

# Langham Partnership news

## Chris Wright's Visit April 2004

In just a few days in April, Chris Wright, the International Ministries Director for Langham Partnership International, spoke to many hundreds of people in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.



**1. Chris lecturing at the Bible College of Queensland.**



**2. Chris with some LPA supporters in Sydney.**



**3. Preaching at Ashgrove Baptist Church Qld and signing books at Mitchelton Presbyterian Church (also in Brisbane).**



**4. At BCQ Chris gave a full day of teaching on 'Reading the whole Bible for Mission' and 'Preaching from the Old Testament'. While in Sydney, Moore College had invited him to speak at their Chapel service and give an Old Testament Ethics lecture.**



**5. In Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne Chris gave The Langham Lecture 'Have we lost the three dimensional Gospel? – the breadth of the Bible, the depth of the Cross and the length of God's mission'. If you would like a recording of this please contact Wendy Toulmin (details on back page).**

**6. In Victoria, Chris was one of the speakers at the Belgrave Heights Easter Convention speaking on 'God's people in God's world for God's sake' – studies in Deuteronomy.**

It was a very full 10 days, but extremely worthwhile and we look forward to Chris' next visit planned for September/October 2006.

Please continue to pray for Chris Wright in this strategic ministry for the Langham Partnership International, as he travels and encourages the churches of the Majority World.



### Chairman's Word

Langham Partnership is about fellowship. Not in the commonly understood 'meeting-together-over-a cup-of-tea' fellowship. But the biblical sense of fellowship is that of sharing together in some common task or purpose. In fact, when you read the new Testament, Paul often talks, for example to the Philippians, about his readers' fellowship in the gospel as they share with him in providing support for him in his apostolic ministry.



**LPA Committee with Chris in Sydney.**

That's exactly what Langham Partnership is all about: Christians in different parts of the world sharing together in the cause of strengthening Bible teaching and leadership of churches in the majority world.

Sometimes, though, fellowship can mean the joy of face to face meeting. It was great to have Chris Wright the International Ministries Director of Langham International back in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne just before Easter. Although Chris turned up with a terrible cold, he soldiered on remarkably. It was great to be able to meet him at supporters' dinners and at the inaugural Langham Lecture. I know that Chris and others of us on the committee were delighted to put some of your faces to names.

It was encouraging also to hear from Chris about the ongoing maturity of the international partnership of Langham throughout the world. He also brought information on our own supported scholar "Dr Chan" in a remarkable piece of video. It was like having him there.

Chris's visit follows on very well from the very significant visit two years ago when Chris came with John Stott. John's health means he can't come to visit us at the moment (see update 'News of John Stott' p3). However, the interaction with Chris and then next year Jonathan Lamb (Director of Langham Preaching), will help remind us that we in Australia are in fellowship with Christians throughout the world.

**Rob Forsyth (Chair LPA)**

# The Bible

## THROUGH MUSLIM EYES

Current world events have made many Christians keen to understand more about what Muslims believe, and about the teachings of the Quran. But what about the other way round? What do Muslims think about the Bible, and what difficulties do they have in reading it? And how can Christians who live in Muslim cultures answer the questions their Muslim neighbours have about the Bible - especially the Old Testament?

Two former Langham Scholars, themselves Arab Christians from Lebanon, are setting out to write books to address these issues, assisted by grants from **Langham Writers**, which is one of the programmes within **Langham Literature**.

