



UK AND IRELAND

**Langham**  
PARTNERSHIP

Inspiring Christlikeness

# TRANSFORM

Autumn  
2020

Langham Partnership News



**Reaching the Myanmar  
Chin in Their Own  
Language**

**Lebanon in  
tears**

**Building  
Relationships**

# Contents



#### Chair of Trustees

Mary Evans

#### National Director

John Libby

#### International Ministries Director

Chris Wright

#### Langham Preaching

##### Programme Director:

Paul Windsor

#### Langham Literature

##### Programme Director:

Pieter Kwant

PO Box 296

Carlisle

CA3 9WZ

E: literature@langham.org

#### Langham Scholars

##### Programme Director

Riad Kassis

If you would like multiple copies of this magazine for friends, church members, etc., please ask Liz Wright, address below.

Please send donations to:

**Mrs Liz Wright**

19 Whitfield Place, London, W1T 5JX

Tel: 020 7209 0915

Email: liz.wright@langham.org

Registered Charity No. 1092233

Company limited by guarantee.

No. 4235957

Tim Charnick Design: 07712613926

#### Have you considered including Langham Partnership in your will?

Like many mission organisations we can benefit greatly when friends make a final gift that continues to bless the ministries they have generously supported in life. Once you have made proper and primary provision for family and friends this can be a very effective way to go on making a difference to the church on earth when you have joined the church in glory! If you would like to consider this option in your will please let us know and we will send you a helpful legacy leaflet. Contact John Libby: john.libby@langham.org

If you would like to discontinue receiving *Transform* please email us on uk@langham.org



4

Reaching the Myanmar Chin in Their Own Language

6

Lebanon in tears

8

Building Relationships

10

Word on the World  
*A study by Chris Wright*



## Langham Partnership's Vision and Mission

**Langham Partnership's Vision** is to see churches equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ through the ministry of pastors and leaders who believe, teach and live by the Word of God.

**Our mission** is to strengthen the ministry of the Word of God through: nurturing national movements for biblical preaching (**Langham Preaching**); fostering the creation and distribution of evangelical literature (**Langham Literature**); and enhancing evangelical theological education (**Langham Scholars**), especially in countries where churches are under resourced.

#### follow us



[www.langham.org](http://www.langham.org)

#### Give online

You can donate to Langham easily online, once or regularly. Go to this page and click on the links:

<http://uk.langham.org/donate-now/>



# Greetings from the National Director:



Dear Friends

**P**aul the apostle spent significant times in prison and under house arrest. This provoked and informed his writing and supplied many images and metaphors to help him share the gospel and inspire others to a life of discipleship. It was my privilege (!) to spend some time detained 'at Her Majesty's Pleasure' as part of my ordination training. My 'doing time' was optional unlike Paul's, but the experience and anecdotes from those couple of weeks proved useful... I was told not to try and make myself out to be a 'real con', and I remember well my first meal with 3 others from my cell block, all skinheads inside for 'GBH' offences: 'So you're a vicar then? That's Christian, isn't it? Just like Hitler?!' I confess I missed the mission opportunity to testify in response to the obvious hint of admiration in his voice... but I did feel less fearful and more secure!



Many of us will remember Sunday School or Christian holiday talks which expounded Paul's exhortation to 'put on the armour of God'. I remember planning a CPAS Venture series and putting great effort into crafting the centurion's armour – sword, helmet, belt, shield... to form the visual aid, as we dressed a mannequin with each piece during the week. I now realise that the image I had received (and which I passed on...) was that of an ancient knight in armour, thereby confining the illustration to some outdated, historical corner of my own and my listeners' memories.

In truth, Paul's guards were representatives of the most up-to-date and best resourced fighting force in his known world. Things that we might see as quaint, historic and therefore almost irrelevant were right in front of him, trained and equipped with cutting-edge, expensive equipment. Perhaps the more useful contemporary illustration would be the well-equipped riot policeman, with their body armour, helmet/visor, laminate shield (to nullify the flaming petrol bombs of the enemy...), baton...? Unfortunately, these images seem pretty ubiquitous across our screens at the moment.

