

Last week Graham mentioned the Langham Partnership, founded by John Stott. Its aim is similar to that of Barnabas Academia and The Shepherd's Academy which I spoke about last week.

John Stott understood that Christians must be transformed by the Gospel in order for the Gospel to transform the world – modeling love, compassion, forgiveness and justice for the poor and oppressed.

And for Christians to grow in maturity, they need leaders who believe, teach and live by God's Word – particularly in the global church, rich with vibrant worship, yet lacking in biblical understanding and application.

That's why, in 1969, John Stott founded the Langham Partnership, personally renouncing the income from his books and speaking honoraria to launch and grow a global movement that Tim Keller called a "game changer."

[Langham Partnership] Our Mission is to strengthen the ministry of the Word of God through:

- Nurturing national movements for training in biblical preaching;
- Multiplying the creation and distribution of evangelical literature;
- Strengthening the theological training of pastors and leaders by qualified evangelical teachers.

Graham's first encounter with Blackburn Presbyterian Church was in 2014. I was unwell and he decided to come here instead of going to our usual church, St Stephen's Surrey Hills.

The preacher was a Langham Scholar, Qaiser Julius who was studying for a PhD at MTC. "I strongly realised that if God was calling me into ministry, then I needed proper training."

Qaiser and his wife Rahila and their two children have been back in Pakistan for several years now. I spoke one Sunday about the sewing classes Rahila runs to help impoverished women learn to support their families, and also to hear the Gospel.



Above: Qaiser and Rahilia Julius ministered to us in Blackburn while Qaiser was studying at Melbourne School of Theology. They are now both ministering in Pakistan. Below, with daughter Homilia (left) and son Hanan (rear).

Qaiser was only in pastoral ministry for one year, then he became a lecturer at the Open Theological Seminary. I think I spoke last year about how he coordinated teams of students from that seminary to help during devastating floods.

Another Melbourne contact we have with as a Langham partner is less direct. One night we were at a dinner at Ridley.

We think it was perhaps a graduation. We learned that one of the graduating students lived in Nunawading and didn't have a vehicle. So we offered to drive him and his wife home. This was Anwar Berhe from Ethiopia.

Anwar's role primarily consists of training missionaries and lay church leaders for strategic evangelistic ministry. He also works at the Evangelical Theological College (ETC) in Addis Ababa.

Recently Graham received an email from Anwar I quote one paragraph.

We have organised an evangelistic campaign from July 24-29, 2023 in six suburbs in Alemgena town where five of our church planting sites are located. By God's grace, we sent out 46 people from our church to participate in this six-day campaign. We went door-to-door and on street corners to share the gospel with individuals. Three of the suburbs are Muslim-majority and the other three are African traditional religion majority. In this ministry endeavour, we shared the gospel with 1548 people and 121 of them gave their lives to Christ. Praise the Lord!!

Back to John Stott who started all this.

I quote from Langham Partnership Australia website:

His books have sold millions of copies in dozens of languages, but the true legacy of John Stott is one of multiplication; the story of how God planted a seed in one faithful man and grew it into a movement of leaders equipping leaders with God's Word, impacting generations for Christ.

Christine Bradbeer



Anwar Berhe and his family in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Anwar is on staff at the Evangelical Theological College