For believers in Sri Lanka, putting faith in Christ can mean losing other freedoms. In the predominantly Buddhist country, Christians often find themselves cast out by their families, marginalized in the workplace, pressured to recant their faith, or under physical attack. Amazingly, God is growing His church in the midst of these pressures as new believers come desperate to hear how His Word speaks into their daily struggles. Yet, 8 in 10 of their pastors lack any formal training on how to study and teach the Bible. Now more than ever, the Sri Lankan church needs equipped pastors and leaders who shepherd the church to grow in depth as it grows in size. This is why, together with you, Langham is urgently

(continued)
SRI LANKA AT-A-GLANCE

Persecution: Sri Lanka is now on Open Door’s list of the top 50 countries where it’s hardest to be a Christian.

False Teaching: False teachings like the prosperity gospel, common in Sri Lanka, can be devastating.

Tension: The two main people groups—the Sinhalese and the Tamils—remain divided in the aftermath of a decade’s long civil war.

committed to training local pastors in Sri Lanka and around the world to preach the Bible and lead their churches to maturity. With your generous support, this work is possible. By God’s grace, it is making a difference. Be inspired by the following snapshots of how God is on the move in Sri Lanka through the Langham-trained pastors and leaders you have helped equip.

A MINISTRY TO MILLIONS

Shanmugam and Jesupalan are two leaders with a unique platform that allows them to reach millions with God’s Word: the air waves. Their multimedia preaching ministry reaches the entire nation, and beyond, through radio and television broadcasts.

It’s support from faithful friends like you that made it possible for Jesupalan and Shanmugam to attend Langham training on how to study and understand God’s Word in a Sri Lankan, post-civil war context—and then pass it on with clarity and relevance.

And though they say other pastors and ministries are speaking and teaching, Jesupalan notes they are “far away from the Scripture.” He adds that even those who follow Christ struggle with doctrinal issues due to wrong teachings from some churches.

Jesupalan admits that before the training from Langham, he thought he was preaching God’s Word correctly. But, he says, “Langham really taught me how to preach using biblical methods.”

Through their ministry, Jesupalan (the ministry officer) and Shanmugam (the radio and TV program producer) engage with people from all cultural, social and religious groups, providing them with the opportunity to watch or listen to Christ’s teachings in the privacy of their homes.

People can listen to the broadcasts at any time of the day, but for

You gifts allowed Jesupalan to attend Langham’s trainings. He says, “Langham taught me how to preach using biblical methods.”

As a result of hearing God’s Word, “People have actually begun to hope,” says Jesupalan.
Jesupalan it’s the morning hours that allow listeners some special time with God.

“It’s really encouraging people to start with the Lord and think about the Word of God and be encouraged by the Word of God,” he says.

“People have actually begun to hope,” observes Jesupalan. “They’re getting strength in their hearts.”

**A HEART FOR THE HARD PLACES**

Reconciling Sri Sri Lankans to one another and to Christ describes the heartbeat of Pastor *Ashan.

Ashan speaks Tamil but learned Sinhala to bridge the barriers that divide the long-standing Tamil-Sinhalese rivalry.

As a pastor, Ashan is diligent about providing a safe environment for Sinhalese and Tamils to help them discover God together and experience true reconciliation. He inspires the lay leaders and members of his church to exercise their faith by reaching out to people in the hard places.

In fact, since the beginning of Ashan’s pastoral ministry, he has planted seven churches across Sri Lanka and sent out missionaries to Tamil communities in the north and east of the country, where the heaviest fighting occurred.

Ashan thanks Langham Preaching (and you!) for the training he received, which he says is “so useful” as he mentors new believers and potential lay leaders.

“I can teach others to preach and to read the Scripture,” Ashan shares.

Like a proud father, Ashan is excited that his students are learning the proper way to teach God’s Word. “And some have a desire to go as missionaries to other countries as well,” he adds.

Likewise, Ashan’s ability to connect with other pastors is invaluable. At a recent Langham training for preachers, not only did he interpret for the Tamils and Sinhalese, he was also a powerful session speaker.

