If you’re looking to find Langham Scholar Dr. Rolex Cailing, a biblical leader trained with support from Langham in the Philippines, you’re going to have to look in some unusual places.

Most Filipinos would expect to find him tucked away in his office all day, reading and writing. But, Rolex is more likely to be found engaged in a game of basketball with local youth, sitting shoulder to shoulder with a recently displaced family, or teaching homeless families the art of urban gardening.

Rolex, following the ethos established by Langham’s founder, John Stott, is fully engaged with his community, using his Ph.D. to integrate the Bible with culture. And in his Filipino context, where many with academic degrees might be confined to the “ivory tower,” it’s all the more powerful.
“There is a gap,” Rolex admits. And he believes one way to “break the gap” is through community immersion.

**Context and community**

When Rolex returned to the Philippines after completing his Ph.D. studies, he says God opened up bigger opportunities for him to share his heart for community immersion with pastors and church leaders. He says at one point he conducted a seminar for at least 50 pastors eager to learn.

“I love mentoring,” Rolex shares. “I have been mentoring pastors and most of them are my former students in the seminary.”

One of the principles Rolex is eager to pass on is how important it is for preachers to be engaged with their communities—taking context into consideration. “When you know the hurts of the people… it changes everything—the way you talk to them, the way you pray with them.”

The “dispersed and displaced people” Rolex refers to are the survivors of typhoon Haiyan, a superstorm that smashed into the Philippines in November 2013. Thousands of people died and millions lost their homes. At least 2,000 of those homeless people relocated in the province of Rizal, where Rolex and his family live.

Through Rolex’s support and leadership as senior pastor of Life Reach Ministries, many of the resettled families have found hope and are growing in their relationship with God. By partnering with other organizations, Rolex created opportunities to help the displaced community meet critical needs. He set up a feeding program for children and taught parents how to recycle and make money from trash. He organized basketball teams to connect with the youth and men in the community. And, because there were no schools in the resettlement area, Rolex started one tailored to the needs of local children.

A transformational experience

Community immersion is not a popular ministry model in the Philippines, according to Rolex. Instead, he says, many pastors are too quick to tell people in tragic situations that “It’s OK, God has a plan.”

“You can’t just jump in and say ‘God has a purpose for this tragedy’—and you’re talking to someone who just lost three kids? But, by being there, living with them and listening to their cries, you are sending a message that God is alive and in control,” Rolex emphasizes. “For a theologian like me, it is transformational to be immersed in the community of the dispersed and displaced people because there you learn to listen, you learn to serve authentically. And the fact that you are there to listen to their groaning and laments and pray with them and live with them … it is [also] transformational for the people observing your ministry.”

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**Church growth vision**

While Rolex’s initial goal was to help the displaced families rebuild their lives, eventually he was able to start a church...
in the community. Now with three churches under his leadership, Rolex hopes to see two more church plants by 2020. He advocates a teamwork approach to church multiplication and ministry—unusual in Filipino culture, where a church normally has just one pastor. Today, Rolex is mentoring 5 pastors at Life Reach.

He says, “I can be their coach, but I can also be their playing coach because I involve myself.”

In the end, Rolex says ministry is about creating opportunities and transforming lives. “I see the Gospel of the Lord as holistic,” he explains. “I think the Gospel, if you truly have it, penetrates the transformation of society.”

Thank you for your faithful support of Langham Partnership which helps to multiply trained leaders like Rolex who build bridges between God’s Word and the world around them.

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**Langham Scholars = Ministry Starters**

*42% of Langham Scholars start new ministries, seminaries and churches to serve their nations.*

- **Ronald Laldinsuah**
  Missions in Myanmar
  Founded Myanmar Native Missions to raise up local believers to reach members of their tribes with the Gospel.

- **Antonio Barro**
  Multiplying Leaders in Brazil
  Started South American Theological Seminary—with 1,700 graduates now serving around the world.

- **Lami Bakari**
  New Life in Nigeria
  Started Stitch of Hope to teach women to sew and lift themselves out of poverty.

- **Martin Accad**
  Unity in Lebanon
  Founded the Institute of Middle East Studies to unify Muslims and Christians from around the world, promoting peaceful dialogue and service.
Dear friend of Langham,

When Langham speaks of serving in places where God’s people are under pressure, these are not just words. Langham-trained leaders minister in the aftermath of church bombings in Pakistan, in the wake of a drug war in Colombia, in the chaos of Ebola in Sierra Leone. After Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines—while other organizations addressed the urgent physical needs—Langham Scholar Athena Gorospe took her students into the disaster zone and offered Scripture. She shared, “I praise God for all the organizations that have provided physical help. But, there’s also a spiritual wound that needs to be processed.”

In this issue, you’ll meet Rolex, another leader in the Philippines bringing God’s Word into the most broken places in his community. Your partnership this year has allowed Langham to support theological studies for 68 leaders-in-training who will go on, like Athena and Rolex, to bring the hope of Christ into their cultures.

Grateful,

Benjamin K. Homan
President, Langham Partnership USA

GOD’S WORD TO HARD PLACES

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.

Psalm 3:3-5