Paul would recognise the tension that such an image creates. It is the force that imprisoned him, but also protected him from the lynch mob and kept him safe. This tension lives in the life of Langham and is the daily reality for many in large areas of the world. Are the forces around protecting me or are they persecuting me? Those policing racial protest, climate change demos, civil unrest, the migrant camp... are they protecting democratic behaviour and 'religious freedom' or restricting their expression? Please pray for wisdom, safety and security for those so engaged in the name of our Lord and of Langham, some of whose stories follow. Also, for the safety and security on our streets for our kids, and wisdom for those who exercise authority. Through all of this we can acknowledge, as Paul would want us to understand, that the spiritual armour our Lord provides is well resourced and bang up to date, which it needs to be against the fear in today's world. Hallelujah!

With thanks for your support and with Christian greetings, as ever

**John Libby**  
National Director,  
Langham Partnership (UKI)

# Reaching the Myanmar Chin in Their Own Language

A good biblical resource, like a good Bible teacher, can impact a life.



Think of the books that have impacted your understanding of God's Word and encouraged you in your own walk with Jesus. Now, imagine not having access to them.

This is the staggering reality for the Chin people of Myanmar—and for many believers across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East—where there is a dire lack of biblical resources to help believers in their local language and context.

Together, we are changing that.

Today, because of your support, biblical scholar **Dr. \*Myat** is writing books in the Chin language to open God's Word in the most remote villages of his region.

But, it wasn't always that way.

## False Doctrine Rampant without Resources

Before becoming a prolific Christian writer, pastor, and leader, Myat was raised in a poor, illiterate family in a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar. By God's grace, he was able to attend Bible college—something the vast majority of believers in his village are unable to do.

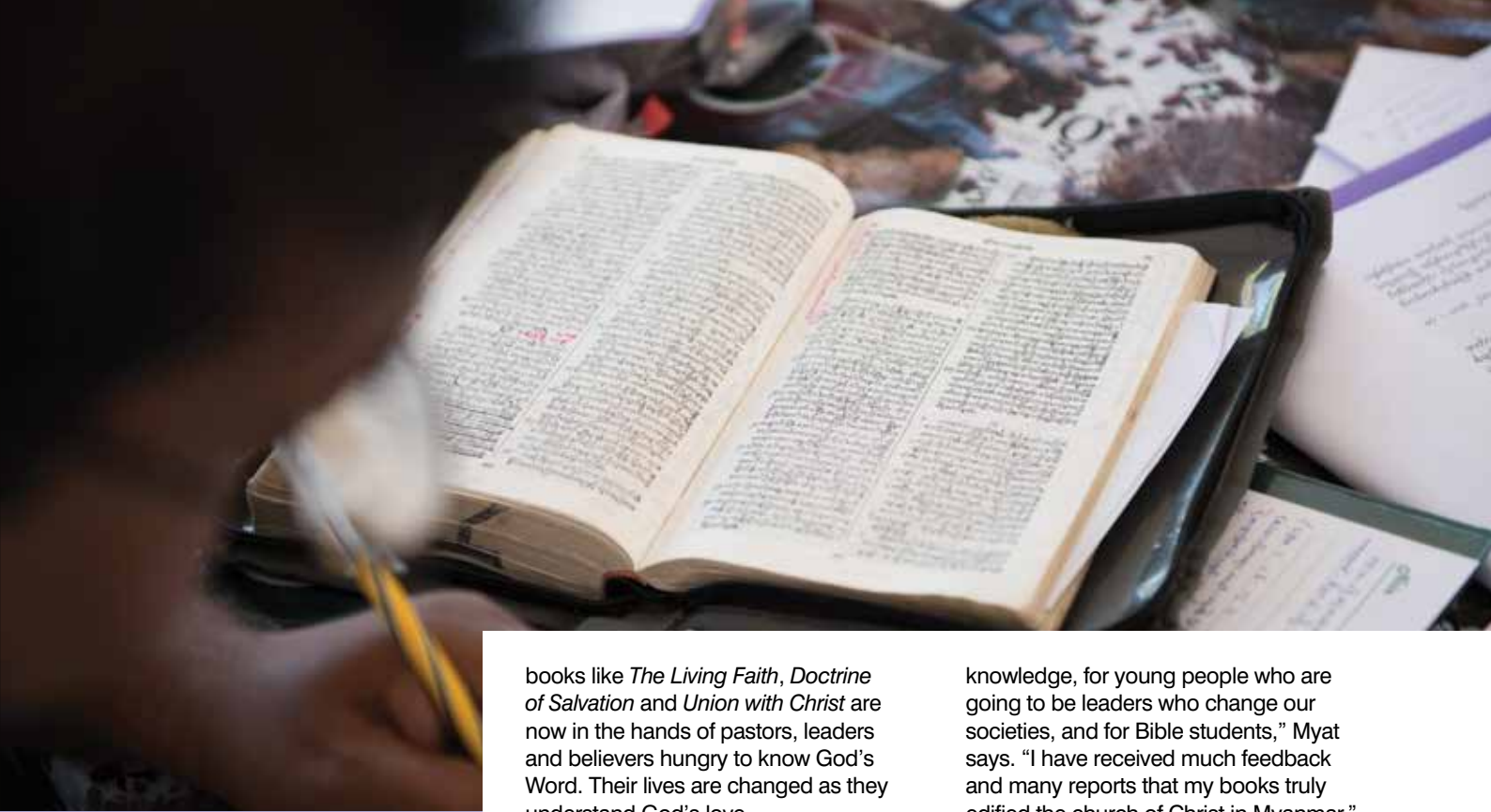
Myat says the hardest part was learning and studying in a foreign language—and it made him realize how essential biblical resources written in heart languages and addressing heart issues are.