### The Old Testament: Propaganda Or Mythology?



**Rev Dr Riad Kassis** is a former Langham Scholar (Nottingham, 1997), current Director of the Schneller Institute and Assistant Professor of OT Studies, in the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary Beirut, Lebanon. Riad is writing a book for students and pastors explaining the relevance of the Old Testament scriptures for the Arab church. He explains:

*'As a pastor in Syrian and Lebanese churches and as a conference speaker in other Arab countries, I saw a great need for this book. It will deal with the proper interpretation of the Old Testament in an Arab/Middle Eastern context. For mainly political reasons the Old Testament has been rejected in the Arab world. This has led to tragic consequences in the life of church and society. The Old Testament is seldom preached or properly taught in Arab churches. Many Arabs, both Muslims and Christians, view it as "political propaganda" or a "mythological book".*

*My book has three aims: To deal intelligently with some big difficulties that Arab readers face as they read the Old Testament; To provide a method of reading the Old Testament that is suitable for Arabs; And to show that the Old Testament is beneficial for the life and ministry of the Christian church by addressing ethical, social, and political issues that are relevant to the present Arab world.'*

### The Gospels As Muslims Have Read Them



**Dr Martin Accad** is a former Langham Scholar (Oxford, 2001) and Assistant Dean at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. He wants to develop an Arab Christian theology in the context of contemporary Islamic and Middle-Eastern issues in the interpretation of the Bible (hermeneutics). He is writing two books for seminary students and trained pastors in the Middle East:

**The Gospels as Muslims Have Read Them.** A reference work with commentary on the Gospels as found in Muslim authors. It will bring together the text of the four Gospels as Muslims have read and used them in dialogue with Christians for many centuries. The Arabic text will occupy the upper half of the page, an English literal translation will occupy the lower half, and a brief commentary (in English) on the way the Muslim authors handled the text will be found in the right-hand margin.

**A New Moon in Contemporary Arab Christian Hermeneutics.** A textbook on Arab Christian hermeneutics in the context of Islam.



*A quote from an Australian supporter's letter ...*

*"I pray the pastors will learn to keep close to God in their walk and learning."*

*And in answer to that prayer, a quote from one of the participants of the Preaching Seminar in Albania earlier this year ... "The Lord through you has set free a passion in my heart for preaching the Word of God."*

## Langham Writers

Riad Kassis and Martin Accad are just two out of several new authors that the Langham Writers programme, as part of the Langham Literature, has invested in. The aim of the programme is to facilitate high quality evangelical books being written by majority world authors for their own contexts.

### Three New Writing Projects Began In 2003

**Augustine Pagolu**, a former Langham scholar is currently located at Tyndale House, Cambridge, writing a textbook on **Biblical Hermeneutics in the Indian Context**.

**Moses Matonya** Principal of Msalato Bible College in Dodoma, Tanzania, is writing on, **Christ & Spiritual powers in Africa: The Colossian Model**. His book will address social and theological issues in African traditions.

**Fernando Bullón**, from Costa Rica teaches Christian Mission and Ethics in Central and South America. His project is a textbook on Mission written in Spanish for students.



*Part of a wonderful letter of thanks from the Bulwo Bible School in PNG.*

*"Dear Langham Literature, I am finding it very difficult to write this letter. It is hard to put in words what I am feeling in my heart. ... Your very kind gift of money used to order our Bible School library books will be a wonderful help to us staff and our students too, for this year and the coming years in the future. I thank the Lord for your kindness. Your brother in the Lord Jesus".*

# Congratulations To All Our Successful Scholars!

Every time a Langham Scholar completes his or her dissertation, successfully defends it, and is awarded their doctorate, is a moment for great celebration. It represents a huge amount of effort over several long years. We honour all that hard work and rejoice in the reward it brings. We also pray that the new qualification will be a means through which the Scholar will be able to serve the church even more effectively in teaching and other forms of leadership, back in their own context.

## New Ph.Ds Gained In 2003 In The UK

**Finny Philip** (Durham, Indian). He is back in India, teaching as Academic Dean at Filadelfia

Bible College and Chief Operating Officer of the Native Missionary Movement. The churches in parts of India where his graduates minister are facing considerable persecution.

**Lazarus Phiri** (Edinburgh, Zambian). He has become the Regional Secretary for Pioneers (a large international mission agency) in Africa and will be based in Cape Town, South Africa.

