

Langham partnership news

'Lord, why did you not prepare me before you called me?'

This was the heart cry of one of the pastors who came to the second Langham Preaching Seminar in Albania in January 2005. He was testifying to what a difference the first one a year ago (conducted by Jonathan Lamb and Andrew Page) had made to his life and ministry.

'I have been in Christ for nine years and a pastor for four,' he told us. 'For all those years I knew that I should be teaching my people from the Bible, but I didn't know how. I read books but found no help.' Hence his questioning prayer. 'But last year you gave me a method and practical help, and now I have been able to do what I always wanted.' This kind of testimony makes the work of Langham Preaching so worthwhile.

Once again the Albanian Evangelical Alliance (VUSH), through its energetic leader, Genci Shehu, was the main sponsor of the Preaching Seminar in Albania, supported by Andy Oliver of European Christian Mission, and the Rruga e Pages Church. Participants came from a wide range of different denominational backgrounds (which have sadly managed to surface even in a church that is only 14 years old in its present form, after the fall of the atheist communist state). We combined two levels: Chris Wright taught basic Bible skills to those who had come for the first time, while Brian Morgan, a pastor from California connected to John Stott Ministries in the States and a fine Bible teacher, led the second year group on a very creative journey of preaching from Gospel narratives, using Mark's Gospel as a key text.

The Albanian evangelical publishing house, Beselidhja, with its director Romeo Mano, provided a book table, assisted by Colin McPherson of EELAC (East European Literature Advisory Committee) which has close associations with Langham Literature. They had Albanian



Romeo Mano and Colin McPherson with books for the Albanian seminar.

copies of Chris Wright's BST commentary on Ezekiel, published just in time!

The programme in Albania is set to continue in the years ahead as an annual event, owned and sponsored by VUSH, in co-operation with Langham Preaching. Pray that it will significantly deepen the biblical foundations of this church which is only 14



Chris Wright and Brian Morgan, co-leaders of the seminar in Albania. The Adriatic seaside resort of Durres is in the background, but the temperature was below zero!

years old, and yet in another sense goes right back to the New Testament. Albania is the ancient Roman province of Illyricum and Dalmatia, which Paul refers to in Romans 15:19 (it was just across the mountains from Thessalonica and

Philippi), and which Titus certainly visited (2 Tim. 4:10). Were we following in his footsteps? Durres, the coastal town where the seminar was held, was ancient Duracum, and an early historian tells us that there were 70 Christian families there in AD 55. 'You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine,' Paul told Titus, 'and in your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech' (Tit. 2:1,7). Our prayer and the goal of Langham Preaching is that a new generation of Tituses will be encouraged in Albania to do just that.

Chairman's Word

One of the great needs for Christian maturity, often perhaps overlooked by us in the West, is to grow in mature and deep understanding of God's word written.



The preaching and teaching of the Bible when done well is a great means by which the Lord Jesus Christ builds and strengthens his church.

Part of the mission of the Langham Partnership is to strengthen and equip pastors in their significant task of teaching and instructing their people in the words of Jesus, the apostles and the prophets. I am looking forward to Jonathan Lamb's visit here in Australia soon. Jonathan, heading up Langham Preaching, is involved in this very significant outreach ministry of service to the majority world church in helping the pastors become powerful biblical teachers. The results of this ministry will be seen in the lives of the countless millions of men and women in the majority world.

Rob Forsyth

Jonathan Lamb Director Langham Preaching in Australia 2005

August 12-13 – CMS Victoria Winter Conference

Registration necessary – (03 9894 4722)

August 14 – Jonathan preaching at

- Holy Trinity Doncaster 8 & 10am
- St Hilary's Kew 7.15pm

August 15-17 – Ridley College Ministry & Preaching Conference

Registration necessary – (03 9207 4800)

August 20-24 – St. Luke's Miranda World Missions Convention

Details available from Church office (02 9540 4558)

For more information about Jonathan Lamb see back page of this issue.

Preachers' Progress

A regular update on the work from Jonathan Lamb, Director of Langham Preaching

Our Langham conviction is that depth matters as much as growth. We work hard to sustain continuity in countries where Langham Preaching has begun a training initiative. Thanks to committed national leaders, programmes are forging ahead in Albania and Myanmar and also in Ethiopia this past January. All three have completed a second training event, with plans afoot for the next stage in some months' time.

