

# PUBLISHING GOOD NEWS

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### BOOKS

that make a difference

To **"OPEN** the Scriptures" and bring blessings to readers

To **ENCOURAGE** Church growth, both in depth and size

To **EQUIP** believers, preachers and teachers

To **SUPPORT** the ministry of Church planting

To **BUILD** resource libraries for Bible Colleges

## Burma – A Living Legacy

### Storing up treasures in Heaven

Our colleague and partner in Burma, Rev. F. Tial Kung, passed into glory recently, after serving his Lord for over 45 years. He was a pastor to the Chin people of West Burma and during the last 10 years he discovered the ministry of publishing.

We had the privilege of helping him in his literature ministry over the last 6 years. He worked tirelessly, despite failing health. He was passionate about translating basic Bible commentaries for his fellow Chin pastors, and was convinced of the centrality and power of God's Word. He was dedicated to preaching it faithfully and helping others to do the same. He believed that fortifying Christians with sound biblical truth is essential to the health of the church and the welfare of the people.

### Impacts

We can only speculate about the full impact of his work, but we are sure that in God's economy, the impacts will continue to ripple and grow throughout the present age. One day in heaven, we may begin to unravel all that was achieved for God's Kingdom.

### Books are important to God

Rev. Kung was convinced of the importance of good books. Books and writings are key in God's dealing with humanity. Just as the Son humbled himself to become a carpenter, so the Father humbled himself to become an author. Books are one of the



Rev. F. Tial Kung translating a Bible commentary

principal ways in which God communicates with people. What is important to God should be important to Christians. Therefore, the Church can work wholeheartedly in other kinds of ministries, but it should never, never be deceived into abandoning the written word.

Dr. Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, writes in his book *Convictions*,

**We need a flood of literature which incorporates Christian insights and the Christian philosophy of life. To dedicate your life to this is to wield about the sharpest weapon for good and for God that any man or woman can handle.**

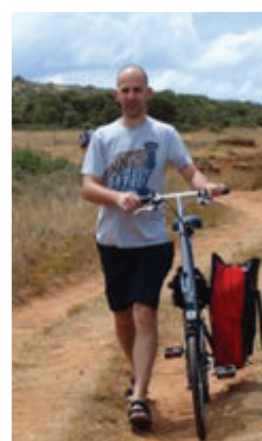
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# Poland: In The Saddle With Credo Publishing

In an attempt to raise funds and make the most of an upcoming visit by Phillip Yancey, the enterprising people at Credo Publishing are planning a sponsored cycle ride from Katowice to Warsaw in November. Yancey is a best selling author in Poland and, at Credo's invitation, is visiting to speak at several events and book launchings. Credo want to maximize the impact and capitalize on this opportunity with a series of events along the cycle route. But it is also a chance to raise the profile of Credo and their books to a much wider audience. Manager Edyta Slapik says:

“It is worthwhile doing extraordinary things in order to activate an interest towards good Christian literature. I believe the ride will help people who normally keep away from books to catch their attention and thinking. I'm grateful for each person who decides to support our action”.

Five cyclists will make the journey over 3 days and aim to raise enough to publish the first ever systematic theology in Polish, Millard Erikson's CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY. The text is ready but printing is a big job. We are encouraged that Credo is taking the initiative, and commend their efforts to anyone who would like to contribute.



## Please Continue in Prayer For:

### BURMA

Pray for the sons of Rev. F Tial Kung as they continue his ministry of publishing. Pray for lives to be changed through it. Pray for our upcoming visit, for safety and for meaningful interaction.

### TURKEY

Pray for Haberci publishing house as they seek to bring the timeless message of the Bible back to the site of the early church.

### CAMBODIA

Pray for Fount of Wisdom, particularly for Tim as he seeks to learn how to serve the fast growing church through publishing.

### UKRAINE

Give thanks for great progress at Colloquium. Pray that they will progress rapidly to long term sustainability.

### POLAND

Pray for the team at Credo Publishing as they undertake their cycle run in November. Pray for safety and that they would raise the profile of Christian books.

