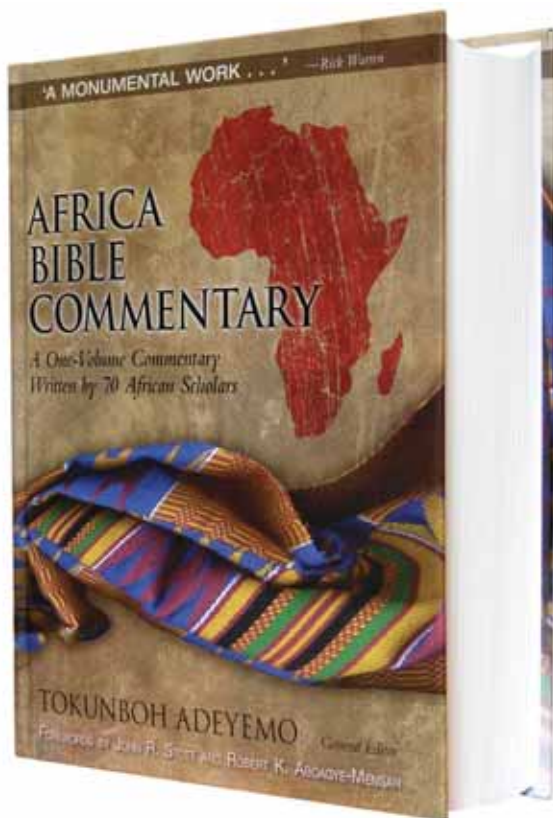


## A publishing landmark for Africa

This summer sees the launch of the **Africa Bible Commentary** - a one-volume commentary on the whole Bible written entirely by Africans Bible scholars - seventy of them!



**Pieter Kwant, International Programme Director for Langham Literature**, has been deeply involved with the project from the start, and attended the launch in Cape Town on June 17th. LP News asked him a few questions about this great event, and about other Literature projects.

### Pieter, why is the Africa Bible Commentary such a significant event?

The ABC is a first for Africa, involving seventy African theologians who are confessionally evangelical and culturally African. It offers culturally relevant commentary on every book of scripture and provides biblical insights on many distinctly African concerns through articles which are interspersed through the book. It should be a great help to all students and pastors, including pastors who have had no formal theological training.

### How widely will it be distributed and used in Africa?

Our plan is that it will be very widely distributed. 47,000 copies have been printed initially. We have a publisher in Kenya distributing to east and south Africa; another covering west Africa, and Langham Literature will concentrate their own distribution on all the rest of the African countries. It is being published in both English and French (the French edition is planned for 2007), and translations into Amharic and Portuguese are already under way. Outside Africa, it is being made available through Zondervan, as we believe that in the West we can learn much from these African perspectives.

### What was your own role in it, and how did Langham Literature help?

I acted as a technical partner, so I was involved in the regular planning meetings over the last six years. I also helped with facilitating and coordinating the editing, production, sales and marketing of the ABC. I now work as its Agent, selling translation and other usage rights.

Langham Literature provided scholarship funds to enable many of the ABC authors, some of whom are also Langham Scholars, to proceed on sabbaticals in order to research and write their contributions.



The senior editorial team:  
**Tokunboh Adeyemo**  
(General Editor, centre);  
**Habtu Tewoldemedhin**  
(O T, right);  
**Sam Ngewa**  
(N T, left)

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Africa Bible Commentary
- Literature challenges
- Regional Councils - from global to local
- Scholars, past, present and future
- New faces in LPUKI



langham  
partnership  
international

### From the Foreword by John Stott

"One of the most significant recent developments in the churches of Africa is the rise of sound biblical scholarship. The church is fortunate indeed to see this resurgence in the continent that gave us such interpreters as Augustine and Athanasius. The Africa Bible Commentary is a publishing landmark and I congratulate contributors and editors on their achievement. Its foundation is biblical, its perspective African, and its approach to controversial questions balanced. I intend to use it myself in order to gain African insights into the Word of God."

# Langham Literature

## Is there anything else like the ABC being planned for other parts of the world?

We are in the very early stages of planning a Latin American Bible Commentary which would be both in Spanish and Portuguese and we are also considering the possibility of other regional commentaries.

