



Mongolia Preaching team (Bayarjargal Garamtseren, third from left)

LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP IN MONGOLIA

Largely unnoticed by Christians in the west, Mongolia has written an amazing chapter of Church history during the past generation, and Langham Partnership continues to play an important part in this story.

When Mongolia's communist government collapsed in 1990, the country had an estimated four Christians. Today, reliable estimates put the Christian population at over 60,000. Communism's collapse meant poverty and economic chaos for Mongolia. Over 90% of Mongolia's trade and investment had been tied to the Soviet Union. The departing Soviets ripped wire out of walls and unearthed buried pipes.

But this also meant an unprecedented openness to new ideas and worldviews. During the medieval era, Christianity had a significant presence in Mongolia, as can be seen from archaeological finds of statues with Biblical inscriptions. Mongol Christian leaders traveled as far as France and Rome in the 1200s and met with the pope and the kings of France and England. But with the decline of the religiously tolerant Mongol Empire after the 1200s, and pressure from expansionist Islam, Christianity almost disappeared, and in 1921 was made illegal by the Soviet-backed Communist regime. But with the end of communism in 1990, Christian ministries quickly moved into this newly opened door.

Korean missionaries arrived soon after 1990. Not only is the Korean church very evangelistic, but Korean-speakers found it relatively easy to learn Mongolian, since both languages (along with Finnish and Hungarian) are in the Altaic family of languages. Mongolians wanted good Christian TV programming, and today, Far East Broadcasting Company (operating as Family Radio) has 10 stations and 200,000 subscribers through cable and satellite, and is among Mongolia's most listened-to radio services. Christian ministries built orphanages, clinics and schools. The new church was predominantly young, and its leaders all first-generation Christians.

Bayarjargal Garamtseren was among them. He came to faith in 1992, and within a few years was working in the finance department of World Vision Mongolia. However, his calling was to theological education and biblical training. Bayarjargal left Mongolia to do a Masters degree

at Boston's Gordon-Conwell Seminary, and then received a Langham Scholarship for a PhD at Cambridge University in biblical studies. Today he heads up the Mongolian Union Bible Society's project to produce a fresh Mongolian translation of the Bible from the original languages.

The first complete Bible in literary Mongolian was printed by the London Missionary Society in 1846. When Mongolia opened up to the Gospel in 1990, a revision of this translation was already available. The Gospel spread so rapidly in part because Mongolia was already a highly literate society, with a 97% literacy rate under communism. Kwai Lin Stephens, of Joint Christian Services International, says that this "made it a lot easier to teach and learn. The people could read the Bible for themselves. You would hear of Christians who read the whole New Testament within three months of becoming a believer."

With the rapid growth of the Mongolian Church, the need for trained pastors became apparent. Union Bible Theological College (UBTC), founded in 1992, now has over 600 graduates, and is accredited by the Asia Theological Association. There are also at least four other Bible colleges and seminaries in Mongolia. This emphasis on solid biblical teaching, especially among lay people, gave the Mongolian Church a strong foundation during its formative years, though in recent years temptations such as the Prosperity Gospel have arisen.

Langham Literature's Publisher Development Program, directed by Colin McPherson, has a vision for a well-trained Church leadership and biblically and theologically solid church members, through provision of excellent books and other resources. This vision is shared by Bayarjargal, who has now founded a new Christian publishing company, Erdem Buteel.

Colin seeks out Christian publishing entrepreneurs like Bayarjargal, with a vision for indigenously owned, quality publishing, and the capacity to make that vision work. Too often, Majority World Christians receive only cheaply produced translations of modern western books and materials, often culturally irrelevant to readers' needs. They need locally produced materials speaking to local needs, and experience

shows that this is best achieved through local ownership. Langham's research confirms that local Christians attach much more significance to books they pay a fair value for, than books given to them free. Bayarjargal has already published Mongolian translations of timeless Christian classics such as *Knowing God* (J.I. Packer), and *Life in Christ* (John Stott), with plans for *The Reason for God* (Tim Keller), and eventually for original books written in Mongolian.

Colin works with publishers around the world to make quality theological and biblical books and resources available through indigenously owned publishers. He does this by providing technological and professional help (usually over a 5- to 20-year timeframe), to enable them to become self-sustaining. Through this program, Langham Literature is helping to equip Church leaders in over 30 countries, such

as Benin, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Mongolia, and most recently, Angola, as well as some limited-access countries.

