



CANADA

Langham[®]
PARTNERSHIP

SPRING 2026

Langham Preaching seminar, ECVN Institute of Bible and Theology, Ho Chi Minh City

LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP IN VIETNAM

Thien entered the PhD program at the Asia Graduate School of Theology (AGST Alliance) in Malaysia because he understood the importance of the Church in his native Vietnam having access to biblical books and resources. “God has called and trained me to help meet the need of writing Christian literature in Vietnamese. I have been equipped to preach and teach the Bible faithfully and relevantly to transform my Vietnamese people and then to equip the transformed people to do the work I have been doing.” With help from Langham Canada, he finished his PhD in 2023.

Vietnam’s evangelical Church numbers about two million people, or 2% of Vietnam’s total population of one hundred million, and Catholics accounting for about 8%. About half the Vietnamese officially practice Buddhism, though the most prevalent religion by far is a form of ancestor worship incorporating elements of Buddhism and Confucianism. Since the first Protestant missionaries arrived in 1911, the evangelical church has spread well beyond the major cities, into the countryside of the northern and central highlands.

Vietnam was torn apart by decades of war between the north and south, ending with the defeat of the south in 1975 and the imposition of a communist regime. The following decade was a difficult period for Vietnam’s Christians. However, major reforms beginning in 1986 saw not just a new free-market opening and rapid economic growth, but also a more relaxed policy toward all faith groups. Religious freedom is now officially recognized, though some restrictions continue to apply to unregistered house churches. The evangelical Church is growing steadily in numbers and confidence.

Two pressing needs for the Vietnamese Church are the acute shortage of pastors, and the lack of Vietnamese-language biblical and theological materials. Langham is working to address both. During the 1976-2003 period, all Bible colleges were closed, but since then, several have been established. Thien teaches at the Vietnam Bible Institute in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), founded in 2014. Its Bachelor of Biblical Studies program is a two-year program with 120 credit hours and provides a comprehensive survey of the entire Bible. The school also provides seminars and workshops for church elders and pastors

on how to address issues facing Christians in contemporary Vietnam.

The pastor shortage is partly the result of the decades when no formal theological education was available in Vietnam but is also due to the spectacular economic growth since. Urban professionals’ salaries are steadily increasing, and it becomes harder to attract educated, motivated men and women to a relatively poorly paid full-time ministry. Langham Preaching provides preaching training seminars for pastors in Vietnam. In the year ended June 2025, Langham hosted three training seminars for 99 pastors, and oversaw ten preaching clubs operating across the country.

Thien’s passion remains the provision of quality biblical literature for Vietnam’s pastors. He is working on a Hebrew-Vietnamese lexicon with about 8,600 Hebrew words and has recently written a chapter in Langham Global Library’s book *Exploring the Old Testament in Asia*, and a Vietnamese-language commentary on the *Book of Ruth*.

That *Ruth* commentary was published by The Seed Publishing, with assistance from Langham’s Publisher Development Program. The Seed was founded in 2018 by Thuy. An avid reader from early childhood, she was enthralled by the Old Testament stories. But only when her family moved to the city, to care for her grandparents, did Thuy, for the first time, enter a church and begin to hear the Bible taught faithfully. It has not been an easy path — even her closest extended family members often criticize her for abandoning their cultural traditions and question why she has devoted her life to working with her church and The Seed. Thuy says: “Sometimes with non-believers, we tend to hide our weakness. We are afraid they will say that ‘you Christians are not different from us.’ We need to show them that we are still human — how the power of the gospel frees us and helps us overcome our weakness.” But Thuy has persevered and flourished, earning a BA in Educational Psychology, then an MA in Christian Education and an M.Div. in Biblical Studies.

It soon became clear to Thuy that Vietnamese believers are held back by the lack of theological and biblical resources in their language. She recognized that God’s calling on her life was to support Vietnam’s pastors and Christian educators by producing the books and



Langham Scholar Thien

materials essential to help build a mature national Church. The Seed is now furnishing books to pastors, seminaries, and Bible colleges in Vietnam. She says, "I believe that Christian Education won't happen if there are no tools to be handed over to those who perform the task. Books are one of those tools, and so I found

this is where I find myself. Of course, as manager of this publishing business, there are other business tasks I have to deal with which I enjoy less, but I guess they have to be done!"

Since 2018, The Seed has published Vietnamese translations of classics such as *Pursuit of God* (Tozer), *Concise Theology* (JI Packer), *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* (Mark Dever), and *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City* (Tim Keller). This year, Langham is assisting with the publication of *The God of the Losers: Good News for Those Who Have Lost Confidence and Hope in Themselves* by a local Vietnamese author, who worked with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship Vietnam from 2005 to 2017, and translated *Our Daily Bread* into Vietnamese for fourteen years. Lily

now focuses on counselling people who are feeling spiritually broken by Vietnam's many social problems and left behind by its hyper-competitive and success-driven urban culture. This book will look at the psychological damage experienced by nine biblical "losers" from Leah, the woman who was not loved, to John Mark, the deserter, and Jonah, the runaway, and how God restored and renewed them.

