Faithful preaching has come to Community Bible Church in Ghana. Pictured above is worship leader Godwill, who tells us that God’s Word comes to his church each Sunday through his Langham-trained pastor. The preaching here has changed my life,” he says. “The way I carry myself in public and in my family has really changed.”

Over the past year, by God’s grace and your faithful prayers and support, we’ve seen thousands of lives like Godwill’s impacted by God’s Word faithfully preached. This is what John Stott had in mind when he said that churches—God’s people—live, grow and flourish by His Word. It’s why the vision of Langham, the ministry he founded, is to see every pulpit in every church around the world occupied by a Bible-believing, Bible-expounding pastor.

In the pages that follow, our year in review, you’ll meet some of these brothers and sisters in Christ who are being equipped for mission, growing to maturity, and modeling the love of Christ in their communities. May you be inspired by their stories.
GAINING GROUND IN GHANA
How sound biblical preaching equips local churches
to spur ripples of transformation in Ghana and the rest of Africa

Langham-trained pastors and lay preachers in Ghana
make no apologies for their grand mission: to lead their
nation to holistic transformation.
They believe that change—in all aspects of life—
follows when people grow in their understanding and
application of the Bible.
“The investment in Langham Scholars, literature and
publishing, and especially in Langham Preaching,
has raised a generation of people whose witness and
ministry has impacted nations on this continent,” shares
the Rev. Femi Adeleye, associate director for Langham
Preaching in Africa.
He says it excites him that he can encourage and equip
young leaders—those in ministry, in public office and
the marketplace—to study the Scriptures seriously and
“bring their faith to bear on all aspects of life.”

Strange teachings
But even as Langham preachers in Ghana believe the
future of Africa depends on God’s Word being faithfully
taught and applied, the Rev. Emmanuel Ahlijah, pastor
of Community Bible Church, admits he worries about
the kind of preaching “that’s in our system.”
“There’s a lot of bad preaching, and those preachers
have a good following,” he explains.
Ahlijah believes Langham is key to bringing the true
Gospel to Ghana. “Our vision is to see people become

ABOUT LANGHAM PREACHING
In 60+ nations around the world, Langham nurtures indigenous
preaching movements for pastors and lay preachers by providing
practical, biblically based training and ongoing support.

Equipping the hands the handle Gods’ Word—Rev. Dr. Femi
Adeleye (left), who helps coordinate Langham’s preaching
movement in Africa, and pastor Emmanuel Ahlijah, one of
those trained in Ghana.
more like Jesus, impact their society and spur ripples of transformation wherever they go. It’s been slow, but I think we’re making tremendous inroads.”

For this reason, Ahlijah says he can’t thank Langham donors enough for their support. “Once you help one preacher explain Scripture well and apply it, you help, let’s say, 50 people. It’s a very strategic investment.”

Drawing the line

The Rev. Benard Lartey, pastor of Restoration Church, also part of Langham’s pastor-training movement, reports that church members can now discern between right and wrong theology. “People are getting the whole picture, not just parts of Scripture and then harp on them as we used to do,” he adds.

“(He) is very patient in his teaching and delivery,” says associate pastor Gabriel Ennen. “I’ve witnessed how families on the verge of collapse came together again through his work and teaching.”

Selina Annen, a church member, makes the same observation. She notes that because of clear and relevant preaching, people sense conviction. As an example, she says a Muslim woman “now comes to church, asks questions and contributes.”

Annen says she, too, learned to bring the Gospel to her unchurched friends. “You cannot sit on it—you have to share it with somebody.”

In 2005, Ghana became the first country in Africa to start a Langham Preaching program. In the words of the Rev. Femi Adeleye, it has since become the “best influence in nurturing Christian minds” in Ghana and the rest of Africa.

TESTIMONIES OF LIVES CHANGED

In their own words, church members from Restoration and Community Bible Church share how God’s Word, faithfully taught by their Langham-trained pastors, is impacting their lives.

Samuel says biblical preaching has enriched his prayer life and relationships with other believers. He says, “Pastor encourages us more about the Word of God and gives us the spiritual milk we need to grow with.”