These books are an invaluable resource for preachers in Mongolia as they work with this young, enthusiastic and fast-growing church. Langham Preaching has been working with Mongolian pastors since 2016, and over 40 men and women have been trained through its programs. Bayarjargal is one of the country facilitators of the program in Mongolia, and Chris Wright joined him as a facilitator in 2019. For that visit, Erdem Buteel published a translation of Chris's book about preaching, *Sweeter than Honey*. Langham Preaching in Mongolia is co-facilitated by Puje Jamsran, former principal of UBTC.

Thank you for your support of Langham, and for your investment in such exciting Kingdom work in Mongolia.

WHY I SUPPORT LANGHAM



“For fifteen years I worked with students in a limited-access country, with a cross-cultural ministry. I saw the importance of ensuring that young Christians, or people wanting to learn more about the Christian faith, have access to biblically solid, culturally relevant books and resources. For a long time, I have valued the range of books published by Langham, written by indigenous authors to address theological issues which are impacting non-western churches today.

As a doctoral student in intercultural studies at Fuller Seminary, I am heartened to see Langham show up perennially as a source of practical partnership with emerging and established scholars from the Majority World. I can testify to the quality of scholarship and diversity of perspectives such scholars bring to the table, enriching and refining what Gospel faithfulness looks like around the world.” – Alex Lee

LANGHAM PREACHING SEMINARS SERVE PREACHERS WHO NEED THEM THE MOST

Recently there have been significant Langham Preaching gatherings in Colombia, Austria, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Liberia, Spain, several South Asian countries, Bolivia, and Argentina, with many more happening and planned around the world. This encouraging quote comes from a Preaching Seminary participant from a South Asian country. The name of the preacher and the country can't be shared for their own safety.

“I belong to a remote and underdeveloped village of ---. I have heard a lot about the Langham Training program. The Seminary area coordinator shared about the Langham seminar going to be held in ---. I with my other three pastor friends (who come from similar background) committed to attend this seminar this year. However, we do not have enough money to attend this training because going from --- to --- (nearly 1400Km) involves a lot of travel and other expenses. We shared this with our church members. Despite the dire circumstances, our congregants raised a small amount of funds for us but still insufficient financial assistance. At last we decided to sell our goats to have some more money to travel to attend Langham. After attending this seminar, I am feeling blessed and feeling that I have invested my money on the right thing. I have never been in any

such seminar. I will use the tools to preach in my church and hope my congregants will grow in the real spirit of the word of God.”

In Langham's Financial Year 2023, Langham Preaching held 360 in-person and virtual preaching training seminars in 81 countries in need of solid biblical preaching. There are 108 Langham Preaching Movements in 92 countries around the world. Langham Preaching equipped 11,719 preachers to teach God's Word (1,081 of whom are local indigenous Facilitators and Preaching Club coordinators); and training was led by 720 local Facilitators, who are equipped and working together in teams to train others. Our teams shepherded 1,292 preaching groups of 7-10 pastors and leaders meeting regularly for ongoing training and mentoring, and nine global or regional consultations, forums or leadership meetings were held, involving at least 233 leaders and/or coordinators from across the world to review, learn, train and plan.

Our founder John Stott said, “Churches live, grow and flourish by the Word of God, and they languish and die without it... whenever the Word of God is faithfully expounded and applied, congregations grow in both size and depth.”

LANGHAM PREACHING COORDINATOR STUDYING BY DISTANCE IN CANADA SHARES HIS HEART AND WORK

Fernando Sevilla Ruiz is Langham's Preaching Movement Coordinator in Peru and a distance student with Northwest Baptist Seminary in Langley, B.C.



How did Jesus find you?

Jesus came into my life when I was a child, amid a very strong family crisis. My sister had gone to church first and then she invited me. I didn't resist much because at that moment I needed a refuge and strength to face the situations at home, as I was the oldest of five siblings. It was the beginning of a great transformation and restoration that God continues to work in my life to this day.

What does serving Jesus look like for you this week?

Serving Jesus during a specific week is a deeply fulfilling experience for me. Apart from my work with Langham, I am in a group of pastors who come together 'virtually' to pray, worship, and learn from the Word. Additionally, I engage in mentoring young individuals from the juvenile correctional centre in Lima as part of their good behaviour program. Each week, I serve Jesus with the gifts He has bestowed upon me, such as the ability to teach Scriptures through expository preaching, growing and watching over my fellow pastors, and providing hope and resources to incarcerated youth, helping them develop when they re-enter society. On Sundays, my family attends the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in the district of Jesus Maria.

What do you enjoy about working with Langham Preaching?

Firstly, working as a team to achieve the set objectives, which involves not only observing statistics or trends but also monitoring the growth of coordinators, participants, and even the national team. Secondly, I enjoy building a personal relationship with each participant in my escuela, or preaching club, seeing them not just as students who learn but also as individuals with emotions, struggles, and concerns. I ask them how they are doing and pray for them. Lastly, it challenges me to keep learning more so I can teach even better and with greater confidence.

