



CANADA

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Interview with a Scholar:

Meet David Tarus from Kenya

David Kirwa Tarus (DT) is one of Langham Canada's newest scholars. He is emerging relatively unscathed from his first Canadian winter, studying at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ont. We spoke to David about why his studies will be important in Kenya and beyond – and his wishes for his own father who is an evangelist in Kenya

So, how was this winter been for you?

DT: It's been quite rough. It's very different from Kenya. I lived in Chicago for a year-and-a-half. I knew a little bit of what to expect. But it's not been easy.

Tell us about your studies.

DT: My area of specialty is theological studies, with a systematic theology focus. I'm going to be studying John Calvin, and specifically I'm going to be looking at Calvin's doctrine of the image of God, vis-a-vis the African understanding of the human person. I'm going to be looking at an African understanding of Ubuntu, how we understand the human being to be a being in community, through Calvin's image of God.

In my dissertation I'd like to find ways in which theology and the doctrine of the image of God can address ethnic conflict. It is exciting. I'm still trying to formulate my thoughts.

What has being a Langham scholar meant to you?

DT: In addition to providing the finances, being a Langham scholar has played a big role in shaping who I am spiritu-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

David Kirwa Tarus and his family. David will be studying John Calvin's doctrine of the image of God, vis-a-vis the African understanding of the human person.

ally. Fred Gale, Langham Scholar Care Coordinator, has recently visited. We talked about my spiritual journey, and how God is shaping me not just as a scholar but as his child. He affirmed my identity and encouraged my growth as a child of God. Langham is more than finances. It's a family providing me the nourishment I need.

David, how do you think your studies will help impact the Church in Kenya?

DT: I would say that for some of us coming from Africa or the poor continents, it would be almost impossible to afford studies in these top-notch Christian schools. Being able to get funding from an organization like Langham is just a tremendous opportunity and a blessing. It is a chance for us to get great top studies so we can benefit the Church in Africa.

The Church in Africa is obviously growing by numbers every day, but part of John Stott's concern was that a church needs to grow in terms of depth as well.

Being trained in a place like McMaster will give me the opportunity to help the Church in Africa to grow in depth, when we can go back and train pastors, leaders, ministers. It will be providing that depth for the Church.

My father is an evangelist with the Africa Inland Church [one of Kenya's largest denominations]. He does [page 2](#) ▶▶



Update from Langham Scholar Chandra Wim

“I’m currently in the first stage of my doctoral program, i.e., the coursework stage. I have taken five courses and am doing two now. I still have two courses that need to be taken this Fall, in addition to the language requirement test (German and Greek). I’m aiming to complete all the coursework by the end of this year so that I can proceed to the comprehensive examinations stage by the beginning of 2015.

It’s been a pretty busy semester with a lot of reading, writing, and presentation. As an international student with English not as my first language, I have to take a longer time to read and do my assignments. Having said that, I enjoy every little bit of my study here. Please continue to pray for the passion for and the enjoyment of studying theology, despite the hard work that entails the study.” *Chandra Wim is a Langham Scholar studying at Wycliffe College in Toronto.*

not have any theological training, but he takes care of three congregations. I think about people like my father who are with a church where there is a lot to be done. The theological schools are not producing pastors fast enough for these fast growing congregations. My heart is there. I’d like to see people like my father get training. I’m thinking of basic lay training all the way up to the graduate level. I’m obviously excited about getting the degree and going back to Africa.

Thank you to Langham for investing in us. I consider this a great honor and opportunity to grow and to develop myself as a scholar and as a pastor. I want to become a pastor-scholar and a scholar-pastor. I want to integrate faith and learning: to help the African church grow in depth and in purpose. My role model in this endeavor is the Rev. Dr. John Stott. He embodied all that I want to pursue. He had a big heart for scholarship and for the church. He published widely but never abandoned church ministry. I am constantly thinking on ways I can do that.

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 came 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 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

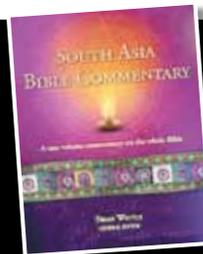
South Asia Bible Commentary Enters Final Stages

At last the final shape of the South Asia Bible Commentary (SABC) is beginning to emerge. In late 2013 the SABC editorial team met in Coimbatore, South India – five of the six theological editors of this ground-breaking project are Langham Scholars.

What a wonderful example of how the ministries of

Langham merge together for the good of the Global Church. “*What a pleasure it was to work through this commentary. The writer opened up the book simply but profoundly,*” wrote a reviewer of one of the commentary’s essays.

