

Langham partnership news

A publishing landmark for Africa

June 2006 saw the launch of the **Africa Bible Commentary** — a one-volume commentary on the whole Bible written entirely by African Bible scholars — seventy of them!

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
(OT, right);
Sam Ngewa
(NT, left)

Chairman's Word

On behalf of the committee I wish to thank Rob

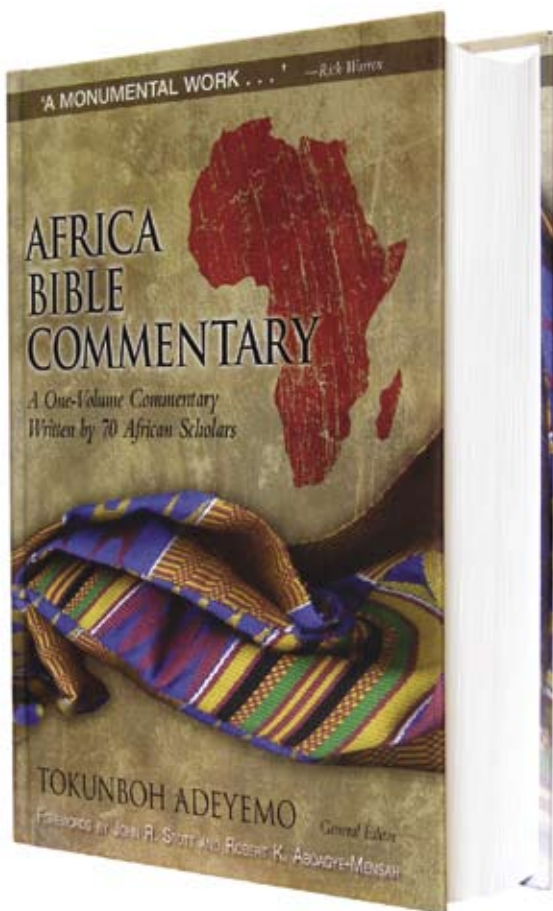


Forsyth for his service as the first Chair of LPA. We have appreciated Rob's insight, encouragement and good humour, and his willingness to undertake the role along with his many other commitments. LPA is experiencing significant change and growth. A new subcommittee will soon be established in Victoria, with another to follow in WA. The LPA eNews will be released monthly (sign up on the web). LPA has also produced a new brochure. You will have received two copies along with this newsletter. Please use that brochure to publicise the world wide ministry of Langham, perhaps to your bible study group or missions committee. The brochure invites you to become a Langham Partner; I encourage you to act on that invitation, and become a committed supporter of the Langham ministry. The committee looks forward to working with you, our many supporters, over the coming year
Trevor Cork, Chair LPA

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."

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.



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.



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 months ago, in our **Graduate Book Programme**, we sent 15,377 graduates and pastors three gift books each — 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 \$80,000, but the cost of shipping and handling, just over \$50,000. 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 \$250 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.

Double First For Australia

LPA Celebrates 2 Historic Events in 2006

In Ma'afu Palu, a Tongan Pastor and Theologian, Langham Partnership Australia has achieved some major goals which the committee has been praying for and working towards over the last 4 years. Ma'afu is the first Langham Scholar to be trained in Australia, and he is the first Langham Writer that LPA have assisted within Australia to publish their writing.

Selected as a Langham Scholar in August 2006, Ma'afu, with his wife Elizabeth and two sons, Tevita (6) and Peter Fredrick (14mths), is studying at Moore Theological College in Sydney.

An ordained minister in the Tongan Methodist Church, he first came to

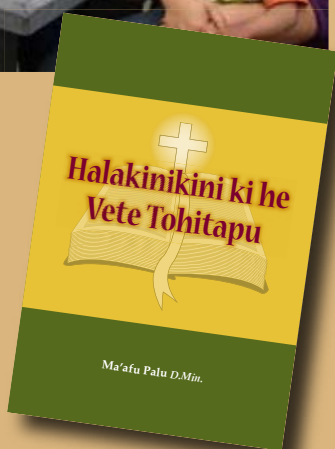
Australia to do his Masters Degree, which he completed in 1999. Since then he has lectured for 4 years in the Methodist Bible College in Tonga as well as writing his first book, an introduction to Biblical interpretation. The title of the book in Tongan is 'Halakinikini ki he Vete Tohitapu'. The book provides helpful interpretation methods, including introduction to hermeneutics, technicalities of biblical exegesis, interpreting the Pentateuch, Prophets, Psalms, Gospels, Epistles and Revelation. Langham Literature with LPA funds have supported the publishing of Ma'afu's book through a publishing grant. We expect the book to be in the hands of pastors and bible college students by the end of 2006.

Will you stand with Langham Australia in supporting Ma'afu in this important new development of the work of Langham in helping the church grow in the Pacific region.

Update on Dr Chan

Please join with us in praying for Dr Chan and his family. He has submitted his final thesis and will sit his viva in the UK on November 16th.

Wendy Toulmin



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!

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!

Chris Wright's New Zealand & Australian visit

From St Christopher's in Christchurch, with Janet Close organising the schedule, to Auckland's Carey Baptist College and the Bible College of NZ where the Principals Paul Windsor and Mark Strom had prepared a full programme of lectures and public meetings. This was a wonderful 6 days of ministry by Chris, together with the opportunity of presenting the ministry and vision of Langham to some folks in Christchurch and Auckland.

