How do Christ-followers in Muslim-majority countries live out their faith in places where following Jesus sometimes means being marginalized in the work place, cut off from your family, or even subject to physical violence?

For one Langham-trained pastor living in a sensitive South Asian country—the answer is clear. “We cannot just … (story continued inside)

**COVER STORY:** Names have been changed to protect those serving in sensitive regions
Those are words from Pastor Rani, who leads a church of roughly 300 in a Muslim-majority country where many Christians and Muslims peacefully co-exist. But, at times, tension lies just below the surface. He says his hope is that through his congregation loving and meeting the needs in their community, others, even those who might oppose them, will come to see and know Jesus.

Because your generosity has helped Rani receive training from Langham on how to faithfully teach God’s Word, hearts in his church are transforming to love and serve like Jesus did.

From serving the homeless to a free-of-charge ambulance

For his congregation, “going outside” looks like opening up the church on Saturdays to provide the homeless with meals. Rani says his congregation members will linger and talk with those they are serving who come hungry not just for a meal, but are starved for connection.

The church also offers a free-of-charge ambulance service—a critical need in this impoverished country where the government doesn’t provide the service, and only the wealthy can afford to call a private ambulance.

Pastor Rani motions to a row of “pedicabs” (or bike taxis) sitting in front of the church—yet another outreach. In this country, bike-pedaling drivers work for years earning meager wages because they cannot afford to buy their own pedicabs, and the lion’s share of wages go to the pedicab owners. But Rani and his church started a rent-to-own program for pedicab drivers to give a path to vehicle ownership. So far, 30 drivers have purchased their own pedicab and have completely changed their economic situations.

“Langham drove me to see the Bible.”
– Langham-trained Pastor Rani
Hearts Motivated by God’s Word to Love Their Neighbors

What’s behind all of this community engagement? “[It’s] so the people outside of the church will know how God loves them,” Rani says. “God holds us. God keeps us. We must love our neighbors.”

One of the only things that rivals Rani’s passion to demonstrate God’s love for people is his love and passion for the Bible, where he sees God’s love revealed.

In order to grow as skilled Bible preacher, Rani attended a one-week Langham pastor training seminar. He admits that his decision to attend the training came very slowly. He was a skeptic, and unlike most pastors who attend Langham training seminars, he already had some seminary training. But his Langham training helped unlock the Bible for Rani in a new way.

“Langham drove me to see the Bible”

One day following the preaching seminar, a church member said to him, “You are a different preacher since you went to the training.” Rani says that one of the main reasons for the change is that he learned to lean less on illustrations and even commentaries—tools that he was looking to in place of Scripture. He says as he prepares a sermon now, he starts with the Scripture. In his words, “Langham drove me to see the Bible itself.”

Rani’s renewed love for Scripture did not stop with him. It overflowed to his church. He has a weekly 80-member “Whatsapp” texting group where church members discuss the weekly Scripture teaching before the Sunday service. “When I preach, I already know what my members need to relate God’s Word to their daily lives.”

Rani describes the local church as a “basecamp.” It’s a
place where church members get their supplies and encouragement to then go out each week and engage the world around them. In many ways, they get what they need through passionate, biblically based preaching. It’s that simple. Yet it’s revolutionary. Just as the One who Rani follows said, “I can do nothing on my own” and “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (John 5:30a and Matthew 5:16)

Langham’s pastor training movement is well established in this Muslim-majority nation. Since 2011, thousands of preachers have been trained across the nation, and the majority of trainings are now led by local trainers. We are grateful for how God has grown the movement here—and for the prayers and support of partners like you that help make this work possible.

WAYS TO PRAY

Below are some ways to pray for (and celebrate!) what’s happening around the world in the coming months because of your support of Langham:

**Langham Scholars**
Pray for the ministries of 9 Langham Scholars who completed their PhDs this year and have returned to minister in their home countries. One of these leaders, Judy Wang’ombe, will multiply leaders at a seminary in Kenya. Studies show that because of a PhD, these 9 leaders will collectively train 69,500+ more leaders for the global church*. Amen!

