

## Still growing in Francophone Africa

Langham Preaching initiatives continue to gather pace in French-speaking Africa, despite substantial political, economic and practical difficulties. So we thank God and the local leaders in each country, who are serving the preaching movement so faithfully.

### Democratic Republic of Congo Bishops pleased with nationwide impact

Congo has been much in the news because of recent elections and the potential fragility of the new government. In reporting on the second program of Langham Preaching held there this past September, **Gordon Woolard**, Langham Preaching facilitator, says that Christian leaders 'face a huge uphill battle' as they confront political and economic challenges, a huge AIDS epidemic, and considerable poverty.

Nevertheless, the churches continue to grow, and Langham Preaching works with national leaders in the development of a nationwide

preaching movement. Pastors and lay preachers came from all across the DRC for the second program of Langham Preaching, organized in mid-September, 2006. Forty five delegates came from eight of the ten national Anglican dioceses, and only a few were unable to make it because of flight cancellations. This was a substantial step forward on the launch of the Langham Preaching program in September 2005 - not only with greater numbers, but also the emergence of preachers' clubs in different parts of the country, as well as the possibility of diocesan training events in the future, and another national seminar in 2007.

**Muhindo Ilesomo**, the national leader who coordinates the Congolese Langham



A small group hard at work on a Bible passage at the Tanzanian program, which met again in October. Preachers Clubs have now also been established in six towns in the country.

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Preaching program, wrote: "Last month there was a meeting of the house of bishops in our province and I was invited there to give a report about the last Langham Preaching Seminar in Goma. All the ten bishops were very happy with the work of LPI in our country and also for the future plans for next year.

I am also receiving some messages from the delegates telling me that they have started to form their clubs of preachers in their dioceses and I praise God for that. Thank you once again and God bless you."

(continued...)

# Carluci dos Santos writes...



Carluci dos Santos

I am originally from Brazil and have been living in Toronto with my wife, Christina, and three daughters (Isabela, Nicoli, and Hannah) since August 2002. We are actively involved in the ministry of Knox Presbyterian Church, in the vicinity of U of T. Christina works for Young Street Mission, in downtown Toronto, and the

girls love their academic life and are doing well in their respective schools in the Toronto District.

I am a Ph. D. candidate in Old Testament at Wycliffe College, and I am currently working on a thesis in the stories of Elijah in their literary context in the book of Kings and in the broader context of the Deuteronomistic History. I am enjoying my work but must say that I am also looking forward to completing it soon!

Before coming to Wycliffe I worked with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship-Brazil (Aliança Bíblica Universitária, affiliated with IVCF-Canada through the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) for ten years as a regional staff person (1992-2002). Parallel to campus ministry, I also taught biblical languages and exegesis in a couple of local seminaries

(<http://www.fatebh.com.br>; <http://www.seminariordne.com.br>) in the city of Belo Horizonte. Through my teaching and the student work I found the motivation to pursue an advanced theological degree. I began looking for an institution where I could have Christian fellowship and a learning community with academic integrity. I learned about Wycliffe College and felt this was the place to come to as a family. Our decision was confirmed with the financial and spiritual support of Langham Partnership-Canada and John Stott Ministries, USA.

Apart from enjoying the challenges of academic life, I love my family, being active in Church, jogging and swimming! Following the completion of my studies, we are committed to return to Brazil where I want to be part of a ministry that provides quality theological training for both professional clergy and lay people who serve in the Church and in the Market Place.

(...continued)

## Cote d'Ivoire

### Consolidating, transforming, practising

Thirty pastors and lay preachers met in Abidjan for the second seminar of Langham Preaching in Cote d'Ivoire, held in September 2006. Twenty were new participants and ten entered a second level of training. **Daniel Bourdagné**, the national leader who arranged the program in Abidjan, also welcomed participants from neighbouring countries, including leaders from the IFES movements. Several people did not enrol because of health concerns in the particular area of Abidjan where the meeting took place. Christian leaders continue to live with uncertainty concerning the wider economic, political and religious situation there - the country has been in crisis for several years. But the response to the ongoing preaching training has been extremely positive.

Gordon Woolard, the Langham Preaching facilitator, reported that 'one brother in Abidjan said that his whole outlook on preaching had been transformed by textual preaching, with a view to honouring God's grace in both the Old and New Testaments'.

It was particularly encouraging to hear that several of the level 2 participants had carefully remembered key elements of the training in 2005, and had intentionally prepared their messages on the basis of the principles of Biblical preaching.



