It’s Sunday outside of St. Peter’s Church in Bandung, Indonesia, and these children crowd around their favorite teachers—Rini and Mutiara, who are currently studying under Langham Scholar Dwi Handayani at the Bandung Theological Seminary. They are serving at the church, which is located in one of Bandung’s poorest neighborhoods, as part of their studies.

Dwi’s own story of emerging from a childhood of desperate poverty has motivated and inspired Rini and Mutiara to better love and serve the children of St. Peters Church. “Looking at Dwi, knowing where she came from…it’s a great motivation for me,” says Mutiara. “In class she emphasizes not just teaching and preaching God’s Word, but also the life of the people that you are ministering to. You have to love them, approach them, spend time with them. The more I learn about the Bible and theology, the more confidence I have to serve others.”

Inside these pages, you’ll meet Dwi and learn how, with Langham’s support, she is being equipped to train other leaders, like Rini and Mutiara, to share the love of Christ throughout Indonesia.

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A STRONG FAITH IN BANDUNG

The crest mounted on the stone wall outside Bandung Theological Seminary reads “Sola Scriptura.” Not too notable for a seminary. But in Indonesia—where a movement of biblical preaching is gaining momentum smack dab in the middle of the largest Muslim population in the world—it’s a meaningful declaration.

Inside, Bible teacher Dwi Handayani, one of 14 Langham Scholars who graduated with Ph.D.’s this year, is working to teach her students—Indonesia’s future pastors and leaders—how to both proclaim God’s Word and connect it to the world outside of the seminary walls. Dwi also serves as Langham’s Preaching training coordinator for Indonesia, and she uses the same simple curriculum Langham uses to train pastors around the world with her seminary students. As a result—students are being presented with an entirely new approach to studying and teaching God’s Word. And, it’s making a difference.

Dwi says, “Before, some of the seminary graduates don’t preach well. They know how to dig into the Bible, but they don’t know how to deliver it well. . .  Langham’s training method is clear and transferrable, so by giving them this kind of training, it’s helped them. And the churches we send them to, they say that we produce good preachers. So, that’s wonderful.”

“Langham has arrived at just the right time.”

Dwi credits her studies, supported by Langham at Asia Graduate School of Theology in the Philippines, with encouraging her to bring together God’s Word and the context of the world.

“They said it all the time, ‘in your context, in your context. ’ I was thinking, ‘What is my context?’ Then I thought about Indonesia, the most populace Muslim nation in the whole world.”

This is why Dwi focused her studies and research on ministry within Muslim contexts—an issue front and center for those doing ministry in Indonesia. Rosemary, a local pastor trainer with Langham Preaching, shares: “The [areas] where the church is established and stronger is arousing the attention of more radical Islamist leaders. Church leaders know that if their people are not established in the Word, they will be easy prey . . .  Langham has arrived at just the right time for church leaders who believe that unless we establish our people, we will lose them.”

As a theologically trained leader, doors are now open for Dwi to engage in meaningful conversations with leaders of other faiths.

“A few months ago,” she shares, “I was invited as a moderator to a religious freedom dialogue at the largest university here. That’s an opportunity to share.”

They are longing for the Word of God

Across town, St. Peter’s Church stands as a Gospel outpost in an impoverished Bandung neighborhood. Its pastor, Daniel Sihombing, is one of Indonesia’s almost 4,000 biblical leaders trained by Langham, and he has gone through several levels of pastor training with Dwi. In the five years since the formation of the church, Pastor Daniel has seen the congregation grow from 6 to 120 members—and he sees himself not only as their teacher, but as a caretaker.

Dwi says she’s seen a great deal of growth and improvement in Daniel’s preaching, and Daniel knows it’s impacting the church. After spending three months preaching through the book of Acts—Daniel saw the Word of God touching the heart of his church.

“My congregation says that now they know what is the purpose of their lives. It is to serve God,” he shares. “They have a new vision.”

Langham is dedicated to multiplying biblical leaders with a
God-shaped vision in Indonesia and throughout the global church. Thank you for being co-laborers in this mission with us. Your prayers and generous support of Langham raises up teachers like Dwi who pour their lives into training pastors like Daniel. By God’s grace, the result is believers growing in number and maturity. We are grateful!

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Meet Dwi’s students at Bandung Theological Seminary (BTS) and be inspired by what they’re learning about ministry.

RACHMAT, a member of a local Langham preaching club and one of Dwi’s students at BTS, shares: “In Indonesia, the preaching is often thematic and topical—not God’s word. One of the reasons I went to seminary is because I was getting sick of the preaching in my home church. I thought, ‘Is this all there is to God’s word?’ Then, I heard about Langham and expository preaching and I said, ‘This is it. This is the right way to handle God’s word and preach it.’”

EVA, one of Dwi’s students and a member of a preaching club, says, “Most teaching emphasizes to teach God’s love, but Langham emphasized truth and love.” Now Eva is sharing all she’s learned with students in a ministry she founded for Bandung’s street children. When she teaches, she says “They said to me the preaching has helped them how to live better, how to live in Christ.”

MUTIARA, a student of Dwi’s at BTS, shares God’s Word and the love of Christ with young members of St. Peter’s church each Sunday. “A lot of things I learn from BTS I can apply here. For example, not only to teach the Bible, also to emphasize the life of the people you minister to. You have to love them and spend time with them. That’s what I am learning.”

GENEROSITY THAT IMPACTS GENERATIONS

We know that when biblical leaders are equipped—God uses them to impact more than just seminaries and Bible schools. Pictured here are the youngest members of Goran, an impoverished village in northern India, where the vast majority of people have never heard of Jesus, and many are living within the lowest levels of the caste system, in desperate poverty. But these children are the first in their families to attend school, planted with the help of a local Bible college led by Langham-trained leader Finny Philip. Finny says, “As students come and learn, it will open up more ways for them to be leaders in society. Many of them have become pastors in the region.”

Make an investment that lasts

In the Majority World, as many as 80% of church leaders lack the training they need to biblically address the issues facing their congregations. When you include Langham as part of your planned giving—your generosity sustains our work in these regions, helping us to continue to equip local leaders, like Finny, who shepherd future generations in Christ.

To learn more about the options and benefits of including Langham in your planned giving, contact Jack DeGrenier at jack.degrenier@langham.org or 480-595-5117.

“It’s my heart’s desire and prayer that these ministries will continue long after my death, under God’s blessing and provision and with the prayerful and generous support of God’s people.”

— John Stott
Dear friend of Langham,

I recently uncovered a letter John Stott wrote to the board of Langham USA in 2005 celebrating progress toward our vision to see Majority World churches equipped for mission and maturity. Five of Stott’s words stuck with me: “Our work is not yet done.” It was true in 2005, and it’s true this year.

His reminder that we look forward to a day when seminaries, authors, publishers and pastors within the Majority World are helping one another to raise the standard of biblical preaching and teaching is an affirmation of our vision, and a charge to press on.

Your support and prayers, by God’s grace, are being multiplied into the lives of pastors and leaders who are making an amazing difference in hard places around the world. I hope you are similarly encouraged and inspired as you encounter some of their stories inside these pages, knowing that you play an integral part in continuing this work.

Partnering in Christ,

Benjamin K. Homan
President, Langham Partnership USA

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:2