**Langham Literature**
Asian Christian Theology, a first-of-its kind theological resource written by Asian scholars for believers in Asia, was just published. It is one of 40+ books published with support from Langham (and you) this year. General Editor Dr. Tim Gener (also a Langham Scholar in the Philippines) says it is a blessing to leaders in desperate need of resources to help them shepherd their growing churches. Join us in praying that it will also impact the global Christian community.

**Langham Preaching**
Pray for 180 pastors starting training in the coming weeks in Sudan, Indonesia and Mexico. For many, this may be the only opportunity to receive biblical training and learn how to teach the Bible.

*Data from an independent study of Langham’s impact by Excellence in Giving, 2015-18.
“I love the work Langham Partnership is doing, and just wish I could give even more!” This comment from a faithful Langham partner led to a wonderful conversation about how to invest in the global church by making a “future gift” that does not cost anything today.

For this reason, The Cross of Christ Legacy Fellowship has been created to connect faithful supporters not only to Langham’s mission, but to one another in a global community. The name of this group obviously connects to Langham founder John Stott’s passion for the cross as the grounds of his salvation, yet it also reflects the heart of Langham’s ministry and is the title of one of Stott’s most beloved books.

Now, when you make a gift to Langham in your will or estate plans, you join a global community gathered at the foot of the cross. Together, we can make a spiritual investment that will strengthen the maturity and impact of God’s people around the world for generations.

To learn more about the options and benefits of including Langham in your planned giving, contact our Legacy Gifts Director, Kevin VandenBrink, at legacy@langham.org or 314-488-0256.

REMEMBERING A LIFE WELL LIVED
FRANCES WHITEHEAD
MARCH 27, 1925 – JUNE 1, 2019

Frances Whitehead is a name that may be unfamiliar to many, but for decades, she served as John Stott’s “right hand”—as his secretary, organizer, and typist of the manuscripts of his 50+ books. She was instrumental in the birth and early days of Langham Partnership, and we join our hearts with so many around the world in giving thanks for this faithful sister in Christ.

Writing of her ability to so deftly manage so many projects and people, an article in London-based Christian Today notes that, “It is little wonder [Stott] came to regard her affectionately as ‘Frances the Omnicompetent.’”

John Stott always thought that the story of Frances should be told. Several years ago, in celebration of her life, biographer Julia Cameron wrote a book titled John Stott’s Right Hand: The Untold Story of Frances Whitehead. Some who knew Frances may like to honor her legacy with a gift to Langham. If you do, it would be our pleasure to send you a copy of the book. To make a gift, simply fill out and send in the enclosed envelope, or visit langham.org/frances-whitehead.

Frances Whitehead’s whole life and ministry had a strong impact on many believers around the world. As Chris Wright, Langham Partnership’s International Ministries Director, states: “Frances was a phenomenal woman, in a unique partnership that, by God’s grace and enabling, served the global church in multiple ways.”

We are grateful for Frances, and how you come alongside to champion the vision she and John Stott shared: to raise up a new generation of Bible teachers around the world.
Dear friend of Langham,

Langham is grateful to count you as a co-laborer who draws near to our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

We believe, as our founder John Stott did, in investing in the teaching of God’s Word, as that is what changes hearts, addresses sin with truth, and leads to growth and maturity in Christ. It’s why, with your help, we train preachers to teach Scripture, we equip theological leaders who multiply other leaders, and we develop and distribute biblical books that help believers open God’s Word and apply it to their cultures.

By God’s grace, and with your prayers and partnership, we are seeing glimpses of hope around the world as these leaders are trained and resourced to shine the light of Christ into their communities. May you be encouraged to meet some of them inside these pages, knowing that we give thanks for how you are alongside in this work.

Partnering in Christ,

Benjamin K. Homan, President, Langham Partnership USA

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Matthew 5:14,15