

an occasional update on the work of Langham Preaching (LP) around the world

Introducing 'Mama Langham'

Emmanuel Oladipo (LP Coordinator – Africa) introduces readers to a remarkable woman...

"Coming from a Roman Catholic background, Devatha Joash married into an Anglican family and her father-in-law sent her to Bible School. That is where she was saved, and then she was appointed an itinerant evangelist. She planted churches in six villages, along with having and raising six children together with her very supportive husband.

It was her church leaders who sent her to attend the Langham Preaching Seminars. On completing Level 3 in 2009, she embarked on a new project: initiating Preaching Clubs everywhere. To date she has started five on Kome Island, five in Sengerema (her home town), and three in Geita.

Now she is known simply as 'Mama Langham'. What is most remarkable is the way she gains the confidence of church leaders from diverse denominations so that they entrust their ministers to her for training."

Kome Island is situated in Lake Victoria, out from Entebbe. Mama Langham was the first one to visit Kome to train and to establish preachers' 'clubs'. She has encouraged many women to be bold and to regard themselves as "soldiers of the gospel", using her own variation of Psalm 68.11: *Bwana analitoa neno lake, wanawake watangazao habari ni jeshi kubwa* (in Swahili) ... "The Lord offers his word. The women who announce the news are a great army".

57 pastors and evangelists, mostly from Pentecostal churches, attended the LP seminar on Kome Island in June 2010 with Mama Langham, Emmanuel Oladipo and Tanzania LP Coordinator, Frank Luvanda, as the trainers.



Chris Wright reflects...

After reading the reports on LP's work in East Africa in June 2010, Chris writes:

"I remember standing on the shores of Lake Victoria with Mark and Rachel Meynell years ago and having them tell me about 'the islands in the lake' and how they were so backward and so neglected. How wonderful it is that there

is now a thriving preaching movement on Kome Island initiated by Mama Langham! It is just so New Testament - but in such wonderful African colours and sounds.

Then we think back to that first occasion when we met Frank Luvanda at the very first Regional Council held for East Africa in 2004. He hardly said

a word the whole time. But what a vision he has caught and how sacrificially he has given himself to this work ... and how clearly God has shown his approval in the multiplication and spread of the movement at grassroots."

[for more on the visit to Kome Island, see page 5]

A Consultation for Teachers of Preaching



It may well be the first event of its kind – ever! More than 20 teachers of homiletics from 15 countries around the majority world met in June at Wycliffe Hall (Oxford) for a weeklong Consultation.

Langham Preaching recognises that in order to see the culture of preaching change, the current grassroots strategy needs to be complemented with one that is directed towards the theological college.

"I treasured the genuine fellowship, the insightful contributions, and was encouraged by God's work in and through you all from around the world. Our long, but fruitful, days were a combination of theological rigour, respectful interaction, quiet reflection ... and the nightly sharing of testimonies was especially encouraging of God's gracious work in us."

Chris Chia, a participant in the Consultation in Oxford.

The week revolved around ten questions – each sparked by presentations from participants:

What are the theological convictions which must shape a course in homiletics?

What is essential in the content to be included in such a course?

What can a course in homiletics learn from the Book of Acts?

How can the diverse range of available resources be utilised to assist in teaching homiletics?

How do we measure a student's progress towards excellence in preaching?

How do we make it possible to travel on to doctoral study in homiletics?

When we move beyond 'western' approaches to homiletics what contextual challenges are faced?

How can homiletics become a central, and integrating, part of a college curriculum?

How can the 'college' and the 'church' work together in the training of preachers?

What is involved in establishing a 'school of preaching' at a college?

The event went well. It "reignited my love and my hope for homiletics". It "reminded me of the gravity of my role as a teacher of preaching".

Participants returned home determined to strengthen the courses which they teach; to elevate the profile of homiletics in the wider curriculum; to build training partnerships with local churches/pastors; and to organize smaller, regionalised consultations and networks.

Igor travels to Trinidad ... in Bolivia!

In June Igor Amestegui (LP Coordinator – Latin America) travelled to Trinidad in a remote and impoverished region of Bolivia - far from the main axis of La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

"Very few Christian institutions", Igor observes, "travel to these distant locations, so there is a lot of expectation when we visit and a great need for the training of

pastors and lay preachers."