Share a resource that has helped you in your preaching (other than Langham!)

An important tool for me during this time is a distance Master of Divinity (MDiv) program that I am pursuing at the Northwest Baptist Seminary in Canada. This has allowed my vision of preaching to expand significantly.

(This article originally appeared in a Langham Preaching newsletter. Thank you Fernando!)

Langham Launches New Website

Langham Canada has a new website! Along with our international partners in the United States, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, our office has been involved in a website renovation project, leading to a more accessible and easily navigated site. Please visit ca.langham.org and read the latest news, sign up for our monthly e-blast and even purchase books written by Majority World authors, in partnership with Langham. We think you'll love the new site.



LANGHAM CANADA AND USA BOARDS MEET TOGETHER

Board meetings happening at the same time close together have led to a unique opportunity for the boards of Langham Partnership Canada and Langham Partnership USA to meet together in Toronto in early October. Although operating independently with their own budget and board, each national partner that makes up the global Langham family works closely together to plan and execute this global ministry. Often, in-person gatherings happen overseas and involve the other global partners, such as our international council meetings. This event, including a dinner hosted by Langham Canada at Wycliffe

College, gave the US and Canada boards a rare in-person opportunity to deepen the friendship between the Canadian and US arms of the ministry. At the dinner, Langham board members heard testimonials from Langham Scholar Andy Kuo, studying in Canada, and the next day, Langham Scholar Pavani Paul, also studying in Canada, led the US board in a devotional via zoom. Langham Hong Kong director Victor Sun and his wife Mary were visiting family in Canada, and were also able to attend. "We were very happy to be able to host our friends who share our passion and commitment to work together to strengthen the growth of the Church in Majority World countries. It was a special joy to be able to meet in historic Wycliffe College, where so many Langham Scholars have trained for many decades," says Steven Van Dyck, Langham Canada's executive director.

LANGHAM LITERATURE HELPS WITH BOOK TACKLING TRAUMA: A UKRAINIAN PERSPECTIVE

Earlier this year, Langham Literature helped produce the Ukrainian translation of the book *Tackling Trauma: Global, Biblical, and Pastoral Perspectives*, published in cooperation with the Eastern European Institute of Theology located in Lviv, Ukraine. By early summer 2023, two print runs had sold out, and interest in the book continues to grow, both in Ukraine itself, and among the large and growing Ukrainian diaspora.

Tackling Trauma is the first comprehensive practical guide to working with trauma survivors from a Christian perspective available in Ukrainian.

Anatoliy Denysenko specializes in philosophical theology and is Senior Research Fellow at the Eastern European Institute of Theology, Lviv. He has reflected on this volume:

“Defining trauma can be difficult. Perhaps it is the emptiness in our souls. As a philosopher, I believe all people live through some traumatic experience. I am hesitant to say whether my understanding of trauma changed following the 24th of February 2022; rather, it has become more acute. I see more clearly now that everyone has some fracture inside, because of the war in particular.

Trauma is a painful experience, but once it happens to us, trauma is not necessarily a thing that needs to be eliminated but rather something we need to learn to live with. The biggest problem with modern psychology is that it tries to “cure” the patient, considering trauma unnatural. From a theological standpoint, humanity inherited Adam’s trauma,

the emptiness, which means we have been traumatised by sin since birth. What we can do about it is accept the trauma and learn to move forward with it.

The Bible was written from the standpoint of a traumatised, weak, wounded, rejected person whose texts would be composed by those living in the “shadows of the empire.” The Scriptures are primarily a text written by Jews in various colonial eras. For the most part, the authors did not have their land or place of worship; they went through exile, faced misunderstandings, experienced internal turmoils, and stayed in their own “mental deserts.” When we read the Bible this way, it becomes evident that the authors were not strangers to us. They, just like us, went through and made sense of wars, genocides, losses, and persecutions. They faced spiritual and physical evil, which left an imprint on their bodies and souls. Through the stories and teachings of the “heroes of faith,” the Bible invites readers to walk with those heroes on a difficult earthly journey.

I believe that one of the main objectives of pastors, caregivers, and psychologists is to teach the traumatised how to move forward with their trauma. Not to drown out the pain with a “positive philosophy,” not to run away from it, not to deceive themselves with self-conviction and belief in a painless utopian life. We should accept that we have been traumatised by this war and continue to learn to build our lives based on a traumatic experience.” You can find out more about this book and others at www.langhamliterature.org

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