### EAST EUROPE

Give thanks for all that God has done over the last 20 years. Pray that the seed sown would bear a plentiful harvest. Pray that the needs of the church in this region would not be forgotten, but that God would supply all their needs.



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literature

Address: Langham Publisher Development,  
The Paddocks, Duncanson, By Dingwall, IV7 8JD, Tel +44 1349 877837

For fuller reports on any story of interest, please contact  
Colin Macpherson: [colin.macpherson@langhampartnership.org](mailto:colin.macpherson@langhampartnership.org)

## Burma – A Living Legacy *continued*

► Rev. Kung dedicated his life to this work and, like him, we are convinced of enduring impacts.

### Literature endures

Literature lives on long after the author or publisher. Literature lasts. The Puritan writer Thomas Brookes stated,

**Books may preach when the author cannot; when the author may not; when the author dares not; yes, and what is more, when the author is not.**

### Work while it is yet day because the night is coming ...

Rev. Kung worked hard while it was yet day – a life well spent in service to his Lord. He is succeeded by his sons who will carry it on. Pray for them, and for

the thousands of believers in Burma who have already been touched through these books, that they would be fortified with Biblical truth. And pray for tens of thousands to be impacted in the years and generations to come.



The last 2 commentaries published by Rev. Kung

## UPCOMING VISIT TO BURMA

14 - 27 October

Colin Macpherson will be visiting Burma in October. He will meet with various organizations and individuals with an interest in publishing and writing. We have received numerous requests for help in recent years. There is huge interest in publishing and surprising freedom to do it, but a lack of co-ordinated effort. These issues and the opportunities will be explored. Pray that the visit would bring encouragement and stimulus to Burmese believers, and open up God's way forward to help the Burmese. Please pray for safety. Colin will preach in Yangon (formerly Rangoon) on 20 and 23 October.

## A New Start In Cambodia

### Cambodia, what comes to mind when hearing this name?

Perhaps ancient temples, Buddhism, humanitarian aid, poverty, corruption, Hollywood adoptions, the Ho Chi Minh trail, carpet bombing are some of the possibilities. In reality, present day Cambodia boasts a growing population of nearly 14 million people. Life for these people in the last 30 years has been an enormous struggle to overcome multitudes of obstacles. Years of war left the land and its people devastated and possessing little hope. Only in the last 10 to 15 years has any sense of normality been restored. True progress has been painfully slow as Cambodians try to pick their way through new minefields of corruption and exploitation in an effort to move forward. But it is moving forwards, away from the 'Killing Fields' of the past towards a bright future.

### Seeing it for ourselves

It was our privilege to visit Cambodia and meet some of the believers earlier this year. We were amazed at their warmth and friendliness and genuine delight to have us. The focus of our visit was to spend time with the people at Fount of Wisdom (FoW) publishing house in Phnom Penh. We wanted to understand their context, encourage them to keep going, share what we could about making publishing work, and see if there are any ways we could help materially.



Staff of Fount of Wisdom in Phnom Penh, with Colin Macpherson of Langham Literature

### Ripe for Publishing

It is a country that is ripe for good indigenous publishing: a church that desperately needs resources, first generation believers eager to grow and reach out, preachers with nothing to help them study and prepare.

After decades of tribulation, there has been an outpouring of God's grace. It seems the soil was being prepared through the



Local produce in Phnom Penh



Local traffic in Phnom Penh

dark years. The number of believers in Cambodia has mushroomed from around 200 to approximately 250,000 in less than 20 years. Unfortunately this growing Church has not yet been adequately disciplined and believers have been thrust into leadership roles before truly understanding what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Fount of Wisdom sees its role in providing appropriate leadership and discipleship materials as a key component in the maturing and multiplication of the Church in Cambodia. Langham's Preaching program has already started the huge task of mentoring first generation preachers in Cambodia, so it is vital that preachers are equipped with the necessary literature resources. There is also a growing interest in personal development among the younger generation in Cambodia, Christian and non-Christian - a search for guidance in a rapidly changing world. FoW aims to publish selected books which address these needs, while communicating Biblical principles for living.