Developments in established programme

Argentina, March 29-April 1, with Chris Wright teaching.

Uganda, April 4-8, which will be the fourth training event, running several tracks for some 200 participants, with several Langham facilitators including Jenny Brown, Mark Meynell, Rodney Wood, Wanyeki Mahiaini, and Jonathan Lamb.

Ukraine, where leaders of IFES work from Eurasia will attend the second preaching course, June 19-25, with Jenny Brown and Jonathan Lamb.

Pakistan, for the second training event, July 4-9, with Pervaiz Sultan and Andrew Reid.

Zimbabwe, for a small training programme linked to the second Keswick Convention, hopefully during the week October 1-8.

Bolivia, 20-26 November, for a second level programme, with Andy Lines, Crosslinks.

New initiatives

Ghana, March 15-18, with a strong local team of trainers, supported by Rodney Wood and Femi Adeleye.

Poland, May 16-19, with John Stott, Greg Scharf, Andrew Page and Jonathan Lamb.

Kenya, August 29-September 2, with Rodney Wood, Jenny Brown and Wanyeki Mahiaini, hosted by Esther Mombo and her team at St Paul's Limuru.

Tanzania, September 5-9, a joint initiative with Crosslinks, with Rodney Wood.

We are specially pleased to be developing links with Francophone Africa, with two countries launching training initiatives in the early autumn:

Congo, September 13-16, with representatives coming from throughout the country for the first training seminar, with Gordon Woolard and others.

Cote d'Ivoire, September 19-23, hosted by Daniel Bourdanne with additional training from Gordon Woolard.

Please pray

- We need help in the administrative and practical demands of establishing sustainable programmes.
- We need the financial resources to sustain initiatives in challenging contexts.
- We need additional facilitators and trainers from around the world who share the vision and are willing to give time to helping country programmes.
- We are developing new training models, as we learn from the past three years and seek to refine and improve our work in each country.

Jonathan Lamb



Moving forward in Myanmar

After the successful launch of the preaching seminar in Yangon in January 2004, it was encouraging to return from 17-21 January 2005 and continue the programme with a seminar twice as large.

We had 93 participants, of whom about half were completely new at level 1. Once again Langham Preaching collaborated with Crosslinks, as Chris Wright and Andy Lines (General Secretary of Crosslinks) combined to provide the teaching and Bible expositions. And again we were welcomed by the Anglican Archbishop of Myanmar, San Tsi Tay, though participants were drawn from many denominations and far corners of the country. Saw Maung Doe, the Principal of Holy Cross Theological College, not only supported the seminar in very practical ways (and translated all the materials into Burmese), he also brought along the whole final year class of his College to attend for the week. Plans are already in hand for holding level 1 in Mandalay, in January 2006, for easier access for people from the central and northern parts of the country, followed by levels 2 and 3 combined in Yangon.



Getting stuck into the Word: a group at the Preaching Seminar in Myanmar works hard on the Bible text in preparing an outline message.



News of Langham Literature

Every little helps. But a little more would help a lot.

The number of Seminaries on the Langham Partnership International database, to whom we make an annual grant of \$300 to order books from the Langham Literature Catalogue, is growing. Institutions can order extra books for their libraries, of course, if they have other funds to pay for them. But many simply do not, and so the annual Langham gift provides the only addition they can make to their libraries each year. The letter below illustrates both the joy of receiving books, and the frustration of not being able to order more and take advantage of the excellent discount we are able to offer. We would love to be able to increase (and preferably double) the annual library grant, but we can only do that if our donation income increases too.

I am so glad to inform you that we have received one consignment containing three books namely, **Confronting the New Age, Dictionary of New Testament Background** and **Dictionary of Old Testament: Pentateuch**, from IVP. We thank you very much for this help towards the development of our library. We are sorry, we are not able to make any order for other books, though the discount is so coveting.

Yours sincerely in His Service,

A.M. Kuriachan

Principal,
Trivandrum Bible College, Kerala, India

A New Website

has been launched for Langham Partnership International, which brings the entire Langham family, including our three programmes and each of the five national organisations together in a singlesite. The website went "live" during March – so why not check it out by going to www.langhampartnership.org.au We think you'll like it.



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The New York Times

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Who Is John Stott?

