also thanked the FMBM for a special 'event' discount — rural pastors travelled to the city specially to be able to purchase a copy at this price! [The local price is 70,000 Ariary \$23, but on this Sunday copies were sold at 65,000 Ar; the official minimum monthly salary is 100,000 Ar; more than 90% of the population live on less than AUS\$4 per day!]

People talked excitedly afterwards, several were dreaming of projects they could write in Malagasy ... with so little to read in their own language and originated in their own context.

*Hevitenin'ny Baiboly* is not just **a gift to the Madagascan church** but also  **blessing the wider culture**; and it is **inspiring a new generation of Malagasy Christian writers.**

*To God be all the glory!*



The next generation of Bible preachers?



# 'Fitting feet' in Egypt ... Celebrating 150 years!

The Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC) recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. Founded in 1863 with the help of Scottish and American Presbyterian missionaries (at that time Abraham Lincoln was president and the American Civil War in its third year!) it offered training on a 'floating campus' that travelled the Nile from Aswan in the South to Cairo in the North. In the mornings students studied; in the evenings they ministered to villages along the river.

But Christianity first arrived in Egypt much earlier: according to tradition, through the Apostle Mark in the early first century. By AD300 Alexandria was one of the great Christian centres. Mark's first convert in Alexandria was Anianus, a lowly shoemaker, who became a bishop...

No wonder then that the picture above, taken by Uncle John's friend Jonathan Lamb some years ago in Derbyshire, UK, felt symbolic to Riad Kassis, also a **Langham Scholar**, when he attended the

anniversary celebrations and reflected on his own preparation for ministry:

*I recalled how Uncle John 'repaired' my own 'shoes' and 'equipped my feet' for life and ministry. His expository preaching, books and commentaries, vision for the church, and personal life of humility made him a 'shoe repairer' for so many of us, around the world ... a 'top quality' one!*

Nimrod Tica, a current Langham scholar from the Philippines, too responded to Jonathan's photograph: 'When the Lord said in his word, "as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness

*given by the gospel of peace" (Eph 6:15), he knew that some ... would not be adequately prepared for the task of bearing the gospel. That is why the Lord prepares servant-leaders, as Dr John Stott was, ... who teach men and women*

*how to properly handle the precious gospel of peace.'*

Today no less than four **Langham Scholars** are actively involved with ETSC:

Atef Gendy, the President; Hani Hanna, the Academic Dean; Wageeh Mikhail, the Director of the Centre for the Study of Early Christianity; and Andrea Zaki, a Professor and Vice-President of the Evangelical community of Egypt.

And four particular highlights of ETSC's ministry were celebrated in Cairo:

- ETSC continues to 'fit the feet' of leaders for the Arab church and society
- ETSC is renewing itself, through a major curriculum review, to respond to the current challenges in the region
- ETSC is determined to provide Christians in the Arab world with theological education suited to all ages, cultures and education levels
- ETSC is planning strategic information support for churches in their decision making through its Center for Church and Society Services (CCSS).

**In Egypt today, despite stressful social and political flux, the church stands. There are readied feet; and they have been fitted with the gospel of peace.**

*Riad Kassis is the Langham Partnership Director for Scholars*

*Jonathan Lamb is the former Director of Langham Preaching*

*by Riad Kassis, Langham Scholars*



## Langham Volunteers

Continued from page 1.

His exemplary lifestyle, insightful preaching and teaching, and diligent mentoring of individual participants bless in equal measure.

Some volunteers, like Christo Jonah, Emeka Egbo or Victor Obeng, are seconded for periods of time to partner agencies such as IFES or The Truth Mission.

Others, like John Bell, Frank Shayi or Matthew Gonkerwon, add volunteering to the workload in their churches or Bible colleges. They not only teach and preach but also organize events, lead teams,

supervise groups and build preaching movements.

**Even though their countries are, in some cases, among the poorest on earth, volunteers all serve without remuneration from Langham Partnership International.**

Ignatius Mainbu's banana plantation gives him an income that enables him to volunteer his time. Goat farming supplements Elkana Gonda's income as a part-time teacher in a Bible school.

I too served as a volunteer on the LPUKI Board for several years before I got 'demoted' to staff member in 2009. As I now revert to the more exulted role [of volunteer on my retirement at the end of 2014], I praise the Lord no end, and I take my hat off to those volunteers with whom I have been privileged to serve — and to all the others, in all their countries and ministries beyond my personal experience.

**As we pray in Africa, 'May their tribe increase!'"**

*Emmanuel Oladipo (photo copyright Mark Meynell)*



# God's Marvellous Multiplication

## Langham Partnership: inter-programme engagement

The three Langham programmes — Literature, Scholars, Preaching — evolved from Uncle John's prayerful listening to the needs of believers in the Majority World.

The programmes were not particularly designed to inter-relate. But after years of investment, they now appear to regularly and delightfully feed back into one another...

Take Daniel Salinas, an early **Langham Scholar**. He completed his PhD in Church History at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 2004. Today he serves as the International Partnership Coordinator for the Theological Education Initiative of the United World Mission (TEI). His role is about establishing partnerships to help seminaries in the global south improve their programs and faculty. At this time he is initiating conversations with seminaries in Mexico, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Philippines and Tanzania while currently living in the USA. After the initial emails and Skype conversations he then intends to visit these countries to get to know them personally and assess how the partnership with TEI will benefit them.

Back in March 2014 Daniel was in Sao Paulo, **Brazil**, for the **Lausanne Global Consultation**, speaking on 'Prosperity Theology, Poverty, and the Gospel'. While there, he was able to interact with participants from 16 countries, and is now part of the **writing team** that will produce the final **declaration of the consultation**. Daniel is also coordinating the **editorial team** publishing a book on the same topic.