## What are the most exciting things that Langham Literature is doing these days?

- One of the most exciting books we are looking forward to is the **Contemporary Arabic Theology** (in the spirit of a systematic theology), which is being written by 10 evangelical Arab scholars in Arabic. This group includes a number of Langham scholars. The first draft of the manuscript is expected in October this year.



A group of Arab Langham Scholars, from Egypt and Lebanon, meeting in May. Some of these are contributors to the Contemporary Arabic Theology project. Andrea Stephanous (seated centre) will be its publisher.

- Our Regional Council in West Africa urged us to combine the **French and English Catalogues**, so we are now working on this in the next few months. Many seminaries in Africa want to have books in both languages.
- The Spanish programme is expanding with the **Bibliotheca Clava**, that is the Spanish Student Basic Library set of titles, and also a new Spanish Catalogue. This Spanish catalogue is the first ever and will be a major help throughout Latin America.
- These LL Catalogues form the basis of our **Library Grant Programme** and give seminary librarians a choice of the very best evangelical literature available.
- Then, on the creative side, we are supporting a number of writers and publishers in South America, Pakistan and Africa.



Beatriz Buono, head of Certeza, an evangelical publisher in Argentina, who has led the team that has produced the Spanish Catalogue.

We are also inviting our first **African editor** for two months training alongside the editor of the ABC, to develop an African editorial capacity that is able to take on the challenge of producing a range of more serious African Christian books.

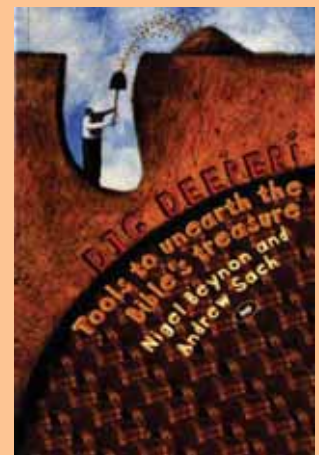
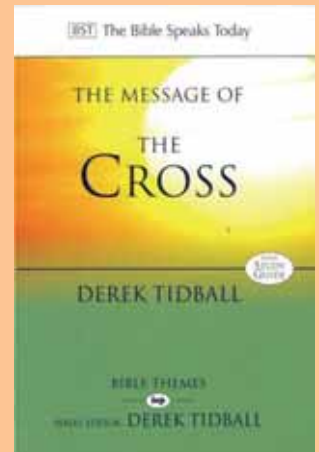
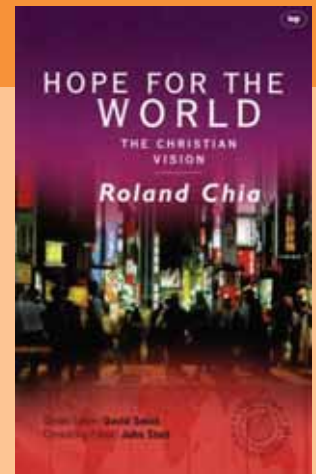
## Are we still getting books into the hands of pastors and students, as John Stott originally wanted?

Yes, we are! A few weeks ago, in our **Graduate Book Programme**, we sent 15,377 graduates and pastors three gift books each from the titles you can see here - a mixture of Bible study books and new titles in the Global Christian Library. So this totalled about 44,000 books, distributed through 120 seminaries. The books cost us just under £30,000, but the cost of shipping and handling, just over £20,000. So this is a major programme - a major resource to them, and major cost to us.

We also work with **Langham Preaching** to make sure all those attending seminars return home with good books, and if we could raise the funds we would like to extend this to a yearly gift to these preachers with whom we are building up a long-term relationship.