"My people had not a single theological and biblical resource to read in those days, and I had great passion to have Christian theological books in Chin-Myanmar since I was in school," he explains.

There is a great need for Myat's writing ministry in Myanmar. While the majority of the Tedim Chin people have some form of Christian culture, many haven't understood the Gospel.

Many churches preach false doctrine and prosperity gospel, and Bibles are scarce. Many pastors don't even own a Bible or have any theological training, resulting in a low view of Scripture.





books like *The Living Faith*, *Doctrine of Salvation* and *Union with Christ* are now in the hands of pastors, leaders and believers hungry to know God's Word. Their lives are changed as they understand God's love.

One local pastor says, "This book opens the eyes of the Chin people for the true knowledge of the living God. This is the greatest book I have ever seen in the Chin language. I love this book!"

Now, Chin pastors and Bible colleges have access to books in their own language, and it's changing lives not only in Myanmar, but for Chin living abroad, too. Myat says he frequently gets requests from Chin people all over the world for his books (and for him to keep writing so they can read and grow in their walk with Christ!).

"I designed my books for lay pastors who have no theological education, for church leaders who have no Bible

knowledge, for young people who are going to be leaders who change our societies, and for Bible students," Myat says. "I have received much feedback and many reports that my books truly edified the church of Christ in Myanmar."

### Books Go Where People Can't

Myat intends to keep writing the books his people need to grow in Christ because books go where people can't. "My books reach different people and different places where I could not reach, and they testify to the truth of God," he shares.

Your continued support of Langham allows leaders like Myat to reach others for Christ, multiplying disciples and advancing the Kingdom. Thank you for your faithful partnership!

*\*Names have been changed to protect those serving in sensitive regions.*



*With support from Langham and you, \*Myat has written 13 books in the right language, and from the right context, to open God's Word to believers in Myanmar's Chin State.*

### Books in the Right Language Changing Lives

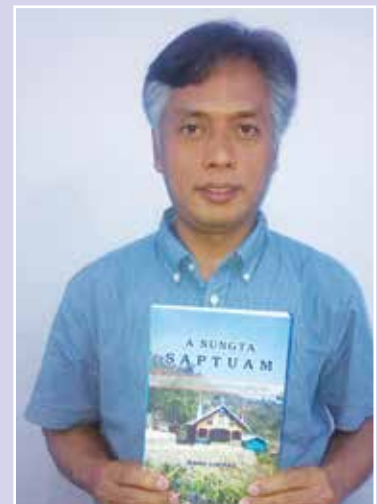
Today, with support from Langham, Myat is writing the books his culture needs to understand and obey God's word. Since 2009, he has written 13 books with our support. Because of your partnership,

