



langham partnership UK& Ireland

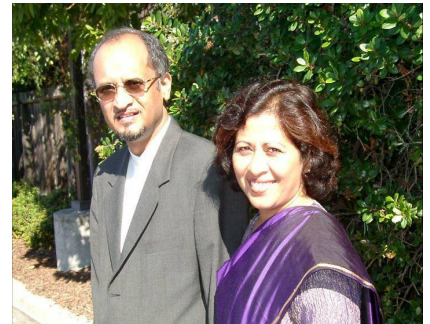
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THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE LANGHAM UK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

We believe the strengthening, deepening, renewal and maturity of church leaders are shaped by those who teach them.

The purpose of the Scholars programme is to provide financial support for evangelical doctoral students (men and women) from the Majority World who will go on to train Christian leaders in their home country, most typically at the university and seminary level, but also in creative projects of different sorts.



Financial support is given by means of a grant. The scholar signs an undertaking to return to their home country or region on completion of their studies, for at least ten years. The grant will be treated as a repayable loan if this agreement is not honoured.

WHAT IS THE BASIC COST OF THIS PROGRAMME?

The basic cost varies:

University fees vary from university to university.

It is more costly to live in London than in Belfast.

All scholars are asked to contribute something to their costs, but some can contribute more than others.

We support some scholars doing doctoral study in other countries, e.g. Czech Republic, South Africa, where it may be cheaper.

Some scholars are part-time, requiring less money for a longer period.

Some scholars have wives who work, and thus they require less.

A reasonable calculation for a single person per year:

University fees may be £3000 - £4000.

Accommodation may be £6000 - £8400.

Food ++ expenses may be £5000 - £7200.

One field trip may cost £1000

TOTAL PER SCHOLAR PER YEAR = £15000 - £20000.



A long-term investment

Suppose this scholar returns home and serves the Lord, his church and his society for 20 years, or 1000 weeks. Our support of this scholar for his doctoral work has cost £20 per week of his service. Thinking of it another way, If 40 people gave £10 a week, this would cover a scholar's expenses for a year.



If the scholar is married and brings his wife/family costs will be proportionately greater. Of course, a church or group of friends might decide to support a scholar to the tune of a half, or a third of his expenses.

Real friendships might be built up if a scholar is supported by a group of people, and not just by gifts of money.

IDEAS FOR CHURCHES

A Langham scholar is a mature person not an undergraduate.

Ask the Chair of the Missions Committee (or other such person) to offer personal hospitality to this person. Get to know them.

Go and meet them at the airport when they arrive. Go and say farewell to them at the airport when they leave. These are two most impressionable moments.

Invite them to attend - or perhaps to lead - an international Bible study.

Invite them to preach.

Take them sightseeing to a local beauty spot - they probably don't have a car. It is hard for us to conceive how circumscribed your world can be if you have to walk everywhere or take a bus/train.

Ask about their family - but do not offer premature commiseration. It is hard for a scholar to do a PhD in the UK far from home. It MIGHT be harder if their wife came, speaking much less English, away from all family connections, with nothing to 'do' while her husband/wife studies...

Initiate specific person-to-person or family-to-family links with the scholar. Invite them to your home at Christmas - which may be a specially lonely time; or at Chinese New Year or other important occasions in THEIR culture.

Consider yourself as a possible BENEFICIARY from this relationship - not just a BENEFACTOR!



Why should a scholar from Africa come to UK to study? The church may be growing 10 times faster at home than here. What might HE/SHE be able to TEACH us, to give to us.

See Philip Jenkins, The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South, OUP, 2006.

Give realistically.

Many Christians want to see FAST RESULTS for their giving. They are like a child who plants a seed on Tuesday and wants to see an oak on Wednesday! Langham is a PEOPLE PROGRAMME. It takes longer to grow people than to dig wells, send tents, build buildings, DO SOMETHING! But investment in PEOPLE is hugely important for the long-term health and growth of the church.