Benedicta attests that “the Word of God comes to us every Sunday. The preaching, they teach you how to study the way of God and how you can apply it in daily life.”

Nicholas says growth manifests in numbers. “About 80 percent of my family members are saved because what I received I began to share. God uses my church to build lives.”

Godwill, a music minister at Madina Community, says his pastor’s preaching about faithfulness, holiness and commitment has “changed the way I carry myself in public and in my family.”

LANGHAM PREACHING 2016 IN REVIEW

228 preaching training events held in 59 countries, equipping 10,200+ pastors and lay leaders

500+ preaching groups of 10–12 pastors and leaders met regularly for ongoing training and mentoring

6 new preaching movements started in Cuba, Georgia, Egypt and Senegal and 2 sensitive South Asian countries
BRIDGE BUILDER IN ‘NEW EGYPT’

A Langham Scholar and key figure in the Middle East calls for coexistence amid divisive differences

In distinct ways, the Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki Stephanous is a rebel of sorts.

At age 19, he left home to go to seminary, a decision that upset his family. They reasoned that to be a priest or a pastor was equal to “losing your future.”

Fast forward to 2011. In the aftermath of the January Revolution in Egypt, thousands of Arab Christians left the country to migrate somewhere else.

But Zaki stayed put.

“People asked me,” he recalls, “Why do you stay here? You have education, you have access. You should look to the future of your kids.”

Future on his mind

The future of Egypt is what consumes Zaki and drives him to work tirelessly. He hopes that one day, people will coexist in harmony, respect each other’s differences and work together toward common goals. In a country besieged by doctrinal and political upheaval, no aspiration is more radical.

But the dream demands that Zaki juggle multiple roles. He leads the Protestant Community of Egypt, the second largest Christian minority group in the Middle East, comprising 18 denominations. An accomplished author, a Langham Scholar and theologian, Zaki also teaches at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, equipping students to build vibrant churches and communities in their own countries.

But what often pulls Zaki into the thick of things is his involvement as general director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), which reaches out to more than 2 million Egyptians annually to care for physical, social and economic needs.

Instrument for change

In this “new Egypt,” Zaki says CEOSS is the “voice of truth” and an instrument for change.

Mervat Akhnoukh, CEOSS chair, explains that by tackling problems related to health, economy and all other aspects of life, the organization reaches the poor and gives them a better life. “We bring these programs together with vision to empower people, to build bridges,
to change communities… to create a new context of dignity, coexistence and living,” explains Zaki. “If you live in an Islamic culture, you need to see ways of building bridges.”

One way is by advocating what Samira Lukas, CEOSS chair, calls a “culture of dialog.” She says it’s a forum to help people—from the grassroots level to top leaders—to be heard and to foster the values of being together, accepting diversity and seeking for democratic process in Egypt.

**God leads the way**

“Dr. Zaki’s leadership has been “remarkable” says Ramaz Atallah, general director for the Bible Society of Egypt, adding that the CEOSS and the Protestant Community of Egypt have “grown tremendously” in the past few years.

While progress marches forward, much work remains to be done. One of Zaki’s priorities is building the capacity of pastors to “connect theology to practical daily challenges.” He says what’s needed, especially in post-Revolution Egypt, are church leaders “who are able to lead the church but also to speak to the community.”

In the end, Zaki rests in the leading of God. Looking back at his life, he says he never planned any of it “in this way.” It’s the “hand of God,” he says that leads him to build bridges, transform conditions and help people move toward the future.

**One leader trained and now impacting many thousands of lives for Christ.** Dr. Zaki shares, “The education I had with the support of Langham contributes to my position today as a leader in the church. I am what I am today because of the support of Langham.”

Thank you for your continued support that equips leaders like Dr. Zaki around the world.
ABOUT LANGHAM LITERATURE

Langham Literature distributes books to churches and schools, supports indigenous publishers and develops, in partnership with local leaders, groundbreaking commentary projects like the just-released Slavic Bible Commentary.

LOCAL SUPPORT, GLOBAL IMPACT

The Slavic Bible Commentary opens God’s Word for believers in Slavic nations.

