



Indigenous Preaching Training



Rick and Kayleen Manton, ministry to the Indigenous Church

On September 2019, a very special Langham Preaching training commenced in Cootamundra, NSW. This was the first ever Langham Preaching seminar held in Australia with Australian Indigenous pastors.

Aboriginal pastor Rick Manton who ministers in Western Sydney, attended Level One Langham training at the Christian Leaders Training College in the Papua New Guinea Highlands ten years ago and believed then it could be helpful for his people. However, various circumstances prevented it happening in Australia until last year.

Langham Preaching Regional Coordinator for the South Pacific, Stephen Williams, led the training. Joining him were ministers Steve Etherington and Cliff Letcher. Steve and his wife Narelle spent many years in Arnhem Land (northern Australia) translating the bible into the local Aboriginal language. Cliff works with Australian Indigenous Ministries.

If we look only at numbers, it appears to be a disappointing start: seven potential participants did not attend, as they were involved in another event. Consequently there were only eight participants, from both city and country churches, including Rick and his wife Kayleen. Yet, small as it was, this event represented the fulfilment of a long-hoped and prayed-for desire on the part of many in Langham Australia.

"A great bond between us all was established very quickly. People responded to the training with enthusiasm. There was thoughtful participation and discussion - and it was simply great fun. A very gifted musician led our thanksgiving and singing on the course" said Stephen.

So why is this training for aboriginal pastors needed?

Rick and Kayleen believe that there is a "spiritual gap" between indigenous and non-indigenous pastors in Australia that needs to be closed.

For a number of reasons, many Aboriginal pastors have never attended Bible College and are not trained in how to preach. Apart from financial barriers and the demands of ministry, there is recognition that our cultural backgrounds and understandings are different.

"Aboriginal pastors don't want to come out of a Bible College with a 'western mind-set... but the level of preaching [in indigenous churches] needs to be lifted... we want our mob to be able to preach [the Word] clearly" explains Rick.

Indigenous communities are dealing with generational trauma; unemployment, drug and alcohol problems and domestic abuse and pastors need to be able to minister to people who are struggling with these issues.

"Our community desperately needs good strong indigenous preachers to help us grow spiritually" says Kayleen.

Rick and Kayleen would love to see the Langham training spread around the country for all Indigenous pastors.

This article first appeared in the Australia Langham Partnership newsletter and is reprinted with kind permission.



APWM
Australian Presbyterian
World Mission

Overseas Mission on Our Doorstep!



The nations have come to Hurstville, NSW

The COVID-19 pandemic is a visible demonstration of how connected the nations of the world are. What happens in one country today easily touches the whole world tomorrow. Some commentators now talk of the world as a 'global village'. Much of this has come about through the relatively low cost of 21st-century international air travel.

After World War Two we saw global mass migration on an unprecedented scale. That movement rapidly accelerated in the 21st century — and has now impacted Australia. The nations are now on our doorstep and that brings great opportunities for mission.

Some Australian mission agencies have recognised these opportunities and this has produced two complementary approaches.

Returned Missionaries

Some Agencies use missionaries who have returned to Australia to reach recent immigrants. These missionaries are trying to reach, in Australia, the very same people group that they were attempting to reach when they served overseas. Let that sink in! The work that these missionaries carry out in Australia is an extension, a continuation, of what they did overseas in their country of service.

Some missionaries served in countries where it was difficult to openly preach the gospel and they now have much greater freedom to do that in Australia.

Some APWM missionaries fall into this category, and the APWM National Committee recently adapted its mission policy to meet this rapidly-changing environment.

Equipping the Australian Church

Other agencies seek to equip Australian Christians who are not returned missionaries. Many Australian Christians need training in cross-cultural skills, so that they can engage with people who have come to Australia from every corner of our world.

Here is the intersection of the training and skills traditionally used by overseas missionaries with the opportunities that are on our own doorstep.

Interserve offers its *Culture Connect* program www.cultureconnect.net.au

CMS offers the online *Mission Mindset* course in partnership with Ridley College certificate.ridley.edu.au/courses/mission-mindset

What will you do to take advantage of these opportunities?

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