**Abraham Kovacs** (Edinburgh, Hungarian). He has returned to Hungary to lecture at Papa Theological Seminary and to be a Research Fellow at the Institute for Protestantism and Mission in Budapest.

**Joseph Suico** (Wales, Filipino). He has returned to the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary in the Philippines as Dean of Students.

**Adonis Vidu** (Nottingham, Romanian). He has returned to Romania and is lecturing in Emmanuel University, Oradea.

**Jules Gomes** (Cambridge, Indian). He has returned to lecture at United Theological College, Bangalore, India.

**Emmanuel Sule** (Birmingham, Nigerian). He intends to return this summer.

## New Ph.Ds Gained In 2004 In The UK

**Daniel Niles** (Cambridge, Sri Lankan). He is at Crowther Hall and expects to be sent as a CMS Partner to teach at the Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Uganda.

Facilitated through the Global South Institute, this will be an excellent example of South to South co-operation in theological education - from Sri Lanka to Uganda, via Cambridge!

**James Sellee** (Gloucestershire, Liberian). He returned to Liberia on March 7. It is a considerable achievement for James Sellee to have gained his doctorate. He did not begin going to school until he was fifteen. Because of prolonged warfare in Liberia many of its citizens have moved to other countries. Travel in the country is difficult and dangerous and as a result James has not seen his father for over ten years. James was married in December.

## News of John Stott

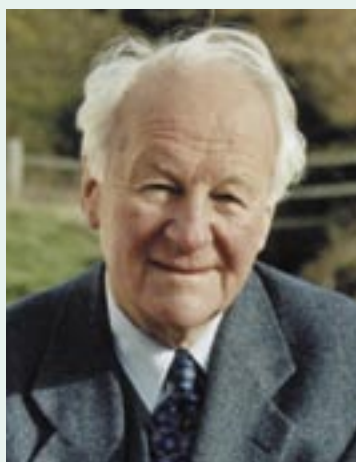
Many of you will know that John Stott was taken ill just before Christmas last year. By God's grace, he has recovered remarkably and continues to lead an active life. He has preached again twice already at All Souls, and at the Langham Partnership weekend in Northwood and Watford in the UK in March. However he has had to cancel international travel for much of this year. Please keep him in your prayers.

On Sunday 18th April, the **BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship** was broadcast from the cliffs of Pembrokeshire - well, from Hookses, John Stott's beloved cottage and writing retreat near Dale. Did you miss it? You wouldn't have, if you'd been checking out our website. The website is developing fast, so do pay a visit and come back regularly. It's [www.langhampartnership.org.au](http://www.langhampartnership.org.au)



(From left to right) Phil Billson, Producer of BBC Religion and Ethics programmes, with Frances Whitehead, Nick Page, John Stott, Dennis Wight (Vicar of Dale), and Matthew Smith, during the BBC broadcast at Hookses.

## John Stott's Prayer For All Our Langham Scholars



Each year, at the orientation course in Oxford for those who are beginning their doctoral studies in the UK, I have been asked to speak on 'Maturity and Research' - that is, on how to grow in academic excellence and personal godliness at the same time. For there is a real danger, I have said, that a scholar may return home an academic success but a spiritual failure - a 'doctor' (qualified to teach), but no longer a 'disciple', possessing a new degree and a new title, but possessed by no new vision, power or holiness.

Bishop Handley Moule of Durham warned his students (he was the first Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge), 'Beware equally of an untheological devotion and of an undevotional theology.'

We must not separate these things.

Helmut Thielicke, in his book *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*, urges us to think about God in the second person ('You'), and not slip only into the third person ('He'): *Consider the first time someone spoke of God in the third person, and therefore no longer with God but about God, was that very moment when the question resounded, 'Did God really say...?'*

More eloquent still are the words of Professor T. F. Torrance, when he describes theology as 'a form of intense intellectual communion with God, in which our minds are taken captive by his love and we come to know God more and more through himself.'

