



CANADA

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SPRING 2013

## Message From Chris Wright to Canada



Chris Wright

Somewhere in the world right now a student is sitting in a seminary classroom getting excited about what she is learning from the Bible, as she is being taught by a faculty member who got their PhD in theology through the Langham Scholar program. Actually, there are many thousands of students, pastors and leaders of the future generation, for whom that is true since nearly 300 Langham Scholars

**S**omewhere in the world right now a pastor is preparing to preach next Sunday and is working hard on a Bible passage with skills learned in a Langham Preaching seminar. Actually, there are thousands of pastors all over the world for whom that will be true. And some of them will have been trained by national leaders trained by Jennifer Cuthbertson.

are teaching all over the world.

Somewhere in the world right now a librarian is unpacking a consignment of books just arrived from the Langham Literature warehouse in Carlisle, which very soon will be catalogued and available for the students in that seminary, to feed their minds and hearts with good teaching. And some of those books will be written by local authors trained and edited by Isobel Stevenson. Actually, there are hundreds of seminaries all over the world whose libraries depend heavily on Langham Literature's grant program and logistical service.

And all over the world today ordinary church members will benefit from such preaching, teaching and reading, and will be making a difference for the kingdom of God in the places where they live and work – 'equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ'. That's why we do what we do.

Thank you, Langham supporters in Canada, for your part in this ministry which in multiple ways enables the Bible to change the church so the church can change the world, for God.

**Chris Wright**  
International Ministries Director

### Numbers Tell the Langham Story

- 3:** The number of integrated ministries of Langham-Literature, Preaching and Scholars.
- 70+:** The number of countries where Langham ministries thrive.
- 350+:** The number of Langham scholars around the world today.
- 10,000:** The number of pastors and lay preachers trained through Langham Preaching last year alone.
- 25,000:** The number of biblical books supplied to

pastors and scholars in the Majority World just last year.

**Countless:** The number of Christians in the Majority World who grow in depth, maturity and faithfulness through the multiplication effect of all those numbers listed above.

**And almost measureless:** Your impact on the Church of the Majority World when you pray, support and donate to Langham Partnership.



Esther Xue has a burden for theological education in China.

### Interview With a Langham Scholar in Canada

**E**sther Xue is a Langham Scholar in her fourth year at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ont. She majors in Pauline studies.

#### *Esther, why did you select McMaster?*

It was the timing that I met with my present supervisor, a prestigious New Testament scholar, Stanley Porter. When I was studying in China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong, God gave me a calling to pursue advanced studies (a PhD degree). Just at about the same time, Dr. Porter visited CGST. We had a nice conversation. I then applied for McMaster Divinity College to study with Dr. Porter. I knew that it was God's doing that I can study with him. It is such a nice community!

#### *How did you first connect with Langham?*

There is a Langham Hong Kong, like Langham Canada. That's how I knew about it. One of my professors was a member of Langham and I knew professors who were supported by Langham. I applied and was accepted. It's such a blessing for me. I feel it is such a privilege to be part of the Langham family. I could not study here without Langham's help. It gives me part of my tuition, which is very, very helpful. Without this support I would get into financial trouble. Thank you so much for all the great supports both in financial and spiritual areas!

#### *Esther, what will you do when you are done your degree?*

After I finish my degree I would like to teach in the seminary in China. In China we have lots of Christians, but we don't have enough pastors. I have a burden for theological education. I hope more Christians can have chance to be trained in seminaries for their growth in theological thoughts and spiritual formation. In China, we have a lack of trained pastors and resources of theological education as well. I would like to make my own little contribution by the grace of God!

#### *How does Langham help the church in China?*

One way is to help younger scholars like me teach in seminaries and some come back to be pastors in China. Then there are the preaching seminars, so scholars and pastors know how to do sermons and teachings better. Langham is really helpful in many perspectives.

#### *What has your experience been like in Canada?*

I really enjoy being here. McMaster Divinity College is a nice community, the professors are nice. We have a good community with the students. Once a month, we have a linguistic circle in my supervisor's house. It is good to be here. Regarding my church service, I am teaching adult Sunday school in Grace Mandarin Alliance Church. It's the only Mandarin church in Hamilton. Also, I would give some sermons when our pastor is in his Sabbatical this year.

## It's the Home Stretch for South Asia Bible Commentary. Canada has a Role to Play!

**M**ay is a very hot time of year in South Asia. So the *South Asia Bible Commentary* (SABC) team braved kilometers of switchback roads winding through jungles and tea plantations as we ascended into the cool Nilgiri Hills for our May meeting. I had the privilege of being with the team for the first time. I have been help-

ing to edit the SABC for about nine months, but it is hard to work with people you have never met, and even harder to edit for a culture you know only through books and movies. So off to India I flew with Isobel Stevenson, the Langham Literature editor based in Canada.

I found the men and women running this project to be

### How can the Canadian Langham community pray for you Esther?

Thank you for asking. Please do pray for me, for my writing. I want to finish my writing at least by the end of this year, so there's not so much time left. Please pray for my concentration and that I'd be productive. My senior pastor in the Chinese church is on sabbatical so I am taking a role in teaching a course in introduction to Old Testament, and I need to give some sermons too. Please pray for me that I can be concentrated on my writing, and be productive. Please also pray for wisdom that I know how to balance my academic research and my church services. Thank you very much!