## What are the most pressing needs in Langham Literature that you would want to put before our supporters?

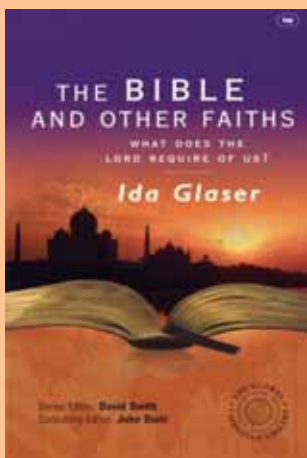
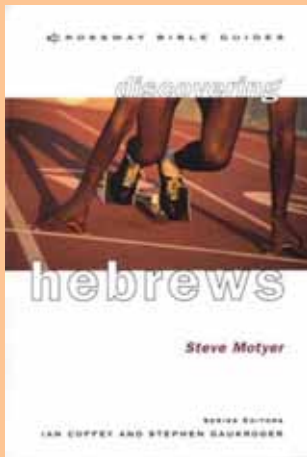
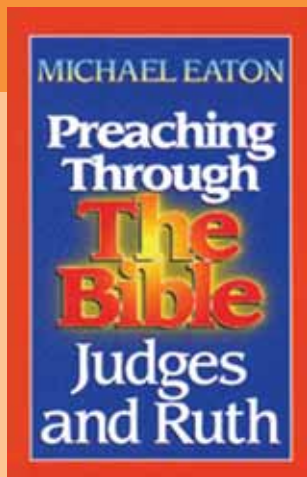
- Our core distribution programmes, to graduates and pastors and libraries, have to be funded every year, so this is an annual 'pressing need'! This year we simply could not send the normal **Pastors Book Club** gifts, because we do not have sufficient funds for it. We need people to continue to support these annual programmes, to avoid this kind of disappointment.
- We would like to be able to provide a larger annual grant in the **Library Grant Programme** in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese (at the moment it is only about £100 per seminary; we would love to double that if we could). We are also exploring the possibility of running this programme in Arabic and Chinese.
- The **Student Basic Library** is still quite expensive for students and we want to be able to lower the prices of the individual books even further, but of course, this increases the subsidy we have to provide.
- We want to see well-crafted indigenous books written in the local language and context. But for that we need to develop and train good editors in the Majority World, and that is part of the **Langham Writers** programme.
- There are two **Arabic** books particularly aimed at pastors and under-graduate students that a former Langham Scholar is proposing for which we need financial support: one on interpreting the parables of Jesus and another which is a commentary on the parables of Jesus.



## What is the most important reason you can think of why people should invest in the programmes of Langham Literature?

Books can go where most of us cannot, and they have the ability to change lives. We already work in ninety countries, with our books challenging, teaching and encouraging many students and pastors in their current ministries and preparing the way to help them further with our Scholars and Preaching programmes. Good books are a long-term investment that can feed a pastor's preaching ministry, and therefore strengthen the life of the church, for years and years.

Thank you, Pieter!



## Langham Literature - Creative

Langham Literature functions in two departments: Distributive and Creative. The main programmes on the Creative side are: facilitating quality evangelical writing in the Majority World, and supporting translations and indigenous publishing efforts.

At the moment, the **Langham Writers programme** is supporting ten writers at various stages of projects in English, Spanish, Arabic, French and Togalog (the language of the Philippines). Most of these are Langham Scholars, and their books range from commentaries, to books on mission, pastoral work, spiritual powers, and Christian biography. And here are just some of the **Langham Publishing Grants** that have been made recently.

Language	Publication	Grant
Indonesian	<i>A Christian-Muslim Dialogue</i>	£2,200
Burmese	<i>The Lion Handbook to the Bible</i>	£1,450
Tonguese	<i>Bible Interpretation for Lay Preachers</i> (not a translation, but the first such book by a national Tongan author)	£2,500
Amharic	<i>Basic Christianity</i> (John Stott's classic, translated for Ethiopia, by the late Colin Maunsell)	£2,000
Arabic	<i>Arabic Contemporary Theology</i> (a three year project involving 10 Arab Christian theologians in four Middle East countries)	£30,000 <i>(over 3 years)</i>
Polish	<i>Preaching Old Testament Narratives</i> (by a Polish author)	£1,000
Hungarian	<i>Creation and Mission</i> (by a Hungarian Langham Scholar)	£1,000
Russian	<i>Overview of Church History</i> (by a Russian scholar)	£4,500
Eurasia	<i>Basic Christianity</i> (translated into five of the languages of Central Asia)	£5,000
Chinese	<i>Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, and Dictionary of the Later New Testament</i> (translation of these exceptionally helpful volumes, being done in Taiwan and in co-operation with Beijing University)	£2,500
Turkish	<i>How To Read the Bible for All It's Worth</i> (translation of a classic)	£1,500

