PRACTICAL THEOLOGY: A NEW GENERATION OF BIBLICAL LEADERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The first thing you notice about Joseph Louis isn’t his limp; it’s his smile. Welcoming, radiant and ready to turn into a laugh.

The first thing you notice about his dorm room at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETSC) isn’t the desk where he studies, or his bookshelf full of books about theology and mission. It’s his window, where in the early morning the rhythmic sounds of the Muslim call to prayer come through from a nearby mosque. Just a short walk away is St. Mark’s Coptic Cathedral compound, where thousands of Coptic Christians gather for worship.

Back inside Joseph’s dorm room, he points out a sign that hangs above his desk. “Get busy livin’, or get busy dyin’” it says, and it’s become somewhat of a mantra for him since losing his leg a few years ago in a train accident, a tragedy that could have easily sidelined him or turned his focus inward. Instead, he is here at ETSC studying biblical counseling so that he can go on to share hope from God’s Word with others—especially those living with disabilities.

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At ETSC, one of the leading centers of Christian theology in the Arabic-speaking world, several Langham-supported theological leaders, like Atef Gendy (president) and Andrea Zaki (professor), are working to prepare students like Joseph Louis to minister with the Gospel in a region that is both central to Christianity and the center of the Arab Spring. Students are encouraged to engage with the surrounding community through summer internships. Last summer, Joseph was able to gain valuable experience counseling patients at a hospital. This year, he is interning at a church in Upper Egypt that is currently without a pastor.

“In these internships, what I study at ETSC helps me in many ways. From preaching, learning and counseling—the internships allow me to apply the theology I am studying,” he says.

Langham Partnership is grateful for your faithful prayers and support of our ministry. You make it possible for us to equip new generations of biblical leaders, leaders like Atef Gendy and Andrea Zaki, who are multiplying disciples like Louis in more than 90 countries throughout the world.

LANGHAM is currently partnering with an Egyptian publisher, as well as indigenous Bible scholars from five Arab countries, to complete the Arabic Contemporary Commentary on the Bible. This first-of-its kind whole Bible commentary written by Arab theologians for Arabic-speaking churches will create a deeper biblical understanding for Egyptian and Middle Eastern readers, as well as the thousands of new Christians hungry to hear how God’s Word speaks to the issues facing the Arabic-speaking world. Our prayer is that this commentary will be a light in the region, where readers can encounter and apply God’s Word in their Middle Eastern context. Thanks to faithful friends like you, Langham is able to develop and distribute much-needed biblical books and commentaries around the world.
BACK TO KATANI: A LEGACY OF BIBLICAL TEACHING CONTINUES

A few years ago we shared the story of Langham-trained pastor Peter Mwaw (pictured teaching), whose congregation at Africa Brotherhood Church in Katani, Kenya, was transforming under God’s Word as he learned to preach Bible-centered messages.

We recently had the chance to return to Katani a few months ago and spoke with some congregation members there. Here is what they told us:

**Dorcas Ndambuki:** “Peter’s approach to preaching the Bible has attracted people from many tribes to this church . . . We now have grown and are the church home to several different tribes. This is unusual in Kenya, but we praise God that we worship and are one through unity in Christ.”

**Emma Simiyu:** “I used to attend church to be prayed over; I was just a static participant. But through Peter’s preaching I came to understand that I can be an active participant. The curtain to God has been pulled back and I know now that I can pray to Him. I can go before God.”

**Bernard Mutisya:** Bernard is a member of a Langham Preaching Club that meets at Africa Brotherhood Church. He shares, “Langham is helping me to be a better teacher so I can help others. I am not educated, but with what I am learning from Langham, the knowledge of the Lord is upon me.”

Today, Peter is helping to coordinate Langham’s pastor training effort in Kenya—a Langham-trained leader now impacting other leaders in his country for Christ.

BECOME A LANGHAM PARTNER MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

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 become a Langham Partner, your faithful monthly gift sustains the work of Langham in these regions, helping us continue to equip local pastors and leaders with God’s Word, leaders like Saw (pictured) in Myanmar. He says, “One [passage] that has come alive to me after learning the Langham method is Exodus 9. I’ve learned that the purpose of God is to take people from darkness to light. He sets us free through Christ.”

Scheduling a recurring contribution is one way you can partner with us to faithfully and consistently use your gifts to strengthen and mature God’s church around the world.

WAYS TO BECOME A MONTHLY GIVER:
1. Sign up online at langham.org/partner
2. Call us at 480-595-5117 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MST)
3. Email us at usa@langham.org
Dear friend of Langham,

I’m often asked the question, “Just what does Langham do?” An understandable question because while we are at work in 90+ nations around the world, the nature of our work keeps us behind the scenes. Instead of opening up Langham headquarters in these nations, we are investing in lifting up key leaders—publishers, scholars, and pastors—and readying them for the task of strengthening the church. Leaders like Langham Scholar Atef Gendy. When he took over as president of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, there were 69 students. Today it is the largest seminary in the Middle East, training nearly 400 students to minister with God’s Word in the region. You can read about one of its students in these pages. So, what does Langham do? Together with prayers and support from faithful friends like you, we are equipping the next generation of Bible teachers to become agents of change, transforming their cultures as they faithfully teach and live by God’s Word.

Behind the scenes and grateful,

Benjamin K. Homan
President, Langham Partnership USA