My own hope and prayer, in which I am sure you will want to join me, is that Langham Scholars, while being competent teachers of theology, will truly know and worship the God they talk about.

John Stott

If you would like to receive monthly web bulletins please visit the website [www.langhampartnership.org.au](http://www.langhampartnership.org.au) and go to the Newsletters page to subscribe.

# What is the Langham Partnership?

## Our Vision

'Our vision is to see churches worldwide being equipped for mission and growing to maturity through the ministry of Christian leaders and pastors who sincerely believe, diligently study, faithfully expound and relevantly apply the Word of God.'

## Our Convictions

- God wants his church to grow up in maturity.
- The church of God grows through the Word of God.
- The word of God comes to people primarily through preaching.

## Our Challenge

What can we do to raise the standards of biblical preaching?

## Our Programmes

- **Langham Literature** Providing evangelical books for pastors, theological students and seminary libraries, and encouraging evangelical writing and publishing in the majority world.
- **Langham Scholars** Offering scholarships to enable evangelical leaders to gain doctorates in biblical and theological studies and return to their home countries as seminary teachers and church leaders.
- **Langham Preaching** Developing networks and movements for ongoing training of pastors and leaders in biblical expository preaching.

## Our Field

The majority world includes those countries where the majority of the world's population live and where more than 70% of the world's Christians live – mainly Africa, Latin America, parts of Asia, Central and Eastern Europe. We prefer 'majority world' to older terms such as 'Third World' or 'Developing World'.

## Our History

Rev Dr John Stott, Rector Emeritus of All Souls Church, Langham Place (from which the name comes), founded trusts to provide literature and scholarships more than 30 years ago, in response to the needs he perceived in the rapidly growing churches of the majority world. These have now united in the Langham Partnership, which is also fully interdenominational.

## Our Network

The Langham Partnership International, of which Langham Partnership Australia is a member, binds together four other national members: Langham Partnership (UK and Ireland), John Stott Ministries (USA), Langham Partnership (Canada), and Langham Foundation (Hong Kong).

## Our Website

[www.langhampartnership.org.au](http://www.langhampartnership.org.au)



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# Half A Century Of Writing

This year, 2004, marks the 50th centenary of John Stott's first published book, **Men With A Message** (Longmans, 1954). He wrote it as a young man of 33 and hasn't stopped since!

The book - a survey of the books of the New Testament and the people who wrote them - has gone through several editions, and is now a colourful textbook, revised by Steve Motyer. LP News asked John Stott to tell us how he came to make his debut as an author. He writes:

"It was in September 1950 that I was instituted as Rector of All Souls Church. Officiating at the service was William Wand, Bishop of London. And during his sermon, to my great surprise, he urged the Churchwardens to ensure that I had time to read and write. Then, true to his word, and much to my astonishment, I received a letter from him the following year inviting me to write what in those days was called 'The Bishop of London's Lent Book'.

I was thinking at the time about the double authorship of Scripture, divine and human. So I chose for my topic this important aspect of biblical inspiration, namely that the Holy Spirit prepared and fashioned the biblical authors in such a way as to convey through each an appropriate and distinctive message. The uniqueness of each author was not smothered by divine inspiration, nor was inspiration undermined by the active participation of human authors. Hence the book's title *Men with a Message*. It seems to have met a need. One reader, nameless but now a Church of England bishop, declares that it got him through the New Testament paper in his General Ordination Exam!

The book remained in print for many years, and then in 1994 a new and illustrated edition, judiciously revised and updated by Stephen Motyer, was published by Candle Books. A year or two later a companion volume entitled *Men with a Message: Old Testament* was written by Alec Motyer, Stephen's father, and put out by the same publishers."

It's 'half a century not out' since John Stott the author came to the wicket! John is working on a book of devotional Bible readings through the year. All royalties from John's books are assigned to Langham Partnership and are designated for the Literature Programme.

**The first edition of John Stott's first book (1954), with its more colourful revised version (Candle Books, 1994).**