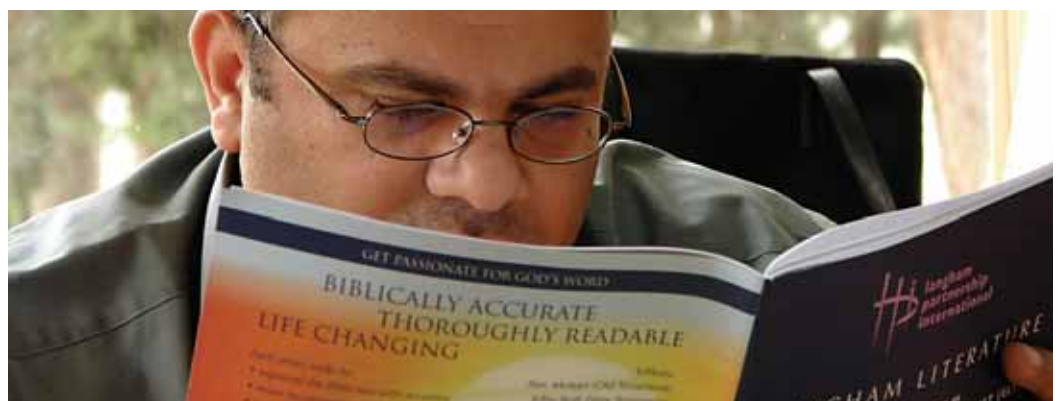
## Langham Literature Programmes at a glance

You may not be familiar with all our Langham Literature Programmes, and even for staff it is quite a challenge getting our heads around all of them. But here are some of the major ones:

<b>GBP</b>	<b>Graduate Book Programme.</b> Books are sent each year to graduating classes in seminaries, and to their alumni who are serving as pastors. Administered through seminaries. Often commentaries, or basic biblical and doctrinal aids.
<b>PBC</b>	<b>Pastors Book Club.</b> Books (simpler level), sent to pastors through national and local agents.
<b>LGP</b>	<b>Library Grant Programme.</b> Seminary librarians receive a Catalogue, collating about 1300 selected titles from more than 20 evangelical publishers, and receive a £100 grant to order books from it. Also provides CD and digital resources
<b>ABP</b>	<b>Additional Books Programme.</b> Librarians may order more books, if they wish and have the funds, at 40% discount, post free.
<b>SBL</b>	<b>Student Basic Library.</b> A set of about a dozen key books, that should form the basic library of a pastor, which are sold at very large discount (often about 80-90%) to theological students. Administered through the seminaries
<b>LWP</b>	<b>Langham Writers Programme.</b> Supporting indigenous authors in their own languages, to write quality evangelical books for their own context
<b>LPG</b>	<b>Langham Publishing Grants.</b> Supporting translations, or other publication initiatives, including editorial and pre-press publishing costs of local evangelical publishers, to get good books written and published in Majority World countries.

As Pieter Kwant says, even though our new creative initiatives in Langham Literature are exciting and strategic, we still need to increase our funding for the distributive side of our work. There is an understandable tendency for supporters to want to give to people - such as our individual Scholars, or the pastors who attend Preaching seminars - rather than to books. But do remember that supporting Langham Literature means giving to people also - whether to those who receive and profit from the books we send, or those we encourage and support to write books for their own context. They are people you may never meet, but they will be greatly blessed by your generosity.

Please consider how generous you could be towards Langham Literature, and the life-changing work it does. Thank you!





Mary Mikhael, President of the Near East School of Theology, Lebanon.



Tom Kokanyi, one of the representatives from Sudan at the East Africa Regional Council



Elie Haddad, Langham Scholar from Lebanon, ponders a point at the Regional Council for the Middle East

# Response Form

Tear off perforated right hand portion of p. 4

## My Gift

Please use my gift:

Where most needed

Langham Scholarships

Langham Literature

Langham Preaching

My Total Donation

Your gift will be allocated according to your wishes. Donations not specifically designated will be used according to greatest need.

**Please make cheques payable to Langham Partnership.**

Thank you for your generosity.