Daniel participated in **Langham Preaching Seminars** in both **Peru** and **Argentina** using his textbook *How to Preach the Letters of the New Testament*. In the midst of these engagements, Daniel continues to work on a **theological textbook** for use in Latin America, which will be made available in both **English** and **Spanish**.

Daniel's ministry shows the many different opportunities for engagement offered by Langham Partnership: as a graduated **Langham Scholar**, who has already published a book with **Langham Literature**, he participates in **Langham Preaching** events and is working on a second book to be published by Langham Literature. In each of these areas,



Daniel, Gayna, Jonathan and Maida Salinas

Langham is supporting a world-class scholar, engaged in making a global impact.

What a privilege to work together for the Kingdom! Decades after the initial 'investment', Daniel is producing not just more of the same but multiplying a variety of returns. God has used him in each Langham Programme to enrich the others.

Such an outcome affirms our focus as 'co-workers' with God. Looking forward to His marvellous multiplication of all our contributions!

by Stefani Ferenzi, executive assistant to Riad Kassis, International Director of Langham Scholars

## How Langham Literature Grows Writers around the World

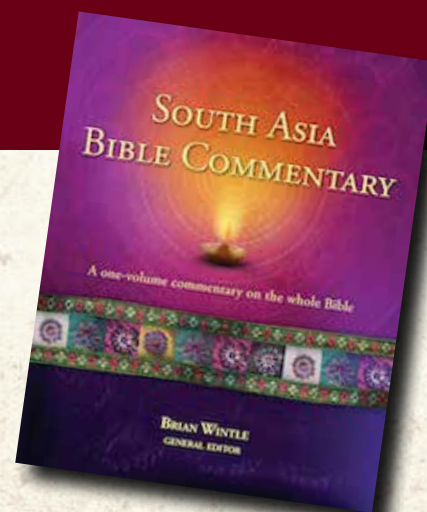
The creators of genetically modified crops take great care to protect their investment. Farmers can only plant seed bought from the company, and each year they have to buy new seed. Woe betide if they allow seed to fall in an adjoining field and come up by itself! Lawyer's letters will follow.

Fortunately, Langham is not planting those sorts of seeds. We are delighted when our seed sprouts in other fields. For example, seeds planted at a writing workshop in Kuala Lumpur in 2011 sprouted in the Philippines in February 2014. Three of those who participated in the Kuala Lumpur workshop (two of them now published authors) conducted a writing conference for thirty of their colleagues and graduate students. They will be able to sow well, because they have been caring for their "seed" by meeting regularly to help each other write. Soon, they will be nurturing other groups of Christian writers.

Going even further back, in 2007 Langham planted seeds in an editor from

Ghana, who [went] to Canada for two months of training. That seed did not seem to sprout well. For various reasons, she left the publishing programme for which we had trained her and took up a different line of work. But the seed was still there. It sprouted late in 2013. She is now part of the team working on the proofreading of the South Asia Bible Commentary, a major Langham project.

These cases illustrate Jesus' parable: "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head" (Mark 4:26-28).



Thank you to all of you who made the sowing possible, and thanks to God who has provided the right growing conditions for the seed. We may never know where all these seeds have blown, but we can trust (and pray) that he will nurture the crop.

by Isobel Stevenson, Langham Literature

The creation of the South Asia Bible Commentary is entering its final stages. This much-anticipated one volume commentary will be released and launched later this year. Please pray for the team that is completing this important project and for the final result: a book that is both simple and profound as it brings together the word of God and the South Asian cultural context.

# Response Form

## My Gift

I want to —

Give \$  regularly — monthly / quarterly / annually (circle whichever applies). *Please complete the donation amount and the payment authority sections below.*

Give a one off gift of \$   
*Please make cheques payable to Langham Partnership (Aust) or complete card details below.*

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Yes, I would like to receive Daily Thoughts along with the monthly eNews.

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## Periodical Payments/ Internet Deposits

You may wish to arrange with your bank to set up periodical payments from your account directly to the Langham Partnership bank account or to transfer monies directly via internet banking. The details you will need are:

**Account Name** Langham Partnership (Aust)

**Bank and Branch** Westpac, Springwood NSW

**BSB** 032 837 **Account Number** 144002

**See Website for Online Donations**

**www.langham.org**

Langham Partnership Australia

PO Box 530 Springwood NSW 2777



AUSTRALIA

# Langham

PARTNERSHIP

**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.

As an evangelical organisation, the Langham Partnership is above all committed to exalt the name and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, to promote the gospel of His grace and to foster the mission of His church.

We do this through our three programmes:

**Langham Scholars** offers doctoral scholarships for theological leaders who will lead churches and train the next generation of Bible teachers in their home countries

**Langham Literature** provides preachers and Bible colleges with evangelical literature and mentors indigenous writers, editors and publishers

**Langham Preaching** establishes national movements for continuous training in expository biblical preaching



**Langham Preaching seminars are all about getting into God's Word.** Please pray for Langham Preaching events across the world — see the enclosed prayer slip for Preaching events to be held over the next six months.

For a weekly update, subscribe to the emailed Preaching Prayershot at <http://au.langham.org/get-involved/sign-up-for-email-updates/>



**Have you considered including Langham Partnership in your will?**

Like many mission organizations, we can benefit greatly when friends make a final gift that continues to bless the ministries they have generously supported in life. Once you have made proper and primary provision for family and friends this can be a very effective way to go on making a difference to the church on earth when you have joined the church in glory! If you would like to consider this option in your will please contact the Langham Australia office on 02 4751 9036.