



FOUNDED BY JOHN STOTT

Langham[™]
PARTNERSHIP

June 9, 2020

Caryl Weinberg, Director of Mission
First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
1427 Chicago Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Caryl,

What a blessing to greet you here as co-laborers in Christ who long to see God's Word reaching and transforming His people around the world. (And so good to see your face on our recent Vision Conversation Zoom call!)

I'm praying this finds you well and experiencing God's care through a challenging ministry season. It's a time when people – whether from the relative comfort of the West or from the already hard soil of the Majority World – are crying out to God and asking hard questions in the midst of COVID-19.

For our brothers and sisters in regions where the majority of pastors lack training they need to bring God's Word to bear on these hard issues – the cries are desperate.

That is why Langham is adapting to the new context, and our work training pastors and leaders continues. In fact, it is more urgent than ever. We don't want to stop, but we need your help to answer the cries for biblical nurture.

We are inviting our closest church partners to make a one-time gift toward an effort we are calling "*The 19 Fund*" – a response to Jesus' call in Matthew 28, verse 19 to make disciples who bring the radical hope of Christ where it's needed most.

Would you prayerfully consider making a generous gift? Your help would:

- Scholarship 28 transformational leaders who need a biblical foundation
- Distribute 8K+ books to pastors and Bible students--a lifeline for them
- Equip dozens of pastor trainers who will mentor thousands of frontline pastors

Would you review the enclosed short proposal and prayerfully consider a gift that will help us multiply disciples who love and serve Jesus in a hard season?

Together, multiplying disciples,

Jack T. DeGrenier
Special Counsel to the President, Langham Partnership USA



The “19” Fund

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations – Matthew 28:19

A proposal prepared for First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, prayerfully requesting a one-time gift that equips pastors and leaders who respond to the call of Matthew 28:19 to multiply disciples of Jesus during a challenging season.



ABOUT THE PHOTO: A Langham-equipped leader is training pastors who shepherd and disciple new believers across northern India. As a result, 1,800+ new churches have been planted across the region.

JACK DEGRENIER, SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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Executive Summary

A broken world in need of disciples of Jesus

On behalf of the global church, Langham is grateful for the care First Presbyterian Church of Evanston has shown to our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Your generous support over the years has helped Langham respond to the desperate need for trained pastors and leaders qualified to bring God's Word to His people in some of the hardest places on earth.

A need made more urgent by a global pandemic

In the context of COVID-19, God's people in already hard places are even more desperate to hear His voice. And while the pandemic has caused some disruption in Langham's ability to respond, our work training and resourcing these leaders is essential, as:

- Emerging theological leaders need funds to continue their biblical training
- Seminaries and Bible college students need study books – a lifeline to help them understand God's Word
- Thousands of pastors-in-training need local trainers to continue mentoring them, even over virtual platforms

In the days and weeks ahead, as our team must make tough decisions about how and where we can respond to these needs, we need your help to move our work forward. The Gospel does not pause in the midst of crisis, but advances forward, healing hearts and bringing hope to the hard places.

*“Jesus quarantines with us. The Word of God is not in quarantine.
And there is no virus to stop it.”*

Langham-trained pastor Alex, Peru

An invitation to multiply disciples with *The “19” Fund*

Langham is calling on our most faithful partners like First Presbyterian Church of Evanston to help us respond to some of these critical needs over the coming weeks through an effort we are calling *The “19” Fund*. Because even in the midst of COVID-19, we remain more committed than ever to the call of *Matthew 28:19* to multiply disciples who bring hope to the nations.

Thank you for reviewing the proposal that follows – and prayerfully considering a special one-time gift, above your already generous normal giving, of \$2,000 that will help us lift up leaders who reflect the love of Jesus to a world in need.

The “19” Fund

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations – Matthew 28:19

A Global Need: Leaders Who Multiply Disciples

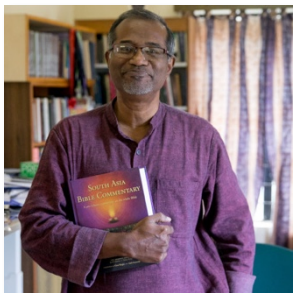
"There is so much need in continuing to raise up strong Christian leaders inside our country, so that God's Word may be taken out and shared with our people. May God's Word continue to be learned, taught and applied to our lives."-Langham-trained pastor in Ghana

As a faithful partner of Langham, you know better than most how the church around the world – especially in hard places – is growing rapidly. You know that across regions like Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East – roughly 80% of pastors and leaders lack the biblical training and resources they need to shepherd their people faithfully. Without adequate training, these pastors are challenged to multiply disciples of Jesus with grounding in God's Word. As a result, congregations and communities remain unable to biblically respond to hard realities like poverty, injustice, persecution, and pandemics (like the one we are in now).