Speaking at the annual retreat for pastors and their wives within the Evangelical Christian Union, the largest denomination in the area, Igor worked with themes related to family dysfunction, communication and conflict resolution. He also took the opportunity to introduce LP which is planning to launch its first

seminar in the region in August 2010. He was able to meet with the organizing committee and encourage them in their preparation.

"I could see their great hunger for the Word of God and the enthusiasm for our first seminar is very high."

To ensure the best learning experience, it was decided that a maximum of 50 people will be permitted.

With Barbara in Mbarara

While 80% of Ugandans claim to be Christian, the influence of both nominalism and prosperity teaching is extensive. The need for the Word of God to be preached faithfully, clearly and with relevance is great.

However, while the very first LP seminar was held in Uganda, some momentum has been lost in recent years.

This is why watching 44 people gather for a Level One seminar in Mbarara in SW Uganda brought such encouragement to many.

There were a number of people on hand to contribute. It was quite a team! The Principal (Rev Canon Amos Magezi) and

Vice-Principal (Rev Johnson Twinomujuni) of the host college, the Uganda Bible Institute, were gracious in their hospitality and committed in their participation. And then long-time LP advocate, Julius Twongyeirwe, was joined in the training programme by Emmanuel Oladipo, Mercy Ireri, Jenny Brown (Senior Associate Minister, All Souls) ... and Barbara Tumwine, who brought the week together. Although a pharmacist by training and more quiet by personality, Barbara brings plenty of vision and determination to her role.

As 'Uncle Emmanuel' observed, "Barbara is

setting a good pace and there is a wide recognition that what she is doing in the Southwest needs to spread to other parts of Uganda." A network of key people is beginning to express their support and so there is a growing hope for Uganda.

As is the case right through East Africa, it is the breadth and strength of the regionalized preaching 'fellowships' that is carrying the national movements forward. Every single participant in Mbarara committed themselves to such a group – and resourcing these fellowships better is an urgent priority for LP all around the world.



Mercy Ireri teaching in Mbarara

Refresher Days in Kenya and Tanzania

As the preaching movements in East Africa have matured, 'refresher' days are being added to the programme. Targeted mainly for those preparing to be 'local facilitators', these days become a time for encouragement and evaluation.

One such day was held in May in Kikuyu (Kenya). After sharing the joys and challenges of being involved in this training, most of the time was spent working through four Level One training sessions in preparation for the upcoming LP

Kenya seminar in August 2010. Mercy Ireri (LP Facilitator – East Africa) expresses how amazed she is "at the progress we have made so far. The 'local facilitators' have caught the vision for establishing a Preaching Network which extends to the grassroots." They are setting aside one Thursday each month for prayer and fasting. Another 'refresher day' was held in June in Mwanza (Tanzania). 45 people from 16 denominations attended. It was led by Frank

Luvanda (LP Coordinator – Tanzania). Remarkably, there are 42 preaching 'clubs' meeting throughout Tanzania. The preaching movement has spread into the rural areas and is greatly valued by local people.

Although so very grateful for whatever support they receive from Langham overseas, they are committed increasingly to funding this training from their own resources – and this during a time of severe drought and financial hardship in Tanzania.

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In Jujuy in July



Jujuy is the most northwestern province in Argentina and in July Igor Amestegui travelled there to lead a Level Two seminar for 30 people, comprising mainly student leaders.

The response was excellent. Local pastor, Luis Quero, commented that he liked “the combination of serious study of the Scriptures

with the emphasis on the spiritual life and prayer of the preacher.”

As has been the custom with LP in Latin America, the daily practice of ‘praying the Word’ was appreciated. All the delegates will be involved in preachers clubs as expectation builds for Level Three in 2011 – but this time in August, not July!

Creating a Catalyst in Europe

Now into his fifth year with LP, Mark Meynell (LP European Programme Coordinator) continues to invest in the development of the work in Europe. The Bible Teachers’ Network at the European Leadership Forum (ELF), which attracts 500 people to Eger (Hungary) each year, is a focus of Mark’s energy.