We then flew to Sydney to begin the 10 days that were organised for Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. Moore College and Morling College together with the Chinese Presbyterian Church and St Thomas' North Sydney were the focus points for our time in Sydney. It was good to have time with Brian Rosner at Moore, who is supervising our Langham Scholar, Ma'afu Palu; and to be welcomed by David Tsai and Simon Manchester to their churches for the Sunday services.

Melbourne saw us at the Bible College of Victoria with Mike Raiter and also at Ridley College, where the programme had been organised by Andrew Reid and Lindsay Wilson. Chris also spoke at World Vision's staff devotions at the invitation of Bill Walker while we were in Melbourne.

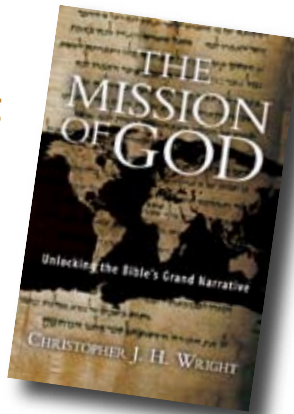
It was good to be welcomed at Perth airport by Rory Shiner, who along with a dedicated team of locals, had organised the 3 days we were to be in Perth. Public meetings at Trinity Theological College and Dalkeith Baptist Church; a dinner with Langham supporters, as well as the opportunity for Chris to preach and give a Langham presentation at each of the Sunday services at St Matthews Shenton Park, was a fitting way to end a wonderful and very worthwhile visit.

You can download PDFs of Chris' main addresses given during his visit from the LPA website www.langhampartnership.org.au

Just released — The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative by Chris Wright

Most Christians would agree that the Bible provides a basis for mission, but Chris Wright boldly maintains that mission is bigger than that – there is in fact a missional basis for the Bible! The entire Bible is generated by and is all about God's mission.

In order to understand the Bible, we need a missional hermeneutic of the Bible, an interpretive perspective that is in tune with this great missional theme. We need to see the "big picture" of God's mission and how the familiar bits and pieces fit into the grand narrative of Scripture.



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:

GBP	Graduate Book Programme. 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.
PBC	Pastors Book Club. Books (simpler level), sent to pastors through national and local agents.
LGP	Library Grant Programme. Seminary librarians receive a Catalogue, collating about 1300 selected titles from more than 20 evangelical publishers, and receive a \$250 grant to order books from it. Also provides CD and digital resources
ABP	Additional Books Programme. Librarians may order more books, if they wish and have the funds, at 40% discount, post free.
SBL	Student Basic Library. 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
LWP	Langham Writers Programme. Supporting indigenous authors in their own languages, to write quality evangelical books for their own context
LPG	Langham Publishing Grants. 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.



Langham Preaching Begins in Turkey — Australia Involved

In a country of over 70 million people, of whom 99% are Muslim, it is estimated that there are only 3000 Protestant Christians. However in the last twenty years, the fledgling Protestant church in Turkey, focused on the main cities, has seen many Muslim converts and steady growth in numbers. Pastored mainly by untrained, unpaid pastors, small congregations regularly meet on Sundays.

Paul Barker, Vicar of Holy Trinity Doncaster in Melbourne, along with Dominic Smart of Aberdeen, were the speakers at the inaugural Langham preachers conference in Istanbul in September. Paul also preached in three Turkish churches on two Sundays.

“The Turkish pastors are eager for help to strengthen their preaching and thus feed their people with solid food. It was a great encouragement to share fellowship with them, to teach and encourage them as preachers and also to see their churches at work where there is a lively joy in their faith and fellowship,” says Paul. Since most of the pastors work in full-time jobs, many took time off work to attend the conference. There are plans to run a second level preachers conference in August 2007.

Please pray for the spread of the gospel in Turkey, for many converts to Christ, and for a gospel revival within the Armenian Orthodox church in Turkey.

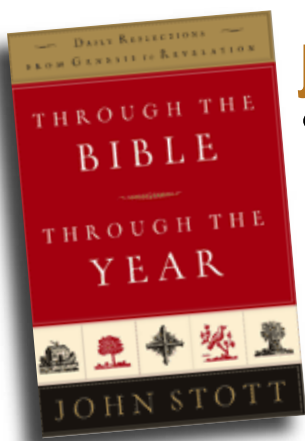


Australia Continues Involvement in Pakistan



Steve Sonneman (CMS Aus missionary in Pakistan) together with **Dr Pervaiz Sultan** continue to organise the Pakistan programmes on the ground. **Andrew Reid** (Ridley College, Melbourne), again was welcomed as a valuable member of the facilitators team. This year's programme held in Lahore from April 17-21 took place despite a number of unforeseen issues. Jonathan Lamb, Director of Langham Preaching writes, “We want to thank you very much for your prayers for the Langham Preaching programme in Pakistan. The conference did take place despite the particular pressures on the three leaders and their families, and we are very glad to report news of an excellent programme with a warm response from the participants. Thank you.”

Andrew Reid had some fun times with his translator .



John Stott Update

On August 20th, John Stott suffered a fall at his flat in London. He had hip replacement surgery and was admitted into a Christian convalescence centre south of London. He has recently returned to London. Please continue to pray for him.

John's recently released *Through the Bible, Through the Year* offers original, never-before-published reflections on the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Wisdom gleaned from a life of study and reflection by an internationally beloved pastor and scholar.

Have you considered including Langham Partnership in your will?

Like many mission organisations, 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 the relevant information. Contact Wendy Toulmin.



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