Many of the pastors who came to the training had gone through so much persecution and were desperate to hear from God. When Ashan finished speaking, a pastor hugged him and started crying because he sensed God’s comfort and encouragement.

“I knew that God spoke to their hearts,” says Ashan. “The Lord is doing a great work in Sri Lanka to bring peace, to bring love.”

*Names have been changed to protect those serving in sensitive regions.*

**REACHING THE REMOTE**

Laxman Premajayantha is a lay pastor in a church with an outreach ministry to remote villages. While he’s had few...
opportunities to receive a good education, he says through Langham training he learned how to do an in-depth study of God’s Word.

“After these studies, I realized that there is more than the surface … there is something beneath or deeper.”

Today, he leads a church in Kandy, Sri Lanka, attended mostly by Sinhalese Christians, and his heartbeat is to reach the Buddhists in the surrounding village.

“This is a Buddhist country, so people feel Christianity was forcibly brought into society. So, through the gospel, I try to help show people see something different,” Laxman says.

It is fitting that Laxman’s name means “overcoming through love,” because that is precisely his approach to ministry. It’s not uncommon to find him with sleeves rolled up, helping a Buddhist neighbor build a house, or bringing a meal to someone whose wife is sick.

“I want to be a walking Bible, to show them light,” Laxman says. “I have realized through Langham training that there is more beneath the surface of Scripture. Sometimes when people call me pastor or father, I feel unworthy. But it is God’s grace that He is using me and working through me.”

And it is an abundance of God’s grace, and your faithful partnership with Langham, that allows us to equip these faithful saints who bring hope and healing from God’s Word into Sri Lanka and around the world. Thank you!
HOW BEAUTIFUL ON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS.
Isaiah 52:7

OUR YEAR IN MINISTRY

It’s by God’s grace and support from our faithful friends and partners that testimonies of transformation, like those you’ve read in these pages, are possible. This past year, with your help, the ministry of Langham:

EQUIPPED THEOLOGICAL LEADERS
• Celebrated the graduation of 9 PhD students who now join a fellowship of 300+ Langham Scholars with 40% launching new ministries and 82% training students who start ministries and churches, and teach in Bible colleges
• Supported 68 current PhD students from 36 countries

DISTRIBUTED & DEVELOPED BIBLICAL BOOKS
• Supplied 20,808 biblical books to 679 seminary libraries across 78 countries
• Distributed 19,568 books to pastors, students and ministry partners needing study materials
• Supported 17 indigenous publishers, printing 35 local language titles

TRAINED PASTORS TO PREACH THE BIBLE
• Held 284 pastor training events in 63 countries, with indigenous trainers already trained by Langham holding many more
• 10,000+ pastors and lay leaders equipped to teach God’s Word
• 630+ preaching clubs of 7 to 10 local leaders meeting regularly for ongoing training

To view our annual report, visit www.langham.org/2017_annual_report
Here is your CULTIVATE newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

COME AND SEE

Dear friend of Langham,

If you’ve scrolled through your newsfeed, scanned the newspaper headlines, or lingered over the nightly news—no doubt you’ve asked yourself, “Is there any good news? Is there any hope?”

As we look at our broken world today, both the hard things in our own backyards and in other parts of the world, we can’t help but ask this question. It’s the same question in the hearts of many of our brothers and sisters around the world who are confronted with pressures like poverty, violence, human trafficking, and harmful practices. Is God at work? Is there anything good?

God’s Word reminds us that the answer is yes. My heart turns to Psalm 66, with its exhortation to “come and see what God has done” and its comfort that “His eyes watch the nations.”

Through your prayers and support, you join with the Langham family in a front-row seat from which we all can see what God is doing. As leaders are equipped and preaching God’s Word, we see harmful beliefs overcome, broken relationships restored, and lives changed. Thank you for how you are alongside!

May you be encouraged by these pages—as you “come and see” how God is using your generous heart for the work God is doing via Langham—how the goodness of grace flourishes even in hardship.

Together hoping in Christ,

Benjamin K. Homan, President, Langham Partnership USA

Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind!…He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations…

Psalm 66:5, 7