But, your faithful prayers and generous support of Langham are helping to change that. (THANK YOU!) Over the years, you've come alongside the global church to equip and resource transformational leaders - disciples of Jesus - who impact nations:



You helped equip theological leaders like Dr. Stephen Lee, who multiplies pastors and biblical leaders at the seminary he leads in Hong Kong. Former student Catherine (at left) now leads a holistic urban ministry and says her studies under Dr. Lee prepared her to bring the Gospel to the neediest in Hong Kong. She says, *"When I study Scripture, I am so touched by the heart of the Lord for the poor, for the marginalized."*



You put study resources, like the *South Asia Bible Commentary*, into the hands of pastors, leaders and believers across South Asia – helping them faithfully study and share God's Word in their culture and context. One of the editors, Langham Scholar Jacob Cherian (pictured with the commentary), gave the book to a church planter in India who found it so useful, he exclaimed, *"This is like a mini Bible school!"*

In more than 130+ nations where Langham serves, because of your generosity, trained leaders are on the ground and providing biblical care as they point their people toward Jesus. Weekly we receive updates from around the world about other Langham-equipped leaders who are growing God's kingdom, even in the midst of COVID-19:

- The Bosnian evangelist sharing the Gospel over podcasts, and the Colombian pastor posting faithful Bible teaching online
- The Pakistani leader running an outreach from his seminary to feed and care for the most vulnerable
- The Filipino writer authoring devotionals on suffering with hope

Now, in uncertain times, God's people are looking to cling to what is true and certain.

Our Broken World Needs More Disciples of Jesus

*"I long for my people to believe and to live the truth that God is still present."
- Langham-equipped leader Daniel Oprean, Romania*

In the hard places where we serve, more and more people are asking questions about life, suffering and eternity. There has never been a more important time to continue responding to the call of Matthew 28:19— to make Christ known, to proclaim the Gospel of grace, and to multiply disciples who bring hope among the nations.

That is why our work training pastors and leaders continues, and is more urgent than ever. We don't want to stop, yet the COVID-19 global pandemic has caused some disruptions to our work.

Over the coming days and weeks, our team must make tough decisions regarding how, where, and even if we can respond to these cries for biblical care. That is why we are calling on our faithful church partners, like First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, to help us move our work forward in hard places through an effort we are calling *The "19" Fund*.

Would you prayerfully consider responding by June 30 with a special one-time gift, above your already generous normal giving, that will allow Langham to:

- **Provide PhD scholarships to 28 transformational leaders** who will be game changers in nations like Indonesia, Burundi and Lebanon. (**These leaders will go on to collectively multiply 216,524 disciples who will share the Good News with millions!*).

* Data from a measurement and evaluation of Langham's program impact by Excellence in Giving, 2015-2020

- **Distribute 8,000+ books** to roughly 600 seminary libraries. (**These books will be used by hundreds of thousands of students and emerging leaders, helping them better share God’s Word as they disciple others!**)
- **Support dozens of global pastor trainers** who shepherd local pastors with ongoing training, adapting in many cases to deliver their training over virtual platforms in places like India, Romania, Indonesia, Colombia and Lesotho. (**Langham-trained pastors multiply disciples who love like Jesus – with 96% witnessing congregations caring for and serving neighbors after sermons.**)

Will You Help Us Reach the Nations with *The “19” Fund*?

*“[We want to] spread the Gospel and help the church mature, to reach the nations.”
-Langham-equipped leader Ermias Mamo, Ethiopia*

Today, we are calling on our closest local church partners, like First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, to help us lift up leaders who reflect the love of Jesus – and multiply other disciples who do the same.

Would you prayerfully consider a gift of \$2,000 to help us reach our goal of raising \$126,500 by June 30 to continue biblical training around the world? Every gift counts, and together, along with other churches passionate about the global church, we can come alongside believers in hard places like Lebanon, Rwanda and Colombia.

Thank you for prayerfully considering a one-time gift to help us respond to the urgent needs around the world. God’s Word never returns void, and He will use your generosity to grow and multiply hope-filled disciples who bring the love of Christ into broken places.



Your partnership changes lives around the world, lives like Mirjana from Bosnia, pictured here. Your generosity allowed her pastor to receive training from Langham on how to clearly preach God’s Word – and that has brought healing to Mirjana, who struggles in the aftermath of the Bosnian war. She says:

“When I heard God’s Word, it is literally food for me. . . It is like someone put batteries in (my) heart.”