## You are helping him open God's Word

**Books \*Myat has written with your support include:**

- **The Living Faith**
- **Doctrine of Salvation**
- **Union with Christ**
- **Law and Grace**
- **Tedim Chin Dictionary of Theological Terms**
- **Evangelical Truths**

*\*Names have been changed to protect those serving in sensitive regions.*





# LEBANON in tears!



Written by  
**Dr Riad Kassis,**  
Langham Scholars  
Director

For almost a year Lebanon has been going through a long dark tunnel. Lebanon has been witnessing a difficult economic condition amid months of nationwide protests, confused current ruling political government and the impact of COVID-19. The poverty rate is going over 60% from the World Bank's estimate of 32 percent in 2018. Unemployment has just hit over 50%. Lebanon has descended into a recession. The Lebanese pound has lost more than 80% of its value since anti-government protests started in October. Banks instituted strict withdrawal restrictions on people's deposits. Many supermarkets and shops have chosen to close down as they are unable to cope with the changes of the exchange rate. On some weeks we were allowed to have two gallons of gas at petrol stations. Our TV ads are predicting

that we are approaching similar scenarios like Venezuela, Iran or Syria. In fact, even during the 17 years of our civil war we did not experience such a hardship. The hardship is tougher on the millions of refugees living in Lebanon. And if the above is not enough we were shocked on the evening of August 4, 2020 when a massive explosion of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate (roughly equivalent to 1.2 tons of TNT) hit Beirut. It is considered the strongest explosion



(TJ 61) after Nagasaki's (TJ 88) and Hiroshima's (TJ 84). The explosion killed more than 200, injuring over 6,000, and leaving some 300,000 people homeless.

As my family and I, along with a group of volunteers, went to the devastated areas in Beirut trying to help as much as possible I was feeling the hopelessness of the people as they tried to cope with the difficult situation. However, I was struck to see a sign on a building in the midst of destruction and death saying: "We are staying." During that week Dr Paul Windsor, director of Langham Preaching, shared with me a literal translation of Romans 4:18: "In hope against hope he believed" in other words: "Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping" (NLT).



My daily walk takes me by a small vineyard that I enjoy watching as it grows and flourishes. One day I passed by the vineyard and it was a black dark piece of land! A fire has hit the vineyard and all green leaves and juicy grapes were burnt! Last week I passed again by the vineyard and to my utter surprise I saw it gaining a new life even during a summer time when we have not had a drop of rain in Lebanon!

Will Lebanon, that is in tears now, experience a new life? Will those of us who are hopeless now experience a new hope? Even when we are in tears, our call is to trust our loving and sovereign Lord hoping against hope!

# Giving a true legacy

It is Langham's mission to equip a new generation of Bible teachers. Ever since John Stott saw the hunger for biblical teaching and resources in the majority world 50 years ago, we have been striving to connect people with the Bible through preaching, literature and our scholar programmes.

Through our faithful supporters, with their gifts and prayers, we have for 50 years built on the foundations of those who've gone before us reaching millions of people - equipping leaders, developing biblical resources and training pastors.

You have been reading the amazing impact of this support in this edition of *Transform*. Just one example, in the past year alone, through gifts and prayer we have had preaching events in 73 countries, meaning over 10,000 pastors and church leaders have been helped in teaching God's Word to their congregations.

However, we realise there is so much more we need to do. By 2032 we aim to see 25,000 pastors and church leaders helped each year in their teaching of God's Word.

Gifts in wills are among the most significant ways of ensuring the work not only continues but grows for generations to come; by remembering Langham when you make your will, you'll enable people in the future to experience the teaching of the Bible for themselves.

A gift in your will could transform thousands of lives by strengthening the maturity and the impact of God's people around the world. Giving a true legacy.

If you have been thinking of giving a gift in your will to Langham, we would love to hear from you, so we can thank you and share with you what your gift could be doing for generations to come.

Please email Simon Foulds at [simon.foulds@langham.org](mailto:simon.foulds@langham.org) in strictest confidence.



# Building Relationships

Our four Preaching Directors, leading teams across the various continents, share what has been happening through this time of pandemic.