Renewal is the story of the Vietnamese Church. It is astonishing that a country which only fifty years ago witnessed the final battles of the terrible Vietnam War is today one of the fastest-growing economies on earth. It is equally astonishing that the Vietnamese Church, which after 1975 experienced great hardship, is today desperately short of trained pastors and theological materials. With your support, Langham is working with the Vietnamese Church to train pastors, help equip Scholars like Thien who go on to pastor churches and write Vietnamese-language materials, and come alongside indigenous publishers like The Seed to produce culturally relevant books and resources for Vietnamese Church leaders.



Seed Publishing founder Thuy



PEOPLE SERVED

FY25

109,659
Directly

1,848,533
Indirectly

1,958,192
Total People

Langham Programs are far reaching!

There has been incredible growth in our Scholars and Preaching programs both directly and indirectly, mainly driven by an increase in those directly reached through Preachers Trained at Seminars and the number of scholars serving around the world. Indirectly, the growth was driven by the number of people taught by our trained preachers.

		People Served FY2025							TOTAL
		Directly				Indirectly			
Scholars	Clients	Current Scholars in PhD Program		Scholars Serving In 96 nations		Students Taught	Scholar-started Organizations Impact		SCHOLARS
	Number	103		355		119,990	208,660		329,108
Preaching	Clients	Preachers Trained at Seminars		Seminar Facilitators & Small Preaching Group Leaders Trained		Seminar Participant Preaching Audience	People Trained by Level #3 Seminar Participants		PREACHING
	Number	15,782		1,037		1,262,560	47,400		1,326,779
Literature	Clients	Publishers	Colleges	Authors & Editors	Book Customers	Library Users	MW Book Project Readers	Writer's Grant Book Readers	LITERATURE
	Number	29	685	1,065	90,603	115,020	74,980	19,923	302,305
TOTAL		109,659				1,848,533			1,958,192

NOTE: Langham annually tracks people directly served in program databases and calculates indirect beneficiaries through triennial long-term impact surveys

GREECE: RENEWAL OF AN ANCIENT CHURCH

“There is a serious shortage of high-quality evangelical theological literature in Greek,” says Theo Karvounakis (PhD Free University of Amsterdam, 2025), Langham Scholar and president of Greek Bible College in Athens. “Much of our academic material is translated from English, and indigenous Greek evangelical theological publishing remains limited. Some online sermons, YouTube channels, and podcasts are emerging, but the ecosystem is still underdeveloped compared to English-language contexts.”

It is ironic that so few evangelical biblical and theological resources are available in Greek, the original language of the New Testament. Langham’s Publisher Development program has now committed to address this need by supporting Katartismos, an Athens-based publisher pioneered by the First Greek Evangelical Church in Athens, Greece’s oldest evangelical congregation. Katarkismos’s director, Dr. Argyris Petrou, will oversee a multi-year plan to translate excellent Bible-based materials into Greek and publish them for the Church in Greece and the Greek diaspora. The first phase of the project focuses on the Apostles’ Creed, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and Last Things. Books to be translated in the second year will deal with the Christian view of the human person, the nature of God, and the ministry of Jesus.

Dr. Argyris Petrou has worked in evangelistic and publishing work in Greece, served for twelve years as president of the Greek Evangelical Alliance, and as full-time professor and administrative director of the Greek Bible College from 2007-2018, where he is now adjunct professor teaching Homiletics and Missions. Argyris and his wife Dina became Canadian citizens during the years he served as a pastor in Toronto’s “Greek Town”, and studied at Toronto’s Tyndale Seminary.



Langham Scholar
Dr. Theo Karvounakis

The Greek evangelical church numbers between 30,000 and 50,000 believers in a national population of around 11 million. This church, while relatively small, is resilient, having grown slightly over the past several generations, with new and encouraging growth among younger people, especially in the two major urban centres of Athens and Thessaloniki.

However, there are challenges. Greece has total religious freedom, but socially and culturally, to be truly Greek is assumed by many to mean identification with the Orthodox Church, which for centuries served as the defender of national culture during foreign occupation of their land. This very often translates into only nominal participation in any spiritual activity, especially among the younger population who share the same secular and materialistic worldview as Western Europeans. However, there is openness among Orthodox believers to discuss spiritual issues, and evangelicals are generally welcome to



Dr. Argyris Petrou with his wife Dina (3rd from left) and their children (L-R) Erik, Hara, Erastos and Anastasia, all working in full-time ministry in Greece

share their faith. New, non-threatening forms of outreach are being developed that are more engaging and acceptable to a society still somewhat wary of evangelism. Many of these involve community development service by young people, sports, and activities. Beyond the gospel being shared, the desired outcome is strengthened families and communities.

