

Challenges in Lebanon

The following article was written by Elie Haddad, Provost, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. Langham Partnership - Canada and reSource Leadership International are co-sponsoring Elie's studies at the International Baptist Theological Seminary, in Prague, Czech Republic. Elie is Pursuing this degree part time with regular trips to Prague.



Elie Haddad

The political situation in Lebanon is getting worse. No one knows how the conflict will be resolved. Will it lead to another civil war? No one wants war; at the same time, none of the political leaders are willing to make any concessions for peace. So, what will happen to our ministry in the midst of this chaos? It's very interesting how things work in God's economy. As the situation in Lebanon has been degrading for a couple of years now, our ministry has been growing. Our student enrolment is almost doubling every year, and God has been bringing the right resources at the right time to meet the resulting challenges.

Our seminary is unique. Lebanon is the only country in the Arab world that allows students from non-Christian backgrounds to be enrolled in theological education. This puts a big responsibility on our shoulders. We have the challenge of equip-

ping leaders for the Church in the entire region of the Middle East and North Africa. We don't take this responsibility lightly, and we continually and prayerfully call on God for direction on what role He wants us to play in extending His Kingdom in the Arab world.

The majority of the population in our region is still unreached. In order to reach our world we need to have a Church that is outward-looking and is single-mindedly determined to live out its commission no matter what the cost. Such a Church, a Church that exists for the sake of the world, requires a different kind of leadership: missional leadership. This is why our role is critical at this stage. We are changing our philosophy of education and our curriculum to become a training institution that is able to equip effective and relevant leaders for the Church in our region today; leaders that can transform their churches to become churches that can transform their communities.

My personal passion is for the Church. I want to see our churches transformed into becoming more missional and incarnational. This is why I have chosen to do my PhD research on cultivating a missional ecclesiology for the local church in Lebanon. I believe that it takes a renewed vision for what it means to be a church and what our role in the Missio Dei is to reach our communities for Christ.

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Langham Scholars in action around the world

One of the privileges of the International Director is to meet Langham Scholars in different parts of the world, fully engaged in Christian leadership, teaching and writing. Chris Wright has managed to meet fourteen Langham Scholars from nine different countries in just three months of travel in four countries. He writes:

In February I was in **Nigeria** for the launch of the Langham Preaching program there, pioneered by the Nigerian Initiative for the Promotion of Expository Preaching. The Chair of their committee was **Dr. Pandang Yamsat**. Pandang is the President of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (with 3 million members), and on the Board of the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN). His support for this new movement in biblical preaching is vital, and was matched by the encouragement of senior leaders of other large Nigerian churches.

In Nigeria I also visited Jos ECWA Theological Seminary (JETS), where **Dr. Sam Kunhiyop** is Provost. Sam has Langham Scholars on his faculty who are producing books for their own context. One of his own latest is African Christian Ethics.

Dr. Randee Morphee is also on the faculty of JETS, and the increasing number of PhDs on the faculty there is enabling them to offer a doctoral program in biblical studies. I met the first group of five candidates in this program, and was

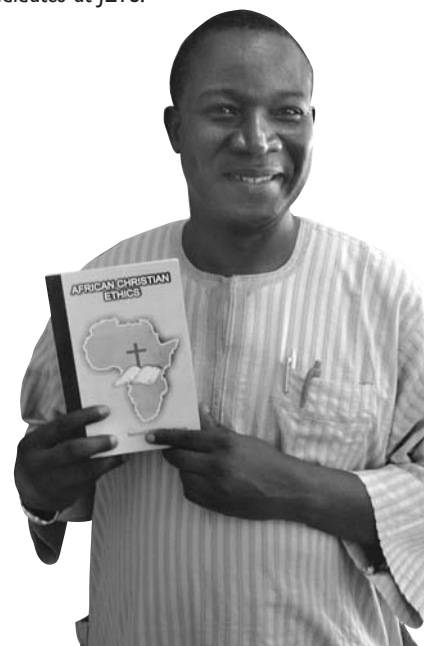


Pandang Yamsat, in full Nigerian dress and in full flow preaching at the Preaching Seminar in Jos in February.

impressed with their quality and the good facilities provided by the seminary. One of this group, Matthew Michael, has been selected as a Langham Scholar for support by JSM.



Chris Wright with five doctoral candidates at JETS. Sam Kunhiyop on left.



Sam Kunhiyop, Provost of JETS, Nigeria, with one of his recent books, available in the seminary bookstore.

Training in South Africa for Zimbabwe

With the increasing diversification of places where our Langham Scholars study for their doctorates, South Africa has become a growing location. We already have a Ugandan Scholar who received his doctorate through the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in Pietermaritzburg. In April Chris Wright was in Cape Town, and met **Dr. Victor Nakah** from Zimbabwe. Victor has just completed his ThD at the prestigious University of Stellenbosch, and has returned to Zimbabwe, where he is the Principal of the Theological College of Zimbabwe in Bulawayo. While studying in South Africa, Victor was also part of the Postgraduate Research Fellowship of the George Whitefield College, Muizenberg – an evangelical seminary near Cape Town. To have a quality university program alongside an evangelical institution providing fellowship and pastoral support is a strong combination.

During the same visit, Chris also met **Dr. Silviu Rogobete**, a Langham Scholar who has taken a post as the Consul General for Romania in South Africa, and is finding other opportunities for church ministry and some teaching also at George Whitefield College.