## From Africa, with Femi Adeleye, as Director:



“Every Monday, our Leadership Team meets on Zoom in order to support each other and to build our relationships. These have been times of refreshment. In recent weeks we’ve added the preaching movement coordinators (PMCs), region-by-region, in order to hear from them and pray for them. We’ve read John Stott’s *Preacher’s Portrait* together.

Give thanks for the way the work continues on. In **Ethiopia**, four of our preachers were selected to preach on national TV. In Malawi, the foundational training seminar has been translated into the local Chichewa language. Right across the continent, preaching clubs continue to meet through Zoom, Facebook and WhatsApp as people persevere with prayer, mutual support and training. Pray especially for **Bishop Ilesomo**, our coordinator in the Central region, because the connectivity

is weaker there and he is only able to participate with us occasionally. Yesterday (June 28) was to be our second All-Africa Langham Preaching Sunday, but we still gathered more than 100 pastors and local preachers for a time together on Zoom.”

## From Latin America, with Igor Améstegui as Director:



“Our Leadership Team has grown closer together during this pandemic. We have met twice a week on Zoom, focusing on supporting each other and developing resources together. We’ve developed some guidelines for a virtual meeting of a preaching club. Also, we have created some resources on how to be a preacher in a virtual world. Our facilitators are meeting every two weeks

on Zoom for further training and mutual encouragement.

One of our team, **Wilfredo Weigandt**, has written a book recently (*The God Who Opens Roads*) and we read it together – and we recommend it to others.

So there is much for which to be thankful – but also much for which to intercede. The coronavirus is ravaging our continent, but there are two other viruses: corruption and domestic violence. Our preachers need to be faithful to the text, but also relevant to this context. **Cuba** has been ready to start another cycle of training. However, such are the concerns around economic issues that this is where the focus now lies. **Venezuela** is a complicated and troubled country, so we are praying and looking for some opportunities. It is a priority for us to see the ministry start there. **Uruguay** is our most secular country, and another cycle of training is due to start there in the coming months.”

## From Asia & South Pacific, with Dwi Maria Handayani as Director:

“Our Leadership Team is a new one, having met only once together. I am yet to visit some of them, or to work and travel alongside them. The pandemic has been disruptive for us – and with the security concerns around the ‘big country’ we’ve struggled to settle on a safe online platform for our meetings. Amidst these challenges, there is good news. Our regional







coordinator in Asia: North & West, has been selected as a Langham Scholar and is making significant progress in bringing his team together. Due to the variety of languages in his region (Asia: East), **Phil Nicholson** is connecting with his team one by one each week. Give thanks for the appointment of **Mee Fang Njoo** as a programme development coordinator, working alongside Phil.

**Indonesia** continues to take new initiatives, with webinars and video options alongside the usual training. In the big country, there are discussions around a new Cantonese-speaking preaching movement, based in **Hong Kong**. Given the issues around connectivity, it is difficult for Stephen Williams to connect with the **South Pacific** countries, although the seminar with **Indigenous Australians** is expected to take place in September."

### From Europe & Caribbean, with Mark Meynell as Director:

"Our Leadership Team is meeting on Zoom for three out of four weeks each month. We are excited about **Desmond Rogers** joining the team from the 1st



July, as the new regional coordinator for the **Caribbean** – and it is great to have **Sharon MacWilmshurst** back from maternity leave. She is facilitating intentional discussions around the switch to learner-centered training.

We have been reading Eugene Peterson's *Eat This Book* together. But there is much sadness across the work in **Europe**. Pray for **Martin Helgesson** (preaching movement coordinator, **Sweden**) who has been suffering significantly with COVID-19. Pray for **Dani Oprean** (preaching movement coordinator, **Romania**), whose home was flooded this week and the family has lost everything except his wallet and laptop. This week has also brought the death of one of the key leaders in our work in **Serbia** and beyond, Viktor Sabo. Let's remember his family and his church fellowship in our prayers. **Bosnia-Herzegovina** is one of numerous areas where the virus is re-emerging with a return to a tighter lockdown (and the postponement of a planned seminar)."

