

## Introducing Langham Partnership

Langham Partnership is a global fellowship working in pursuit of the vision God entrusted to its founder John Stott -

*to facilitate the growth of the church in maturity and Christ-likeness through raising the standards of biblical preaching and teaching.*

The name 'Langham' derives from All Souls Church, Langham Place, London, where John Stott ministered for 60 years. The organisation is now international and inter-denominational, developed and supported through a growing community of countries in every continent of the world.

**Our vision** is to see churches 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.

**Our mission** is to strengthen the ministry of the Word of God through:

- nurturing national movements for training in biblical preaching
- multiplying the creation and distribution of evangelical literature
- strengthening the theological training of pastors and leaders by qualified evangelical teachers

### Our Ministry

**Langham Preaching** partners with national leaders to nurture indigenous biblical preaching movements for pastors and lay preachers all around the world. With the support of a team of trainers from many countries, a multi-level programme of seminars provides practical training, and is followed by a programme for training local facilitators. Local preachers' groups and national and regional networks ensure continuity and ongoing development, seeking to build vigorous movements committed to Bible exposition.

**Langham Literature** provides majority world pastors, scholars and seminary libraries with evangelical books and electronic resources through grants, discounts and distribution. The programme also fosters the creation of indigenous evangelical books for pastors in many languages, through training workshops for writers and editors, sponsored writing, translation, strengthening local evangelical publishing houses, and investment in major regional literature projects, such as one volume Bible commentaries like *The Africa Bible Commentary*.

**Langham Scholars** provides financial support for evangelical doctoral students from the majority world so that, when they return home, they may train pastors and other Christian leaders with sound, biblical and theological teaching. This programme equips those who equip others. Langham Scholars also works in partnership with majority world seminaries in strengthening evangelical theological education. A growing number of Langham Scholars study in high quality doctoral programmes in the majority world itself. As well as teaching the next

generation of pastors, graduated Langham Scholars exercise significant influence through their writing and leadership.

## **Our Partnership**

The family is made up of Langham-related ministries in over 70 countries. These include:

- A growing number of affiliate programmes across the majority world
- Over 50 countries involved in developing Langham Preaching movements
- Member support countries in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK & Ireland, and the USA
- Literature projects developed by country and regional teams to serve the church in their context
- Over 350 Langham Scholars, including those currently studying and those in teaching and leadership roles around the world

## **Our statement of faith**

Langham Partnership is committed to the fundamental truths of historic biblical Christianity, in accordance with which we affirm:

1. There is one, eternal God, Creator and Lord of the universe who, in the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both governs all things according to God's will and is accomplishing God's purpose in the world and in the church.
2. The Holy Scripture in its entirety is inspired by God's Spirit through human authors and constitutes the revelation of God's truth to humanity. It is wholly true and trustworthy in all that it affirms. Whatever the Bible, rightly interpreted, is found to teach, we are bound to believe and obey. It is our supreme authority in every matter of belief and conduct.
3. All human beings are created in God's own likeness and therefore have inherent value and equality before God. Human sin and guilt since the fall have rendered us subject to God's wrath and condemnation and have resulted in our alienation from God's life, suppression of God's truth and hostility to God's law. God's love desires all to come to repentance and to be reconciled rather than condemned.
4. Salvation from the guilt, penalty and all other consequences of sin has been achieved solely through the work of Jesus Christ - his perfect obedience, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection and exaltation as Lord. Jesus alone is truly God and truly human, the only mediator between God and humanity. There is salvation through no other person, creed, process or power. Each sinner is justified before God and reconciled to God only by divine grace appropriated by faith alone.
5. The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary for the individual's new birth and growth to maturity. The Holy Spirit empowers and indwells the church, enabling its constant renewal in truth, wisdom, faith, holiness, love, ministry, power and mission.
6. There is one, holy, universal and apostolic church, which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong. The church's calling is to worship God forever and to serve God in the world.
7. As the Father sent the Son into the world, so the Lord Jesus Christ sends his church to participate in God's mission by words and works. The church is called: to make Christ

known; to proclaim God's truth and the gospel of God's grace; to make disciples among all nations; to exhibit God's character through compassionate care for the needy; to demonstrate the reality of God's kingdom through creative and sacrificial living, the community of love, the quest for righteousness, justice and peace, and the care of God's creation.

8. As the Lord Jesus ascended to his Father, so he will return personally, visibly and in glory. He will raise the dead and bring salvation and judgment to final completion. God will then fully establish his Kingdom and finish the new creation - a new heaven and a new earth from which all evil and evildoers, all suffering and death, will be excluded and in which God will be glorified forever.

## Our values

As an evangelical organisation, 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. Specifically, we are committed to the following core values.

**Prayer:** we believe that the programmes of Langham Partnership are biblically mandated in their goal of teaching, training and equipping God's people through God's Word. We are confident, therefore, that they will be intrinsically effective and fruitful when they are carried out in dependence on God and in the power of God's Spirit. Accordingly, we affirm the vital place of prayer in all that we do, as we seek God's guidance, wisdom, power, protection and blessing, in the name of Jesus Christ and for his glory.

**The Bible:** we affirm the supreme authority of the Bible and are convinced of its centrality for church growth, health and maturity. We endorse the call of *The Cape Town Commitment*:

*'Theological educators must re-centre the study of the Bible as the core discipline in Christian theology, integrating and permeating all other fields of study and application. Above all, theological education must serve to equip pastor-teachers for their prime responsibility of preaching and teaching the Bible.'* (IIF.4.d)

**Preaching:** we believe in the continuing importance of biblical preaching, on the grounds that God reforms and renews, sustains and nourishes his church through the life-giving Word of God, as it is preached with textual faithfulness and contextual relevance.

**Teaching:** the Bible in both Testaments insists that the people of God need teaching and teachers. The seminary is a key institution in the church through its training of pastors. We also affirm the importance of non-formal means of teaching and learning. We strongly emphasise the need to train those who will in turn teach and train others. We also affirm the strategic value of Christian literature in nurturing such biblical preaching, teaching and learning.

**The Church:** although Langham Partnership is a para-church agency, our primary objective is to foster the growth and mission of the church, not to promote our own programmes.

**Partnership:** we seek to relate and listen to churches and Christian organisations in any country where Langham operates and to work alongside them, seeking to understand and facilitate the vision and mission that God has given them. Programmes and projects will be undertaken only at the invitation of local and national church leaders, in consultation with them, and wherever possible under local leadership.

**Servanthood:** we seek to be servants of God and of God's people, and we reject actions, policies or communications that betray pride or paternalism. We pray that humility will shape all our

relationships, and that modesty and gratitude will characterise our response to whatever success God grants to our efforts.

**Mutuality:** we recognize that God has given gifts to all his people throughout the world and we long to facilitate a greater mutual sharing of God's blessings, spiritual and material, in all directions. While some parts of the worldwide church are at present entrusted with greater material resources than others, we strive to avoid the dangers of dependency or donor manipulation. We long to see a true biblical equality of resources and capacities throughout the worldwide body of Christ, such that Langham would no longer be needed except as a global fellowship.

**Integrity:** we insist on honesty, accountability and transparency in all our dealings, and seek to foster all of these in our internal and external communication, and in all our operations and partnerships.

**Excellence:** while recognising that we constantly fall short of God's standards, we believe that God is worthy of the best we can offer. Accordingly we aim at the highest standards of excellence, spiritually, professionally, and academically.

**Holiness:** we are committed to personal and spiritual growth, among ourselves and in all those who are impacted by our ministries. Our aim is to model at all levels of our organisation, and in all our programme activities, biblical discipleship, godliness and Christ-likeness.

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