### Partnership

Our prayer was twofold: 1) that God would clearly show whether or not there was meaningful help Langham could give in the longer term, and 2) to help build strong relationships with the believers at FoW. Both of these were answered very positively. Cambodian Christians are easy to like and we loved being with them. However, it is an extremely difficult context for Christian publishing and if we had not been so convinced of God's leading and providence, we would naturally decline involvement. But the need is great, and the door is open to this ministry. Please pray for God's blessing to be above and beyond our limited vision.

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### The Road Ahead

Publisher development will not be easy in Cambodia, and we have a long list of development priorities and training needs for FoW. Pray for their manager, Tim, who feels very out of his depth. Pray for creative and imaginative ways to reach readers. Pray for wisdom in understanding their readers and choosing appropriate titles. Pray that God would bless their efforts to nurture Cambodian writers. Langham Preaching and Langham Literature will work in tandem to invest our energies in the Cambodian church. Early titles we have promised to find funds for include:

- How to Read the Bible (M Tay)
- IVP New Bible Dictionary
- What Christ Thinks of the Church (Stott)
- Habakkuk—From Why to Worship (J Lamb)
- Preaching: God's Big Picture (Phil Crowter)
- By the Book, Volumes 1&2 (N Bernardino)
- John's Gospel, Water of Life (D Painter)



Local transport in Phnom Penh

# Taking Ephesians Back To Ephesus

## To The Saints In Ephesus

It will be a historic moment. Almost 2000 years after Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, the message of his letter is being taken back. Sadly, much of the intervening period has been marked by the lack of any recognisable church in the area. Commended in Revelation for their hard work, perseverance, and hatred of evil, the Ephesians were also rebuked for forsaking their first love. The warning was given loud and clear that without repentance and return to their earlier ways, their lamp stand would be removed and their light withdrawn. Sadly, that is what happened. We all stand warned.

## Today

Ephesus is a popular tourist destination, packed with antiquity and remains. But there is also new life here. Modern Turkey is experiencing the birth of a new church. We are at the early stages of a new work of God's Spirit. Growing from less than 100 believers to several thousand today, remarkable things have been happening. The publication of the Bible in modern Turkish has been central to the spread of the Gospel. But the opening up of its meaning through informed preaching and Bible study is also vitally important. First generation believers, leaders and preachers need to hear and understand God's message if they are to grow.

## God's New Society

In his outstanding commentary on Ephesians, entitled *GOD'S NEW SOCIETY*, John Stott opens up the meaning, context and importance of what God had to say to the Ephesian church. Its publication in Turkish is in the pipeline. It brings a message of encouragement designed to strengthen the believers in their Christian faith, by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ. Paul planted the church in Ephesus in AD53, and served there for 3 years. But Christian living and growing today is not easy or straightforward. Although a nominally secular state, almost everyone is Muslim. Converts, if they go public, face all sorts of challenges,



The Amphitheatre at Ephesus in Turkey

suspicion and rejection, even from family members. Foreign Christian workers are viewed with great suspicion and animosity. A spiritual battle is underway. It is into this context that Haberci Publishing in Istanbul is committed to equipping the church with appropriate literature resources. We aim to help them to do this.



## Haberci

Their name means *The Messenger*, and they have a message worth bringing. They aim to provide Bible helps and other resource books. Many of their titles are designed for a much wider Turkish readership, bringing a Christian worldview and ethics. They have an ambitious plan to publish the complete Bible Speaks Today series of commentaries over the next 10 years and we would like to help them persevere right the way through

the series. Another ambition would be to help them develop Turkish writers.