*Text taken from the Preaching Prayershot, 29 June 2020*



"Give thanks for the way the work continues on. In Ethiopia, four of our preachers were selected to preach on national TV."



**Chris Wright** seeks a biblical response to current challenging events

## “A Heritage from the Lord” (Ps. 127:3)

Those of us with children or grandchildren who were caught up in the GCSE and A Level results fiasco this summer will have suffered with them all the stress of the waiting, and then the grief and disappointment for some when the grades were finally awarded, and then the howls of unfairness and confusion that followed. What a mess!

### A damaged generation

Children have been very badly affected during this pandemic, some through the exacerbation of inequality and poverty, some through inescapable cruel abuse, and all through the disruption of their education; a whole generation suffering through no fault of their own – or anybody’s, as far as the pandemic itself is concerned. So if ever there was a generation of kids to be kind to, to show some generosity to, especially at a time of maximum childhood stress (awaiting exam results that determine their immediate future), this was it. But instead they were subjected, (culpably, I think we have to say, through somebody’s fault), to the damaging impact of uncertainty, anxiety, chaotic swings of expectation, disappointment for many, and complete loss of hope for some. Of course, there are those who will sail on unscathed to future success. But many of this generation of our children have suffered mental stress and social harm that will haunt their long-term future.

And the suffering of Britain’s children this one summer seems but a pin-

prick in comparison to the mountain of misery endured by children the world over – think of Yemen, Syria, and the Rohingya, and the millions of little lives enslaved and trafficked into the sex-trade and sweatshops. According to UNICEF, 385 million children live in extreme poverty, many of them enduring brutalizing violence in conflict zones. And in our own country, “the number of children living in poverty has been steadily increasing in recent years. There are around 4 million children in the UK growing up in poverty. And those poverty rates have risen for every type of working family – lone-parent or couple families, families with full and part-time employment and families with different numbers of adults in work. This is the first time in two decades this has happened,” according to the government’s own Children’s Commissioner’s website. And this means “poor outcomes, poor health, poor prospects, social problems that end up costing billions to deal with.” Last Christmas Day (of all times), 210,000 children in Britain woke up homeless, either in cramped “temporary accommodation,” or “sofa surfing.”

It’s more than heart-breaking. Does the scandal and shame and indictment of such childhood deprivation not make you angry? If it does, then you share a tiny fraction of the grief and anger that, according to the Bible, the suffering of children brings to God’s own heart. But let’s look first at the positive side of the Bible’s perspective on children.

### Every generation claimed by God

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, one of the first things he required was that every firstborn son in their families was to be consecrated to God and redeemed by sacrifice (Exod. 13:1-2, 14-16). Of course it was a way of remembering that God had delivered their firstborn from death during the last terrible plague on Egypt. But it was also a way of claiming every new generation as belonging to God. Children matter to God because God’s plan and purpose is trans-generational through the centuries.

And then every new generation of children was to be nurtured and diligently taught by their parents (Deut. 6:4-10; 20-25; Ps. 78:1-4). Children participated in the ceremonies and festivals that confirmed their sense of identity and history and God’s blessing for the future (Deut. 16; 31:11-13). Vulnerable children (the fatherless) were to be systemically protected under the law, along with widows, the homeless and landless, such as foreigners and Levites (Exod. 22:22-23; Deut. 24:19-22). Daughters were not to be sold into prostitution, or children punished for their parents’ crimes (Lev. 19:29; Deut. 24:16). Children were God’s precious gift, as multiple stories illustrated and as the Psalmists celebrated with delightful metaphors of arrows and olive



shoots (Pss. 127:3-5; 128:3-6). And even under God's judgment in exile, the Israelites were to have children and grandchildren who would inherit God's future restoration (Jer. 29:4-6).

God the Son was therefore only reflecting the loving priorities of God the Father when Jesus welcomed little children in spite of the disciples' objections (Matt. 19:13-15), and placed a child right in the midst of them as a vivid visual aid of the values of God's kingdom.