*“First, churches depend very largely on their pastors. Secondly, pastors [those who are able to be trained in seminary] depend on their seminaries, where they are either made or marred, either equipped or ruined. Thirdly, seminaries depend on their faculty, who influence their students for good or ill by their teaching and example. Fourthly, these faculty members need to be well qualified, both in academic ability and in spiritual maturity. In these four simple steps we have traced the welfare of local churches back to the quality of seminary teachers. That is the logic of the Langham Scholars program.”*

—John Stott, founder of Langham Canada

### Langham Preaching Offers On-going Helps to Preachers

Canada's Jennifer Cuthbertson, Coordinator for Trainer Development for Langham Preaching, has initiated a new and ongoing service to Langham Preacher Clubs around the world. Once a month, preachers will receive a brief preaching tip. The first “Helps” sheet was recently circulated, reminding preachers that

Visit [www.langham.org](http://www.langham.org) regularly for stories from Langham Literature, Langham Preaching and stories about scholars like Esther who will impact thousands of Christians in the Majority World because of your help.

**HELP #1**  
**CALLING TO ATTENTION!**

**CALLING ALL PREACHERS TO ATTENTION!**

The more actively we think before, during, and after a sermon, the more we will hear, learn, and understand

Did you know that when you ask an appropriate question or tell a relevant story to begin your sermon, you are teaching well! You are helping your people to start thinking about the message that will follow. You are calling your people to attention!

A clear message helps you help your people to keep thinking about that question or story during the sermon. They want to know why you asked that question or told that story. They want to know how it relates to the passage. You are keeping their attention!

Good teaching also happens when you include relevant application in your sermon. How does the beginning question or story and Bible passage connect to their lives? This connection helps your people continue to think and talk about the message and practice the application after they leave church. You continue to keep their attention!

All of this attention to the Bible passage and application causes them to learn and understand how to live Christian lives—lives pleasing to God.

One Langham Preaching location sends the Bible passages and lessons to everyone before the sermon begins. The participants can read the passages and work on the lessons before they come. When the sermon begins, the participants are already at attention! Can you think of other ways we can call our people to attention? Write them down and send to me so we can share your ideas with others.

Your comments and ideas are welcome!

Jennifer Cuthbertson, Coordinator for Trainer Development, [jennifer.cuthbertson@langham.org](mailto:jennifer.cuthbertson@langham.org)

teaching well can include questions or stories to start a sermon, and relevant application. “How does the beginning question or story and Bible passage connect to their lives? This connection helps your people continue to think and talk about the message and practice the application after they leave church. You continue to keep their attention! All of this attention to the Bible passage and application causes them to learn and understand how to live Christian lives – lives pleasing to God.” The Helps will be translated into French and Spanish, and includes an invitation for preachers to send in their own great ideas. We think *this* is a great idea!

*“Before Langham trained me, I had gone about preaching in the wrong way. Langham introduced me to the Bible I never knew.”*

—James Wainaina, Kenya

amazing and obviously God-chosen and empowered. Most of them are Langham scholars who are now respected leaders and seminary professors in their regions of South Asia. Most have to fit their SABC work into already full schedules. Yet despite the pressure of work and their very diverse theological backgrounds, they respect and support one another. Difficult issues are tackled with grace, humour and humility.

The SABC project is now in the home stretch. By the end of this year work will begin on the Hindi translation of the New Testament. Meanwhile, the rest of us will be

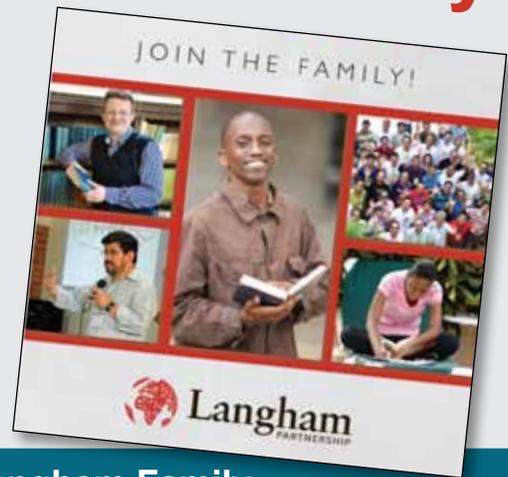
working to finish the editing of the Old Testament commentaries. Please pray that the team will have the strength, wisdom, and uninterrupted time to finish their work so that by 2015 the entire commentary will be printed and available to South Asian Christians.

— Lisa Eary, freelance editor

**Langham Canada is forming a prayer support team for the South Asia Bible Commentary. Email [Canada@langham.org](mailto:Canada@langham.org) to join.**

# Welcome Your Friends to the Family!

**Y**ou can offer this concise, readable pamphlet (available also in Chinese) to your friends, neighbours and church family to introduce them to Langham Partnership. Email [Canada@langham.org](mailto:Canada@langham.org) to request multiple copies. Share with them the opportunity to have a multiplying impact on the Church in the Majority World.



## Invite Your Church to Join the Langham Family

How can your church be a part of the Langham family?  
Email [canada@langham.org](mailto:canada@langham.org) for more information.



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*"I am learning how to find the path to Christ in the text and then how to relate that message to my congregation, so that they can discover Christ as well."*

*—A pastor from the Cotonou preachers' club in Benin*

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