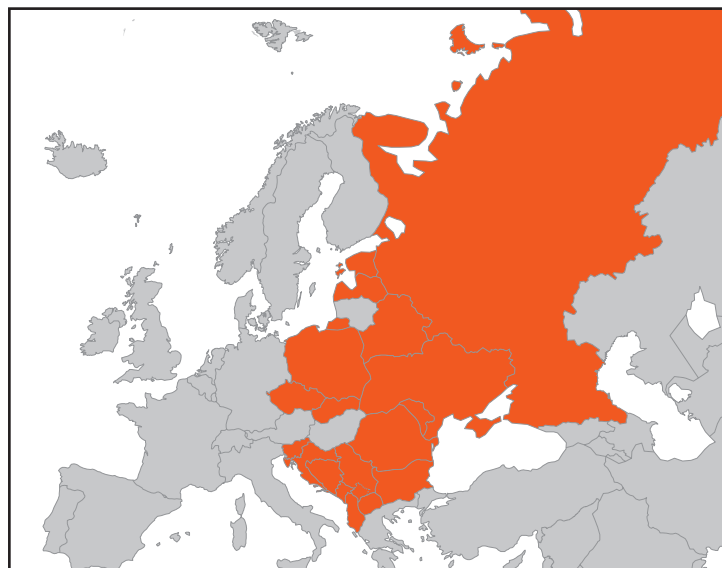
## Strategic

Turkey lies at a cross roads between Europe and Asia, not just geographically but also in terms of culture, worldview and religion. Although the church is still tiny, the strategic importance of the country is huge. It is easier to pursue outreach into Islamic Central Asia and the Middle East from Turkey. A growing and maturing church in Turkey, willing to obey Christ's great commission, could become a 'lighthouse' of blessing to the countries further East. We believe that helping Turkish believers to study and understand the Bible is a vital part of the necessary maturing and growing. Paul wanted to send a message of encouragement and strengthening to the believers at Ephesus but his letter was written for a wider audience and our prayer is that it will bring blessing right across Turkey. Paul also stresses the unity of the body - our western churches are indeed one with new Turkish fellowships - we would like to help them in a very practical way. Publishing this commentary on Ephesians and bringing this message back to its first Century context will cost around £4,000.

# East Europe – Still Work To Be Done

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN where we started out, and much of our work continues to focus on East Europe. It is not without reason that some have referred to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Europe as The Dark Continent. Although economic and political progress has been made throughout the post communist region, there is still a dearth of resources for the church, and evangelical Christianity is usually a very minority religion. Economic progress is not synonymous with spiritual progress.

The following is a quick round up of some current projects. More details on request.



## **ALBANIA**

Beselidhja publishing still perseveres with challenging circumstances and a very difficult context for publishing. Progress is perhaps less than we would like, but what they are building is a lasting foundation for decades and generations to come.

## **BULGARIA**

BCSU publishing are committed to a new monograph series of titles exclusively by Bulgarian writers. It is an ambitious project but worthy of support.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

Navrat Publishing, Prague, is now the leading evangelical publisher in the country. We helped them get started just after the collapse of communism and they now have more than 250 titles in print. It has been a long but fruitful journey and most titles can now be self supporting. Occasionally a large but important title requires some financial support and we are currently helping them with the IVP Old Testament Bible Background Commentary.

## **ESTONIA**

We are working with Allika Publishers in Tallin to produce a complete set of New Testament commentaries. They were originally requested by an Estonian seminary, but are also proving popular with a much wider audience. Five titles remain to be published in the Tyndale New Testament Commentary series.

## **ROMANIA**

Editura Logos has a plan to publish the 50 most important books that every pastor should have on their shelves. They call it the Pastor's Basic Library. We hope to help with 3 titles in the first instance, and hopefully more thereafter, if donors can be found.

## **RUSSIA**

Mirt, St Petersburg has a good history of publishing high quality and meaningful titles. We are assisting with a selection of new titles on subjects such as leadership, preaching from the parables, and theology. Future attention is also being given to a range of titles by national authors.

## **SERBIA**

Soteria continues to publish in a hostile environment, with a tiny Christian community. But they are also producing books designed to reach out to the Serbian Orthodox population with Bible truths. We are raising funds for commentaries and other preaching aids.

## **UKRAINE**

Colloquium is a relatively new publishing house but doing great things. In 2010 they published 3 titles but this year they have released 10 already. They are at the stage where they require considerable capital injection to build their list of titles and reputation. Colloquium's focus is Biblical Studies and their books have been very well received for quality and content. Books are being exported to Russia and other parts of Central Asia. We are helping Colloquium with two books by local authors, and selected titles for translation.