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me (Matt. 18:1-5).*

### The suffering of children

And whoever hurts one such child hurts me, Jesus might have added. Indeed, he more or less did say that, when he went on to severely condemn those who cause harm to, or despise, "one of these little ones" (Matt. 18:6). His expression

"little ones" has moved on to mean not just actual children, but ordinary believers however insignificant they may seem. But the whole tone of the passage and its astonishing beginning show that Jesus included children in that category. Harm children, and you have Jesus, their angels, and the Father in heaven to answer to (Matt. 18:10).

The book of Lamentations is an outpouring of agony at the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by the brutal Babylonians in 587BC. And the writer, who was an eyewitness, cannot get the children and their appalling suffering out of his mind, just as it's hard for us to forget television images of crying infants, bleeding in bombed cities or starving in war-torn countries. Children fainting and dying in the arms of their mothers is the repeated image that haunts Lamentations, stirring human and divine pain and anger (Lam. 2:11-12, 19-20; 4:2-4, 10).

But it's not just war that makes children suffer. Micah (like other prophets) expresses the wrath of God at those whose political power, economic policies, and arrogant greed push people into poverty and eviction. And he particularly focuses on the impact of such socially caused homelessness on children – an observation with sharp moral resonance today. What would Micah

say (what does God think) about the evils of child poverty in Britain today?

*Woe to those who plan iniquity,  
to those who plot evil on their beds!*

*At morning's light they carry it out  
because it is in their power to do it.  
They covet fields and seize them,  
and houses, and take them.  
They defraud people of their homes,  
they rob them of their inheritance.*

**You drive the women of my people  
from their pleasant homes.  
You take away my blessing  
from their children forever**  
(Mic. 2:1-2, 8).

### Children playing in the streets

But we must end on a note of hope. The Bible lifts our eyes up to the new creation when Christ returns. There are so many ways the Bible describes what that will be like (since it is beyond our imagining), but one I particularly love is the way Zechariah evokes the peace of the new Jerusalem – a place for the elderly to enjoy their people-watching, while children play in safety.

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there." (Zech. 8"4-5).*

I love that! That is God's idea of a good future for our world. And it matches, of course, Isaiah's more familiar vision of the Messianic reign of peace in all creation, when "a little child will lead them" (Isa. 11:6-9).

PS. Our Langham motto is "Equipping a new generation of Bible teachers". To see how our Langham Preaching movement in Romania is doing exactly that, by training teenagers as Bible preachers, visit: [uk.langham.org/get-involved/videos/](http://uk.langham.org/get-involved/videos/)





# Langham Live

join us for news,  
chat and prayer

Who would have thought that on the 7th March when we were at All Souls, Langham Place for a Vision Day, that it would be the last time we saw supporters in person for a while. Over the rest of this year we have changed how we share Langham's story, thank supporters and pray together.

Since May we have held monthly Prayer meetings on Zoom, seeing people from around the UK and the globe praying together on the 4th Thursday and Friday of each month. These have been a time of great encouragement and blessing. One supporter said 'It was like a foretaste of the heavenly Kingdom' as Langham family from around the globe came together.

Our plans were to be in Keswick in the Lake District at the annual Bible Convention, but this was forced to go on-line and so we moved our physical reception to a 'virtual' one. We were joined by Chris Wright, Langham's International Ministries Director and Rico Villanueva, Langham author and Scholar Care Co-ordinator for Asia. Rico was also a speaker for one of the morning seminars at Keswick. Supporters from around the UK, France, Indonesia, America, Uganda and Kenya were able to join with us!

We have a new dedicated Langham Live page on our website and details of upcoming events can be found there, along with the recording of our Keswick Convention reception. Visit the 'Get Involved' page and then in the drop-down menu – 'Langham Live'.

If you would like to get on the 'invitation list' for these events then please again visit the 'Get Involved' page of our website and sign up for our eNews or Prayer Guide. We look forward to welcoming you to a future event!

## Virtually Keswick Convention 2020

15 JULY 2020 |



We had hoped to be meeting lots of our supporters in person this summer at the annual Keswick Conventions, held in the Lake District. However this year the Convention was held on line and so we held a 'virtual' reception.

We were joined by Chris Wright, International Ministries Director and author of 30+ books, and Rico Villanueva, Langham Scholar Care Co-ordinator for Asia, Regional Commissioning Editor for Langham Publications and author of several books, including 'It's OK to be NOT OK'.