By David Brooks

Tim Russert is a great journalist, but he made a mistake last weekend. He included Jerry Falwell and Al Sharpton in a discussion on religion and public life.

Inviting these two bozos onto "Meet the Press" to discuss that issue is like inviting Britney Spears and Larry Flynt to discuss D. H. Lawrence. Naturally, they got into a demeaning food fight that would have lowered the intellectual discourse of your average nursery school.

This is why so many people are so misinformed about evangelical Christians. There is a world of difference between real-life people of faith and the made-for-TV, Elmer Gantry-style blowhards who are selected to represent them. Falwell and Pat Robertson are held up as spokesmen for evangelicals, which is ridiculous. Meanwhile people like John Stott, who are actually important, get ignored.

It could be that you have never heard of John Stott. I don't blame you. As far as I can tell, Stott has never appeared on an important American news program. A computer search suggests that Stott's name hasn't appeared in this newspaper since April 10, 1956, and it's never appeared in many other important publications.

Yet, as Michael Cromartie of the Ethics and Public Policy Center notes, if evangelicals could elect a pope, Stott is the person they would likely choose. He was the framer of the Lausanne Covenant, a crucial organizing document for modern evangelicalism. He is the author of more than 40 books, which have been translated into over 72 languages and have sold in the millions. Now rector emeritus at All Souls, Langham Place, in London, he has traveled the world preaching and teaching.

When you read Stott, you encounter first a tone of voice. Tom Wolfe once noticed that at a certain moment all airline pilots came to speak like Chuck Yeager. The parallel is inexact, but over the years I've heard hundreds of evangelicals who sound like Stott.

It is a voice that is friendly, courteous and natural. It is humble and self-critical, but also confident, joyful and optimistic. Stott's mission is to pierce through all the encrustations and share direct contact with Jesus. Stott says that the central message of the gospel is not the teachings of Jesus, but Jesus himself, the human/divine figure. He is always bringing people back to the concrete reality of Jesus' life and sacrifice.

There's been a lot of twaddle written recently about the supposed opposition between faith and reason. To read Stott is to see someone practicing "thoughtful allegiance" to scripture. For him, Christianity means probing the mysteries of Christ. He is always exploring paradoxes. Jesus teaches humility, so why does he talk about himself so much? What does it mean to gain power through weakness, or freedom through obedience? In many cases the truth is not found in the middle of apparent opposites, but on both extremes simultaneously.

Stott is so embracing it's always a bit of a shock - especially if you're a Jew like me - when you come across something on which he will not compromise. It's like being in "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," except he has a backbone of steel. He does not accept homosexuality as a legitimate lifestyle, and of course he believes in evangelizing among nonbelievers. He is pro-life and pro-death penalty, even though he is not a political conservative on most issues.

Most important, he does not believe truth is plural. He does not believe in relativizing good and evil or that all faiths are independently valid, or that truth is something humans are working toward. Instead, Truth has been revealed. As he writes:

"It is not because we are ultra-conservative, or obscurantist, or reactionary or the other horrid things which we are sometimes said to be. It is rather because we love Jesus Christ, and because we are determined, God helping us, to bear witness to his unique glory and absolute sufficiency. In Christ and in the biblical witness to Christ God's revelation is complete; to add any words of our own to his finished work is derogatory to Christ."

Politicians, especially Democrats, are now trying harder to appeal to people of faith. But people of faith are not just another interest group, like gun owners. You have to begin by understanding the faith. And you can't understand this rising global movement if you don't meet its authentic representatives.

Not Falwell, but Stott.

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Another booklet from John Stott

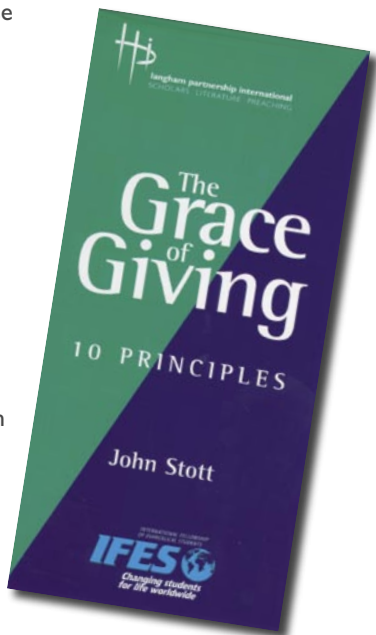
Recently published is a small but extremely useful booklet, "The Grace of Giving". It presents 10 principles of Christian Giving, in the form of an exposition of 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, from an address given by John Stott a few years ago. Edited by Julia Cameron, an LP UK & Ireland Board member, it is jointly published by IFES and LPI. It would be a very helpful resource for churches and Christian ministries seeking to teach their people a Biblical understanding of giving.