Thanks to the excellence of the editorial team, 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. –*Isobel Stevenson*

Network of Local Preaching Facilitators Grows in East Africa

The first four-day-long regional teacher workshop for Langham Preaching country coordinators and facilitators in East Africa took place in Nairobi last November. Canada’s Jennifer Cuthbertson and her colleague, Mike McGowan, facilitated this interactive workshop with 15 participants from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Each participant had previously



Jennifer Cuthbertson facilitated an interactive workshop in East Africa last November.

completed all three levels of Langham Preaching seminars as well as further training as facilitators. This workshop identified common difficulties encountered when teaching Level 1 seminars and together developed appropriate solutions.

Working in national teams, students discussed what they had found most difficult to learn in the seminar and then identified lessons they find most daunting to teach. From their combined list, they selected five

challenging lessons to focus on in this workshop.

Each team completed oral and written exercises that introduced goal setting, lesson planning, skill teaching and evaluation. These activities prepared them for the key part of the workshop: practice teaching. The ‘class’ and facilitators responded with feedback on the relevance of exercises and illustrations used. Together

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skills and gifts of the authors and the support of the global Langham family of friends and donors, this important publication is well on its way to completion.

Please continue to pray for the team, particularly Canada’s own Isobel Stevenson, as they work on the final details for a project of this scope. Please pray 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.

How Your Will Can Help Langham’s Mission

We all know the incredible power and breadth of Langham founder John Stott’s legacy to the world. Langham itself is the very bedrock of that legacy, equipping the next generation of Bible teachers around the world. John Stott generously directed the proceeds of his books to fund the work of Langham.

What an amazing gift to the global Church.

It is also within the power of the ordinary, average-income Canadian donor to make a lasting legacy gift to the work of Langham Canada and impact the Church of the Majority World for years and generations to come.

In fact, legacy (or planned giving, as it is also known), often enables donors to make larger gifts through estate planning than they may have been able to make in their lifetime. If you have a will (and it’s important to note that a reported 56% of Canadians do not!), you can leave something behind to continue your legacy of giving and impact even after your life is over.

Legacy gifts are most often bequests left in a will for a charity, although there are other options such as insurance policies and RSPs.

Some planned giving experts advise people considering a legacy gift to think of their charity of choice as another “child,” that they will plan for in their giving. The child is named charity and leaving a gift to charity typically does not take away from the gifts left to your actual family. In fact, sometimes there are very beneficial tax benefits to your estate that a specialist in this area can advise you of.

Here is some of what you need to know to consider making a legacy gift to Langham Canada.

- Anyone with a will can make such a gift. Sometimes the gift is a percentage of the estate (which means it will grow as your estate grows), others choose to designate a specific dollar amount to their charity of choice.
- You can speak to a planned giving advisor (there are groups out there to help) for more information, or consult your lawyer directly to designate a gift in your will to a charity.
- Note the correct spelling of the charity’s name, in Langham’s case the correct legal name is Langham Partnership of Canada for Global Christian Education, Inc. (BN 119241537RR0001).

Let us know if you make this decision so that we can thank you now! And remember, legacy giving is a wonderful way to model generosity to your family, make sure your priorities carry on even after you are gone, and, in Langham’s case, ensure that the Church of the Majority World growing so quickly in numbers will grow deeply in maturity at the same time.

all suggested ways to improve any weak elements of the lessons.

This practice teaching was particularly well-timed for the teams from Rwanda and Burundi. They returned home on Saturday evening – and started teaching Level 1 seminars the following Monday!

Alice Mugeni, one of the Rwandan seminar teachers, wrote: “I think the greatest thing I have learned is to make learning and teaching simple, easy, fun and enjoyable and to know how to set goals and know the best way to achieve that!...what comes first and all the steps I would follow ... the use of illustrations ... it helped participants to understand better and easier [the] different concepts.” The Rev. John Orochi from Uganda responded enthusiastically after returning home: “Your teaching is still running in my eyes!”

The participants also developed new friendships and strengthened existing ones, worked in teams, and became a more cohesive regional unit. “Knowing that we are surrounded by a family of Langham members with the same heart and same vision is so encouraging when we are doing the ministry. While we were having the Level 1 in Bujumbura, I was encouraged to know that in Kigali, Alice and Albert [Mabasi] are doing the same, facing [the] same challenges but not discouraged, rejoicing with the same light in eyes of participants when they discover new things ... people are praying for us with a true heart and knowing exactly what we are facing because they have been through it,” said Emmanuel Bagumako from Burundi.

–Jennifer Cuthbertson, Coordinator for Trainer Development, Langham Preaching.



“Being able to get funding from an organization like Langham is just a tremendous opportunity and a blessing. It is a chance for us to get great top studies so we can benefit the Church in Africa.”

–David Tarus

Will you help more scholars like David benefit the Church in areas where it is growing in numbers – but needs to also grow in depth? Let’s stand together with our brothers and sisters serving Christ around the world.

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