BIBLE STUDY TOOL BY AND FOR THE SLAVIC PEOPLE

Newly released commentary answers need for God’s Word in the right language and context

When communism collapsed in Eastern Europe in 1989, a resurgence of interest in Christianity swept across the former Soviet Union. It resulted in a wave of new believers eager to leave the dark past behind and embrace the light of a new life in Christ.

While the upsurge in evangelicalism was all good news, it also displayed a need for qualified preachers and solid theological resources to help believers come to grips with the reality of following Jesus in their own context.

What does it mean to follow Christ in a post-communist context? What does it look like to be a good citizen? Questions like these beg for non-customary, unhurried answers. It matters that church leaders know how to present the unchanging truths of the Gospel in a way that carefully considers the cultural context of a community.

In this framework, the Slavic Bible Commentary (SBC) was born. Developed by Christian leaders from Ukraine and Russia—who labored together on the project at a time of deep tension between the two nations—the SBC is the first-ever commentary written in the indigenous language and perspectives of Slavic evangelical scholars.

“There is a need for qualified leaders to prevail in this context," says Dr. Peter Penner, one of the commentary’s editors. “Literature is especially needed, and the Slavic Bible Commentary will provide people across 11 time zones with God’s Word for their lives.”

Bringing unity

“It is very important to bring to the modern reader a text that can answer many social challenges and respond to events around us,” says Sergey Sannikov, SBC chief editor.

Local Support, Global Impact

29 nations receive Bible and theology resources sponsored by Langham and produced by indigenous publishers.
There is a need for qualified leaders to prevail in this context. Literature is especially needed, and the Slavic Bible Commentary will provide people across 11 time zones with God’s Word for their lives.”

Dr. Peter Penner

Oleksandr Geychenko, a Langham Scholar and member of the editorial board, believes that the commentary “will set the standard of reading the Bible” for local church leaders and believers.

Dr. Penner says he hopes the book will inspire people in different parts of the Slavic community “to love God’s Word even more, to study, dig deeper and preach” from it.

Noting that the commentary has already brought unity among denominational leaders in the Slavic region, project manager Taras Dyatlik comments, “So the investment of Langham was not just into a book or a commentary, but also into strengthening the relationships between evangelicals from the countries that are in a state of hybrid war.”

Looking into the future

In putting together the commentary, Russian contributor and Langham Scholar Konstantin Nazarov says Bible scholars worked hard to make sure it “will be as relevant in ten years’ time as it is today.”

Nazarov also believes that SBC “will lead to many new books being written here.” Already, he envisions writing for the 90 percent of Russians who do not go to church, “but who are asking deep questions,” as well as for “preachers with many unchurched people in their audiences.”

It’s a vast mission field, and church leaders in Eastern Europe have their work cut out for them. Thankfully, they can count on the Slavic Bible Commentary to help them preach the Bible with integrity and to apply God’s truth to contemporary reality.

Thank you for your faithful partnership and support of Langham.

Many hands brought the Slavic Bible Commentary to fruition, and your fingerprints are on this historic book, as well! We are grateful.
Your CULTIVATE newsletter is enclosed.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

INVESTMENT & MULTIPLICATION

Dear friend of Langham,

“You can count the number of seeds in an apple, but you can’t count the number of apples in a seed.” You’ve probably heard this quote before in other contexts, but it’s such a wonderful picture of multiplication. I shared it at the celebratory launch of the Slavic Bible Commentary—one of several landmark commentaries, indigenously written and produced, that has been supported by Langham. To me, this commentary is a seed scattered across the Slavic nations and opening God’s Word for pastors, Bible students and believers across 11 time zones. We trust that God will use it to bring forth much fruit, though we can’t yet count the number of apples, of transformed lives, inside this book.

Inside these pages, you’ll read about this and other “seed stories” of pastors trained and theological leaders equipped. May you be encouraged at the fruit that comes by God’s grace and through your hand (and prayers), which supports this ministry. We are grateful.

Partnering in Christ,

Benjamin K. Homan
President, Langham Partnership USA

To view our annual report, visit www.langham.org/2016_annual_report

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

John 4:35-36