Dr. Victor Nakah

Health Check for Rapidly Growing Churches

Energetic church planting and many evangelistic initiatives have meant rapid church growth throughout many parts of the world but this has put pressures on the church, not least in terms of training and resourcing. Langham Partnership has been working with a number of other organizations to help equip pastors and lay preachers in these areas.

Tanzania is one of the fastest growing preaching movements with over 300 participants taking part in the new regionalized seminars in February and March. Significantly, a group of 7 pastors travelled from **Zambia** to take part in the program. Writing to **Jonathan Lamb, Director of Langham Preaching**, recently, the Zambian delegates said: "After being invited to Langham Preaching in Morogoro, we came to realize the importance and need of Bible exposition. Despite the numerical growth of the church, it is evident that the health of the church is below par. Facing this challenge, and seeing how beneficial the Langham Preaching seminar was in Morogoro, we hereby request that the same program be established in Zambia'. And they have since reported: 'In my district we are having the first preachers' club meeting on March 23rd with 36 pastors from different denominations.'"

Langham Partnership has recently held similar preaching workshops in **Albania** where 55 delegates gathered together. Plans are underway for a special conference in 2008 led by Chris Wright, International Director of Langham Partnership.

Working in fellowship with national leaders, a new Langham preaching initiative has been launched in **Croatia**, seeking to serve local pastors and lay preachers in part of the Balkans. In addition to some 50 Croatian participants, small groups travelled from **Serbia** and from **Bosnia-Herzegovina**. Even



One man from each country praying for each other - Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia, with the leader of the event, Toma Magda, on the right.

whilst the group was in the midst of the training program, the Sarajevo delegates met to plan their first preachers' club, which they started once they were home.

As the Zambian delegates requested, so Langham is getting pleas from many countries to come and establish preaching programs and pastor's networks. It is Langham's prayer to be able to respond to these calls at the earliest opportunity.

Lausanne and Langham together in Kenya

The Lausanne movement, like the Langham Partnership, owes much to the vision of John Stott. Apart from playing a major role in drafting the Lausanne Covenant in 1974, he was the Chair of the Lausanne Theology Working Group throughout the 1980s. Chris Wright took on that role last year, and in February 2007 a small international consultation of the LTWG was convened in Limuru, Kenya, examining several dimensions of what it means, for Christian mission, to be 'Following Jesus in Our Broken World'. At Chris's invitation several Langham Scholars participated. These included: **Dr. Athena Gorospe** (teaching Old Testament at the Asia Theological Seminary, Philippines), **Dr. Ng Kam Weng** (who runs the Kairos Centre, with a vision for Christian impact on culture and media in Malaysia), **Dr. Danut Manastireanu** (working for World Vision and in theological education in Romania), and **Cristian Romocea** (a current Langham Scholar from Romania, studying in Oxford).



Dr. Athena Gorospe

The Lausanne consultation was held next door to **St. Paul's United Theological College, Limuru**. This is a fine seminary which can now boast three Langham Scholars on its faculty. Chris met with all three on campus, on the day the College was having an inspection from the Kenyan Commission for Higher Education, in relation to its status as a university degree awarding institution. So our three Langham Scholars were glad of a break and a chat. They are: Dr. Joseph Galgalo (teaching Old Testament), Dr. Kabiru Gatumu



Joseph Galgalo (left), Emily Onyango and Kabiru Gatumu

(teaching New Testament), and Dr Emily Onyango (teaching Church History). All are in good form and said they are enjoying their teaching, and encouraged by the positive developments at St. Paul's.



Cristian Romocea



Ng Kam-Weng

Rev Dr. John Stott:

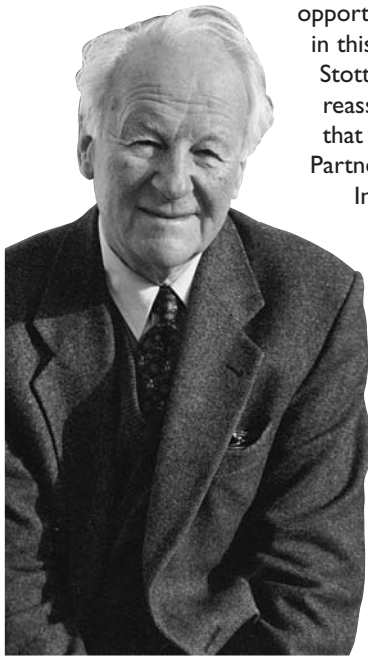
Retirement and Move

John Stott would like his many friends around the world to know that, having reached the age of 86 in April, he has taken the decision finally to retire from public ministry, having fulfilled his final speaking engagement at the Keswick Convention in July.

He has also moved from his flat in Bridford Mews, London, where he has lived for more than 30 years, to a retirement community for Anglican clergy in the south of England which will be able to provide more fully for his present and future needs. Dr. Stott has made this decision with the strong belief that it is God's provision for him at this stage.

Dr. Stott will greatly value your prayer for him in the challenges and opportunities involved in this transition. John Stott is also happy to reassure his friends that the Langham Partnership International (or John Stott Ministries, in USA), is well prepared to continue its work, even after his retirement.

Chris Wright took over the leadership of the organization from



Chris Wright

John Stott in 2001, and there is now a strong team of international program managers and other staff and volunteers all over the world making sure that the work develops strongly into the future.

Our Website

The Langham Partnership International has a common website now with links to each member organization.

Visit: www.langhampartnership.org with link www.langhampartnership.ca

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