Gordon Woolard (standing far right) with a group of pastors at the newly launched Langham Preaching program in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

## Burkina Faso

### A new program launched

The Langham Preaching program was launched in Burkina Faso this September, 2006. Last year a small group of delegates from Burkina Faso attended the Cote d'Ivoire Langham Preaching program in 2005, and were keen to develop something similar in their own context. Some 25 pastors attended the seminar, along with some 30 from the GBU (the student movement). Over an 8-day period participants met in Ouagadougou, and for many this was the first opportunity to work hard at the basics of Biblical preaching, led by Gordon Woolard.

The country is very stable, but extremely poor, with few natural resources and generally a lack of water. The partnership between the local churches (the majority of which are Assemblies of God in this part of Burkina Faso) and the GBU has resulted in a positive platform for the development of training initiatives of this kind, and it is hoped to build on the experience in 2007.

## African Bible Commentary Receives Recognition

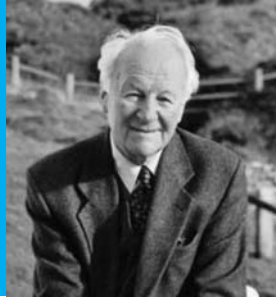
The Africa Bible Commentary was recently named "2007 Reference Book of the Year" by the United Kingdom's Christian Booksellers Convention. Each year the convention presents awards in 13 categories, including Book of the Year, Children's Book of the Year, and Best Worship Album. The award was accepted by Zondervan, the publisher of the book in the U.S. and the UK.

Dr. Tokunboh Adeyemo, the commentary's general editor, was pleased to learn of the award, saying, "It is a great honour for [the Commentary] ... It's all of God and to Him be the glory!"

Authored by over 70 African theologians, the Africa Bible Commentary is the first reference book of its kind. It is a one-volume commentary on the entire Bible, including articles on issues confronting the African church such as HIV and AIDS, corruption, widows and orphans, and burial rites.

The Commentary has also been selected as a finalist in the U.S. Christianity Today Book Awards.

## Rev. Dr. John Stott



## Retirement and move

John Stott would like his many friends around the world to know that, having reached the age of 86 in April, he has taken the decision finally to retire from public ministry after fulfilling one final speaking engagement at the upcoming Keswick Convention in July.

He will also be moving from his flat in Bridford Mews, London, where he has lived for more than 30 years, to a retirement community for Anglican cler-

gy in the south of England which will be able to provide more fully for his present and future needs. John has made this decision with the strong belief that it is God's provision for him at this stage.

John will greatly value your prayer for him in the challenges and opportunities involved in this transition. He is also happy to reassure his friends that the Langham Partnership International (or John Stott Ministries, in USA), is well

prepared to continue its work, even after his retirement.

Chris Wright took over the leadership of the organization from John in 2001, and there is now a strong team of international program managers and other staff and volunteers all over the world making sure that the work develops strongly into the future. For further information, please visit the website, [www.langhampartnership.org](http://www.langhampartnership.org)



### Scholars old and new at the OCMS conference in September.

*Left to Right:*

*Standing: Kosta Milkov, Cristian Romocea, Robert Merez, Fabuous Moyo, Samuel Chen*

*Seated: Reuben Gabriel, Pravinkumar Israel, Nada Milkov, Anand Raj Sodadasi, Lu Chen.*

## Congratulations Langham Scholars completed in 2006

We are always thrilled when the years of study are finished and Scholars achieve their well-earned doctorates. The following finished in 2006.

<b>Corneliu Constantineanu</b>	Teaching at ETS, Croatia
<b>Daniel Darko</b>	Currently pastoring (with his American wife) in Pennsylvania, prior to taking a New Testament university post in Ghana in September 2007
<b>Havilah Dharamraj</b>	Teaching at SAIACS, India
<b>Beulah Herbert</b>	Teaching in India
<b>Dinorah Mendez</b>	Teaching at Baptist Seminary, Mexico
<b>Emily Onyango</b>	Teaching at St. Paul's, Limuru, Kenya
<b>Silviu Tatu</b>	Principal, PTI, Bucharest, Romania

The following are nearing completion. Pray for their final stages.

<b>Najeeb Awad</b>	Lebanon, and Kings College London
<b>Mark Jason</b>	India, and Aberdeen (and heading to Gambia)
<b>Victor Morales</b>	Mexico, and Chester
<b>Misheck Nyirenda</b>	Zambia, and Edinburgh

## Thank you

We are sure you'll agree that the work of Langham Partnership is growing rapidly, with God's manifest blessing.

There are new and exciting initiatives, and even more opportunities that we cannot yet take up.

But all this is possible only through the generous support, in gifts and prayer, of people like you who believe that the vision is right and who recognize the strategic importance of investing in "church growth with depth" by raising up a new generation of leaders who are trained and resourced to preach and teach God's word.

On their behalf, we say a very big Thank You for your generosity.