In 2010 Mark had 12 people working at the ‘Advanced Level’ and 36 at the Foundational Level – with 22 delegates from Eastern Europe and 25 from Western Europe. Mark writes, “I feel that we have turned a corner now with this network. I am much more convinced that this annual gathering at ELF can function not

just as a hub, but as a catalyst for developing the work throughout Europe”.

This is already happening with this year’s ELF being a springboard for the creation of national preaching movements in places as diverse as Sweden, Bulgaria and Greece.

Building Momentum in the Solomon Islands

Being on the eve of a political election added a poignancy to the Level Two seminar in Honiara. 85 pastors were present with nearly every denomination represented: the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the United Church, the South Seas Evangelical Church (SSEC), the Assemblies of God, the Worldwide Church of God, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Church of the Nazarene...

The Anglican Bishop of Malaita, Rev Sam Sahu, is a committed participant. He writes, “Under God, I believe this seminar will produce a new generation of ministers who love the Lord Jesus and who will be able to rightly handle the word of truth in our churches and communities, especially at a time when our country is faced with many religious, social and political challenges.”

In the picture to the right Eric Takila, Senior Pastor of the central SSEC church in Honiara, speaks at the closing commissioning service with the books to be distributed on the table in front of him and the list of 18 preaching ‘fellowships’, to which participants had just committed themselves, listed on the blackboard behind him.



'The Spirit of Priscilla Lives On'

A close reading of this newsletter demonstrates the significant role which women are fulfilling in the work of LP in East Africa.

There are the exploits of 'Mama Langham' in Tanzania, Barbara Tumwine in Uganda, and Mercy Ireri in Kenya – with Jenny Brown (All Souls) in the background as an encourager and mentor.

As Chris Wright expresses it, "the spirit of Priscilla lives on".

Recently Mercy, Jenny and Barbara were able to work together in Kisiizi, Barbara's hometown near the Rwandan border in Uganda. Kisiizi is famous for its mission hospital (est 1958) and its spectacular waterfall which could be heard in the background while the training proceeded.

The seminar was organized for 33 medical staff, medical students and teachers at the

Kisiizi Hospital Primary School.

On the final evening the team had supper with the five group leaders with whom Barbara works closely. As Mercy recalls, "it was a time to dream about Kisiizi becoming the mission base again, sending out faithful Bible teachers and preachers to the rest of Uganda."



Jenny, Barbara and Mercy

Acts Revisited on Kome Island

Here is 'Uncle Emmanuel' describing his visit to Kome Island:

"The following day, four of the leaders from Mwanza accompanied us to Kome Island in Lake Victoria, five hours away by ferry (Acts 20:4!) There we found a welcome party consisting of church leaders, choristers, dancers and ululating women, to say nothing of crowds of excited children. [NB – the photo below shows 'Uncle Emmanuel' arriving at Kome!] It quickly became evident that our coming was a big event for the entire Island where Christians comprise the majority of its 10,000 inhabitants, and where the churches share an extraordinary fellowship together.



Half of the 60 church leaders at the Seminar were women. All of them are regular members of preaching 'clubs', and there were numerous testimonies of how the LP training had been just what was required to make them effective ministers of the word of God. Our two-day programme bore very little resemblance to what we had agreed on paper. But a more committed group of eager learners would be hard to find anywhere, and the reports from the Group work indicated a most refreshing grasp of the principles we sought to impart.

One unusual event was the conversion of a thirteen-year-old Muslim girl who had been

taken out of school to be "married" into sex-slavery in a traditional arrangement. It led to a rather unpleasant confrontation with her pimp, (Acts 16:19!), but we received heartening cooperation from the chief of the Island, and the case is being reported to the relevant authorities."

Frank Luvanda picks up this story later:

"On 27th June we started at 10:00am with worship, prayers, and a message from Psalm 23 by Uncle Emmanuel. When he finished preaching he allowed an altar call and more than 16 people accepted Jesus Christ as their LORD and Saviour! One of them was a Muslim girl aged 13 years old ... We thank God that this little girl is continuing well in her faith in Jesus Christ. This morning I have received the news from Kome Island that she is attending the teachings in one of the Churches though her husband is furious to her."

"It was a time to dream about Kisiizi becoming the mission base again, sending out faithful Bible teachers and preachers to the rest of Uganda."

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