## My Address

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr/Rev

Family Name

First Name

Address

Postcode

This is a new address - please change your records

## Gift Aid

We would be grateful if UK taxpayers who have not done so already would sign the following declaration so that we can reclaim tax under Gift Aid:

I declare that I am a UK taxpayer and wish the Trust to reclaim tax under Gift Aid on this and all future donations, understanding that I must have paid tax equivalent to or greater than the amount reclaimed.

Signed

Date

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# Regional Councils - gaining local wisdom

In about ten different regions all around the world, the Langham Partnership has been establishing small Regional Councils to provide on-the-ground local information and strategic guidance for all three Langham Programmes. We want to make sure that the money you provide is wisely and effectively spent around the world!

Chris Wright, as International Director, organizes and attends these, usually accompanied by the three **International Programme Directors** (Pieter Kwant, Literature;

Jonathan Lamb, Preaching; Meritt Sawyer, Scholars). Participants include Langham Scholars and others in positions of senior leadership in seminaries, churches, and Christian publishing in each region.

In the first half of 2006, there have been meetings of these Regional Councils in Ghana (for **West Africa**), in Kenya (for **East Africa**), in Prague (for **Europe and Eurasia**), and in Lebanon (for the **Middle East and North Africa**). In August one will meet in Thailand (for **South**

**East Asia**). Others have already been established in **Latin America**, the **Caribbean**, and **South Asia**, and in 2007 we shall add **Southern Africa** and **Francophone Africa**.

The two day meetings provide a rich exchange of information and perspectives on the needs and opportunities throughout each region, as they relate to the specific work of each Langham Programme. They also tend to generate more work than we can cope with - but that's life in Christian ministry!



The Regional Council, East Africa, in Nairobi



The Regional Council, Middle East, working hard in Lebanon



The Board of Langham Partnership, Europe, in Prague, with Parush Parushev (chairman) in the centre

## 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 let us know and we will send you a helpful legacy leaflet. Contact **Ian Buchanan**, whose details are on the side panel.

# Response Form

## Standing Order Form

If you wish to make regular donations through your bank, please complete the details below using CAPITALS, and return it to us. Please do not send this form to your bank. Thank you.

To: (Bank Name)

Bank Address:

Sort Code:

Account No:

Please pay Messrs Coutts & Co. 440  
The Strand, London, WC2R 0QS  
(Sort Code 18-00-02) for the credit of  
Langham Partnership account number:

FOR OFFICE USE

the sum of £

in words:

On: (date of first payment)

and on the same day each:

Month  quarter  year  until further notice

Signed:

Date:

## Credit Card

If you prefer to give by credit card, please complete the details and sign below. We can handle gifts by MasterCard, Visa and CAF cards.

Card Number

Expiry Date

Signed

Date

Extra Copies of your newsletter

Please indicate how many copies of the Langham Partnership News you would like for friends, church members, fellow trustees, etc.

# Langham Scholars

## Langham Scholars, past, present - and future?

**Chris Wright writes:**

In 1983 I went to India to teach at Union Biblical Seminary, India. At that time there was nowhere you could obtain a doctorate in theology in an evangelical context in India. But my next-door neighbour on the faculty of UBS was Dr Ashish Chrispal, who had got his doctorate in Aberdeen through the



Chris Wright with the group of PhD students from several African countries at NEGST

These are the fruits of the long-term investment in higher levels of evangelical theological qualifications, initiated by John Stott decades ago. I am sometimes asked, 'Why give all that money to one PhD student,



Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology

Langham Trust (as it then was). Ashish is now the President of the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS), where several Langham Scholars are on the faculty, and where people are now studying for doctorates - right there in India.

In 1983 also, the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology was founded. Just this March I was there teaching a week's seminar with their first ever group of doctoral students - 13 in all, from around Africa - a whole class working for PhDs in Biblical Studies, and Bible Translation. Two of this group are being supported as Langham Scholars. The Vice-Chancellor of NEGST, Douglas Carew, is also a Langham Scholar, and has several more Langham Scholars on his faculty as well.

when the same amount would fund several undergraduate level students for basic pastoral training?' My answer is to ask another question, 'And who is going to teach those



Misgana Mathewos, Langham Scholar doctorates at NEGST, Andy Alo now teaching back at his seminary in Ethiopia (Congo), and Abiola Mbamalu (Nigeria)

students today?' - Answer: those who got their doctorates years ago, thanks to John Stott's vision and Langham support. So who is going to teach the pastoral students of tomorrow if we do not continue to invest in long-term faculty development? That's the vision of Langham Scholars. Give today; the return on your investment will mature in decades to come.