For more information or to order copies, please contact:

Wendy Toulmin
PO Box 530
Springwood NSW 2777

During April 2005 John Stott was in the US, with meetings in Washington and New York. Then in May he was speaking at the London Men's Convention Royal Albert Hall on "The Uniqueness of Jesus", and also, together with Jonathan Lamb taking part in the Langham Preaching Seminar in Poland.

John is also at this time working on the revision of his new book "Through the Bible through the Year – following the Christian Calendar". Further information about the book and its publication date will be available in a future edition of Langham Partnership Australia News and on our website.



TIME Magazine says John Stott one of the World's most influential people

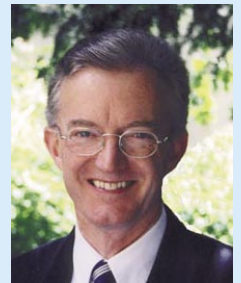
The April 18 2005 edition of Time Magazine included a feature listing the world's 100 most influential people. And there, alongside Condoleezza Rice, Martha Stewart, Nelson Mandela and Ellen MacArthur, we find John Stott. John actually shared a page with Bill Gates – which is an interesting juxtaposition! John Stott appears in the sub-list of "Heroes & Icons", and the article on him is penned by Billy Graham, who writes – "... John Stott has held true to what he sees as a wider calling – the equipping of leaders in countries where resources and experience are limited. His provision of theological books for these regions is financed in large measure with the royalties from his considerable – and popular writings ... I can't think of anyone who has been more effective in introducing so many people to a biblical world view. He represents a touchstone of authentic biblical scholarship that, in my opinion, has scarcely been paralleled since the days of the 16th century European Reformers."

Two of Chris Wright's books translated into Spanish: *Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament*, and *Living as the People of God*. Copies of these were given to participants in recent Preaching Seminars in Bolivia and El Salvador.



Jonathan Lamb

Jonathan Lamb was converted as a child of five at a mission for children in London. He studied geography and economics at Exeter University and religious studies at Winchester, and then taught at Exeter School before being appointed to the staff of Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF).



Jonathan served with UCCF for seven years, first as a regional staff worker for the West and then as head of student ministries for the British universities. He was then appointed to the staff of Belmont Chapel, Exeter, where he was primarily involved in a teaching and evangelistic ministry.

During this time Jonathan also served as East European coordinator for International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), encouraging the emerging student work in the Communist countries of Europe and the Soviet Union. In 1989 he was appointed as IFES regional secretary for Europe and the former Soviet Union, overseeing a team of staff working across 50 countries. In 2000 he was appointed associate general secretary for IFES, sharing responsibility for the international leadership of the work. He travelled to several continents, engaged in the coordination of IFES work and in teaching and training.

Jonathan is now on the staff of Langham Partnership International. As international director of Langham Preaching he works with national leaders to build local movements committed to Bible exposition and to provide training, resources and support for a new generation of preachers. Langham Preaching is currently collaborating with national initiatives in Uganda, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Central Europe, Argentina, the Caribbean and many other parts of the world.

Jonathan speaks in churches, universities, conventions and training conferences in Europe and around the world. Formerly the chairman of the Keswick Convention in the U.K., he continues to serve on the Keswick Council and the Council of the Evangelical Alliance, speaking at various Keswick events around the world. He also serves on committees engaged in mission, including the East European Literature Advisory Committee, Scripture Union and Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship.

He is the author of several books, including *Tough Minds, Tender Hearts* (IVP), *Be Strong in Weakness* (a Crossway Bible Guide on 2 Corinthians), *Making Progress in Church Life* (Paternoster/Partnership) and *Faith in the Face of Conflict* (Authentic/Paternoster).

Langham Partnership's Vision

Our vision is to see Majority World churches 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.



langham partnership international

GROWING A NEW GENERATION OF PREACHERS AND TEACHERS