Greece is also the entry point to Europe for hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees from the Middle East and North Africa, and more recently from Ukraine. This has caused social and economic challenges, with estimates of the foreign population in Greece as high as 10%, but has also opened up evangelistic opportunities for the Greek church. Theo says, “Several evangelical churches are involved in mercy ministries. Small but growing Farsi-speaking fellowships have emerged. Some migrants have come to faith through local outreach and international partnerships, while others arrive already as believers and strengthen existing congregations. In many ways, this represents one of the most strategic mission fields in Europe, right at our doorstep.” Some observers believe that more born-again immigrants than born-again Greeks are worshipping on a Sunday morning in Athens.

The major challenge is the development of evangelical leaders. Greece is only beginning to recover from a devastating economic meltdown in 2008-9, which led to a large migration of young, enterprising Greeks to western Europe and abroad, and today’s consequent dearth of leaders. The result, as Theo explains, is that “the quality of preaching varies widely. In many churches, sermons are devotional rather than expository, and formal theological training among pastors is limited. Bi-vocational ministry is common.”

Over the years, there have been many effective evangelistic programs in Greece. For example, AMG (Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel) has built the CosmoVision Centre on the outskirts of Athens to serve as a centre for youth outreach. But Theo’s burden is for the theological training of full-time Christian pastors and workers. The Greek Bible College in Athens is Greece’s only Protestant evangelical school. The College first opened its doors in 1973 for evening classes. By 2004, its Diploma in Biblical Studies was recognized by the European Evangelical Accreditation Association, and it has since established academic partnerships with Liberty University (USA) and Union School of Theology (Wales). The College now operates out of a modern building in suburban Athens built in 2019, and has over sixty students, about half studying online.



Langham Scholar
Myrto Theocharous in Athens

The faculty includes two Langham Scholars besides Theo: Olga Basiloglou-McCracken (PhD Aberdeen, 2026) and Myrto Theocharous (Cambridge, 2011). Myrto teaches Old Testament. “I

love the Old Testament. The book of Deuteronomy reveals to me *God’s heart for the oppressed, God’s heart for the poor...* God’s liberation from slavery, a new life being given to them, a new blueprint of living life.” This vision has led Myrto to become president of a ministry working with marginalized women – a major problem in an international

gateway city like Athens. Myrto is also training the next generation of leaders: her former students include the co-founders of a homeless ministry in Athens, a church planter for refugee families, a children’s book author, and fellow college staff.

Through the work of Langham Scholars like Theo and Myrto, and Langham authors and publishers like Argyris, Langham Partnership is committed to equipping Church leaders for the beautiful country of Greece, and helping to bring renewal to its ancient Church. It is a privilege to help support the growing Church in this land, the cradle of our Christian faith.

WHY WE SUPPORT LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP

By Burke and Celia Hill, Surrey, BC

The first reason we have supported Langham for the past four decades, is that God gave us a heart for the vision He gave to John Stott – namely, to help build up the local church in the Majority World through ongoing scholarships for PhD students, who go back to their countries to teach pastoral students, who then go out and pastor their local churches, preaching and teaching from God’s Word.

The second reason is our background story. In the fall of 1983, we met at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, founded the year before by John Stott. We were both then on the second ‘Christian in the Modern World’ course at St. Peter’s Vere Street. At LICC, we grew to know and love Uncle John, his warm character and his personal welcome for all. We were also growing in our faith, inspired by his clear teaching of God’s Word, and his

exhortations to apply it to our daily lives. He kindly agreed to marry us the following year. Supporting his vision for Langham Partnership’s work in preaching, publishing and scholarship followed naturally. It also kept us in touch with him over the years.

With every newsletter we are always amazed and thankful to read how far the vision is expanding to so many countries around the world. This is the third reason: it is, in short, miraculous! Prayers are being answered. John’s original vision of building up the local church, with well-taught pastors preaching from the Bible, who themselves were taught by well-trained theologians in an evangelical gospel-faithful context, is standing the test of time. We believe and pray it will last well into the future.



YOU CAN BE PART OF LANGHAM’S MISSION!



WILL YOU JOIN US ON MISSION? LANGHAM’S WORK RESONATES WITH GLOBALLY-MINDED CANADIAN CHRISTIANS WHO LOVE AND VALUE THE CHURCH OF THE MAJORITY WORLD. JOIN US.

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Remember to email us at canada@langham.org to request a zoom meeting with Steven Van Dyck, executive director of Langham Canada and the outreach and mission team at your church.