Chris Wright enjoys an Ethiopian meal with a group of Masters students at the Ethiopia Graduate School of Theology. Which of these may be Langham Scholars in future?

# Welcome and Farewell

In April we said farewell to **Paul Berg**, who has been the Langham Scholars Administrator in the UK for the past nine years. Paul took on the job after his retirement as Vicar of Christ Church, Clifton, Bristol, and from his Somerset home in Nether Stowey he did all the administration required - processing the applications every year, serving the selection committee, welcoming each Scholar as he or she arrived in the UK, visiting them regularly in their places of study, praying (and sweating!) with them through every dissertation submission and viva exam, and then making sure they return home as promised. Many Scholars wrote words of warm appreciation for Paul when we made a small presentation to him in April, expressing gratitude especially for the pastoral care he showed them. Paul once said, 'Some people retire and grow roses. I preferred to retire and grow Scholars.' Thank you so much for all your years of faithful work, Paul. Perhaps Sue, and your dog (and even your roses) may now be getting more of your attention.

In Paul's place, we welcome **Howard Peskett**, as the new **National Director for Langham Scholars (UK and Ireland)**. LP News asked Howard some questions:



**Howard, tell us something of what you have been doing before joining the Langham team.**

For the last 35 years, since studying at Cambridge and in Jerusalem, I have been a teacher, preacher and disciple-maker, first in Newcastle-upon-Tyne after ordination in 1968; then in Singapore from 1971-1991; and since 1991 in Trinity College Bristol, where I have been teaching Mission, and Vice Principal. I have lived nearly half my life in Asia, much of that in community with Asian men and women. Our aim and strong desire was to grow in knowledge of the Word of God, and to live more deeply in His love.

## Tell us about your family

My wife **Roz** is a trained teacher, TEFL teacher, phonetics teacher and counselor. We were married in 1968 and have spent most of our married life as co-workers. **Jonathan** is a pilot, flying all over Europe with BMI Baby; **Debbie** is a teacher in Marlborough; and **Daniel** is a naval engineer, currently with HMS Chatham.

## You are not new to the Langham Scholars. In what ways have you been involved already in past years?

John Stott asked me to join the Scholars Selection Committee 10-12 years ago; and more recently I have worked quite closely with Paul Berg (who was my vicar in Bristol) especially in the annual Scholars Conference at Cambridge.

## What do you see as the main challenge and opportunity that this new role gives to you?

Langham's vision is for the strengthening of the international church by GODLY SCHOLARS who will teach, preach and train others. And Langham must be one of very few organizations that puts in its Protocol that one of the things it is looking for in the scholars it supports is HOLINESS! This was what captured my heart when I was still a student - that we should know God and live lives that are formed by that knowledge. So this new role as national Scholars Director will enable me to combine long experience of international work, academic work, pastoral care and administration. I hope I will do it well.

**Thanks, Howard! We are sure you will.**

## Remembering Vivienne Curry

We give thanks to God for the life of **Vivienne Curry**, who for many years served the Langham Trust as Minutes Secretary, and supported the work in many other practical ways, particularly championing Langham in her home church, St. Paul's, Cheam. Vivienne died in April and we are grateful to her family, who asked that all gifts in her memory, at and after the thanksgiving service in May, should be given to Langham Partnership. We are grateful to all who responded in that way.

## The Langham Partnership (UK and Ireland)

If you would like multiple copies of this magazine for friends, church members, etc., please ask Liz Wright, address below.

Please send donations to:

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19 Whitfield Place, London, W1T 5JX

Tel/Fax: 020 7209 0915

Email: [liz@langhampartnership.org](mailto:liz@langhampartnership.org)

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## Langham Partnership's Vision

Our vision is to see Majority World churches being equipped for mission and growing to maturity through the ministry of Christian leaders and pastors who sincerely believe, diligently study, faithfully expound and relevantly apply the Word of God.



**langham partnership international**

CHURCH GROWTH - WITH DEPTH