



CANADA

Langham[™]
PARTNERSHIP

Fall 2020



INTRODUCING SLAVKO HADŽIĆ AND A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR LANGHAM CANADA

Slavko Hadžić, Langham Preaching director for Southern Europe and the West Balkans, attended his first Langham Preaching seminar in 2008 in Croatia, a country in the northern Balkans bordering Hungary. Upon his return to Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, he formed a Preaching Club with other local pastors, averaging nine preachers at their meetings. It was a time of immense encouragement for them all, and also a time when all these men gained new insight into the power of expository preaching. In 2010, Langham held its first Preaching seminar in Bosnia. Within a few years, Slavko was leading the Bosnian seminars. He was joined by several brothers from Macedonia, led by Kosta Milkov, a Langham Scholar based in Skopje, Macedonia, and founder-director of the Balkan Institute for Faith and Culture.

Today, Langham Preaching continues to expand in the Balkans. Langham is now working in six countries which made up the former Yugoslavia – Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Slovenia. Milkov directs the program in Macedonia. Langham has restarted its program in Croatia, with 50 persons in Zagreb recently completing Level 1, and a separate program in the Dalmatian region, in southern Croatia, with 25-35 pastors. It is amazing to see pastors trained to preach the Gospel, in the same region where almost 2,000 years ago the Apostle Paul taught. In 2017, a new Langham Preaching program began in Serbia, with 60-70 pastors having completed two cycles so far. A Level 1 program was introduced in 2019 in Montenegro, perhaps Europe's least evangelized country. It was thrilling to see 10 participants, making up about 5% of the total Christian population of that country. Plans are now underway for a new Preaching initiative in formerly communist Albania, once among the most closed countries in the world.

“Langham Preaching seminars have really influenced the quality of preaching in the Balkans,” says Slavko. It is astonishing to see

what God continues to do in this region, which for 500 years was under Turkish control, then experienced a century of warfare and communism.

Today, God is using leaders like Slavko to bring new spiritual hope, and he is using Langham Preaching to train Christian leaders in the region how to share God's Word with power and integrity. Slavko's story is recounted on a Langham vimeo found online at <https://vimeo.com/langham>

This year, Langham Canada has committed to financial support for Slavko, and your gifts are helping to build the Kingdom in this region. Steven Van Dyck and Karen Stiller interviewed Slavko recently, and that interview is available at our website at ca.langham.org/interview-with-slavko-hadzic

In that interview, Slavko shares more of his personal story, and the faith journey which has led him to serve now as Langham Preaching's director for the West Balkan region. Slavko was born into an ethnically divided family in an area torn apart by such divisions. When these historic enmities erupted again in war, in 1992, with each side trying to recruit him as an officer, Slavko, then 23, was caught in the middle.

Confronted by extreme violence, Slavko prayed, “God, if you exist, help me.” Although Slavko did not yet know God, he was known by God, who preserved him and eventually brought him and his girlfriend to safety in Cyprus, where they married.

Almost two years after leaving Bosnia, Slavko received his first letter from home - from his mother, telling him that the most extraordinary thing had happened to her during the past two years. This lifelong atheist and communist had also encountered the Living God in Jesus Christ, and had put her faith in him. God began to impress on Slavko that the calling on his life was not to run from his region's problems,

but to return with a life-giving message of hope in Christ.

In 1998, Slavko and his family returned to Mostar, Bosnia, where he began studies at Mostar's small Bible school. From 2001, he was associate pastor at a Mostar church, and in 2003 became pastor of Sarajevo Evangelical Church. Before the 1990s war, there were perhaps 100 genuine Christian believers in all of Bosnia (out of 3.5 million population), but the desperate war years saw an outpouring of God's Spirit. Several thousand people came to personal faith. During the war, the Serbian and Croatian church leaders working in

Bosnia were forced to return to their countries, leaving the Bosnian church with no leadership. However, those years witnessed an astonishing growth in the Bosnian church, in numbers and spiritual maturity. Christians were even baptized during the siege of Sarajevo, with church members searching throughout the devastated city to find water to fill the baptistry!

Such stories abound. Langham is proud to be part of the work of building up the Church in the Balkans, with pastors and preachers like Slavko leading the way.

Good News on All Fronts

We have an encouraging snapshot to share of Langham Partnership's ministry, during the twelve months of our financial year which ended on June 30, 2020. Thank you for your role in helping Langham Preaching, Langham Literature and Langham Scholars, walking alongside the Global South Church to equip the next generation of Bible teachers.

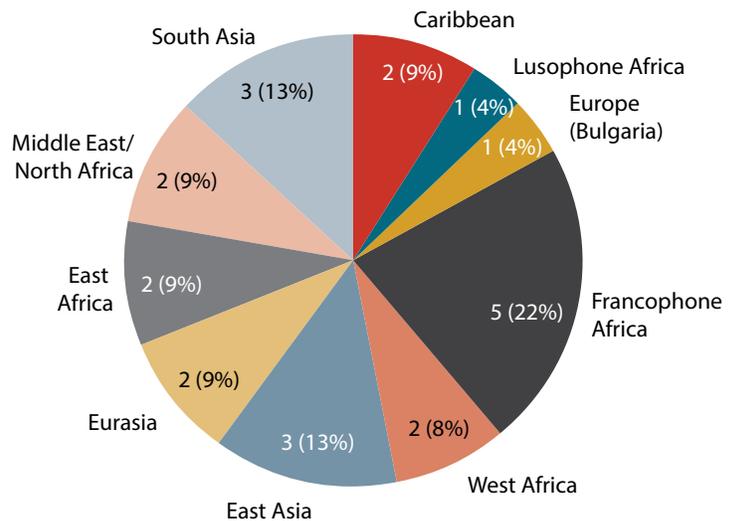
Langham Preaching:

- Held 331 preaching training seminars in 69 of the 92 preaching movements in countries in need of solid biblical preaching.
- Equipped 9,661 pastors and lay leaders to teach God's Word (929 of these individuals are local indigenous Facilitators and Preaching Club coordinators).
- Training seminars have been led by 610 local Facilitators, who are equipped and working together in teams to train others.
- Shepherded 1,147 preaching clubs of 7-10 pastors and leaders meeting regularly for ongoing training and mentoring.

Langham Literature:

- Supplied 13,893 Bible-centred books to 642 Majority World (MW) colleges across 80 countries to help students grow in Christ. 9,952 of these books were supplied to colleges free of charge through the Library Grants program.
- Distributed 35,229 Bible-centred books to MW pastors, students and ministry partners in need of study materials. 8,788 of these books were supplied free of charge to participants at, or Coordinators of, Langham Preaching seminars.
- Distributed 8,635 Bible-centred books to partner MW publishers.
- Supplied 17,308 Langham publications within Western countries.
- Supported 22 indigenous publishers, in 15 countries, in the production of 50 local language titles, through the awarding of Publisher Grants.

23 new Scholars appointed in 2020



Langham Scholars:

- Supported 78 PhD students from 44 MW countries in theological doctoral programs. Eleven of these are new Scholars who commenced Langham scholarships during the 2019-20 academic year.
- Celebrated the graduation of 14 Scholars, all of whom have returned, or are preparing to return, to serve in the MW. They will become leaders who will go on to shape their nations with a biblical worldview as they teach in seminaries, start salt and light ministries, and serve at the highest levels in government – and join a fellowship of more than 300 graduated Langham Scholars serving around the world.
- Supported 6 current doctoral MW Scholars and 4 postdoctoral Scholars, with study residencies for concentrated periods of study, or research and writing projects, in centres with access to excellent library resources and a research community.

Langham Donors Step in for Scholar



Covid-19 has made life more difficult for everyone, but for international students studying in a foreign country, the impact can be especially extreme. Pavani Paul studies at Wycliffe College, Toronto. She and her husband Benjamin are from Bangalore, India, where for twelve years she participated in the life of Southern Asia Bible College, teaching Biblical languages and Old Testament courses, and for four years as Director of Admissions. Pavani has also been involved with YWAM India, teaching Old Testament books at various YWAM locations across India.

In 2018, Pavani, Benjamin and their son Jason arrived at Wycliffe. She finished her M.A. in Old Testament at Wycliffe College in 2019 and started into her Ph.D. program. The financial fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic in Canada and in India threatened to make it impossible for Pavani to remain in her program. Langham Canada stepped in and we are happy to announce that Pavani has been awarded a Langham Scholarship and is our newest Langham Canada Scholar. This scholarship is entirely funded by a team of Langham Canada supporters, through a matching grant program made possible by the generosity of several friends of Langham. We are excited by the opportunity to partner in such a direct way with a Langham Scholar, and to get to know her and her family personally. God willing, this will be just the first of many such partnerships in future.

Langham Partnership and Covid-19

Rest assured, despite the many challenges that we are facing this year, Langham's ministries continue to serve the vision of equipping the next generation of Bible teachers, who are needed more than ever in these difficult days. We are so grateful that the Langham family around the world, including you, has continued to support what God is doing in the Majority World, and that He continues to use Langham so powerfully.

Langham's teams are reaching out in new, creative ways during the lockdown, even as many seminars, like preaching, are being moved online or postponed. Some of what we are learning will permanently change and enhance how Langham works, even when the lockdowns are over. Like many ministries and organizations, this is a positive impact of this pandemic: doing a strong pivot to online learning and ministry which can ultimately reach more people who can benefit from the work and mission of Langham.

The Preaching Global Leadership Team, for example, continue to monitor the situation and what is taking place in Preaching Movements across the World. Many stories are surfacing of local initiatives to keep clubs/training going via zoom, WhatsApp and other ways. Those clubs are nourishing preaching, but also providing invaluable networks of support and communication in countries especially hard hit by the pandemic and subsequent shutdowns. Langham Scholars continue to study and work on their degrees, within the particular confines of their academic institutions. Individual students might face increased financial challenges, such as with Pavani Paul at Wycliffe, but we are seeing generous donors who continue to worship God by supporting Langham's vision financially. Langham Publishing is continuing with its work of nurturing books and Majority World Christian publishers. Book shipments have been impacted by high freight costs due to the reduction in air travel, but online book commerce continues at langhamliterature.org. All in all, Langham is weathering this storm with the continued financial and prayerful faithfulness of our donors and discovering new strengths that will prepare us for the future.

Covid update from Langham Preaching in Haiti

At the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, we reported from Langham Preaching's Guenson Charlot in Haiti. There were fears that this economically vulnerable country, with an extremely weak medical infrastructure, would be badly hit. The reality proved utterly different, praise God! In September, Guenson reported: "So far, Haiti is emerging as a resounding miracle story in this global pandemic! With no more than 200 intensive care hospital beds, and a population of over 11 million people, many 'experts' predicted that Covid-19 was the 'perfect storm' and that Haiti would be totally

devastated by an unparalleled 'humanitarian crisis'. Stadiums and gymnasiums were converted into makeshift hospitals, graves were dug in preparation for the impending disaster. Every month that passed the experts predicted a future 'peak'. But it never happened. Praise God for empty graves! To date, the country has 7,611 cases, 4,893 of whom have recovered and only 182 deaths. Like Paul, we declare: '[God] has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us again. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us' (2 Cor. 1:10 NIV)."

Update from a Scholar



Elizabeth Mburu joined Langham Literature in 2018 as Regional Coordinator of Langham Literature in Africa. She is also currently an associate professor of New Testament and Greek at three universities in Kenya. In 2003, Liz and her husband Caxton took the big step of moving from their home in Kenya to the United States for theological education at a leading school, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, and she graduated

as Southeastern's first female PhD. She has emerged as a leading evangelical theological voice in Africa, with a keen appreciation not only for Africa's role as the fastest-growing church in the world, but for the challenges facing the African Church, and therefore by extension, global Christianity.

In July 2019, Liz set out her vision for the African Church, and her insight into the challenges facing this Church, in an address to the African Baptist Theological Education Network, "Regaining the African Theological Voice". There are longstanding issues such as corruption, ethnic hostility and poverty, but she believes the true threat to biblical Christianity in Africa is theological weakness. This renders Christians vulnerable to the false promise of the Prosperity Gospel, and to church schisms caused by power politics disguised as biblical disagreement. Within her own Kikuyu ethnic community, she sees an example of a growing movement back to African traditional religion as a cultural statement, explicitly rejecting Christianity. Liz sees the future of a strong African Church in a commitment to "a

truly biblical worldview while at the same time retaining what is uniquely African."

This commitment inspired Liz's 2019 book *African Hermeneutics*, published by Langham. Recently, Liz spoke with Jonathan Armstrong of the Aqueduct Project about *African Hermeneutics*. Their stimulating discussion about the challenge of faithfully interpreting Scripture from within one's own culture can be viewed on Youtube at <http://bit.ly/Mburu-AP>

Liz is now on the board of the *Africa Bible Commentary* project, which in 2006 became Langham's first one-volume regional *Commentary*. To date, almost 250,000 copies have been distributed, and it has been translated into 6 languages, including Hausa, Swahili and Malagasy (Madagascar), with Amharic on the way. Several years ago, Langham committed to a revision of the *Commentary*, given the significant cultural changes in Africa since 2006, and new theological and ministry issues emerging in the continent. Liz is the coordinator and NT editor of this project. The team has at least two direct connections to Canada. Isobel Stevenson, who trains Langham's editors around the world, lives in Windsor, Ontario. She identified and trained Dahlia Fraser, the copy editor. Dahlia has now returned home to Jamaica, but for many years lived in Toronto, and worked in administration at Tyndale College and Seminary.

You can view all the Langham publications to which Professor Mburu has contributed presented at her Langham author page: <http://bit.ly/Mburu-Bib>

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WILL YOU STAND BESIDE THE CHURCH IN THE MAJORITY WORLD, AND OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS THERE WHO ARE SERVING IN SUCH DIFFICULT TIMES AND SITUATIONS? THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE, BUT THE GREATEST IS LOVE.

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