

## John Stott at 90

April 27th was John Stott's ninetieth birthday, so in this issue we invite you to celebrate with us the remarkable legacy of his lifetime. Among the enormous range of his achievements, two things stand out as probably constituting his most enduring legacy: his writings and the ministries of the Langham Partnership International. From his first book (*Men With a Message*, 1954 – a book introducing the main writers of the New Testament), to his last (*The Radical Disciple*, 2010), John wrote approximately 50 books ('approximately' since some went through various forms of revision and combination). They have been translated into many languages and are read all over the world

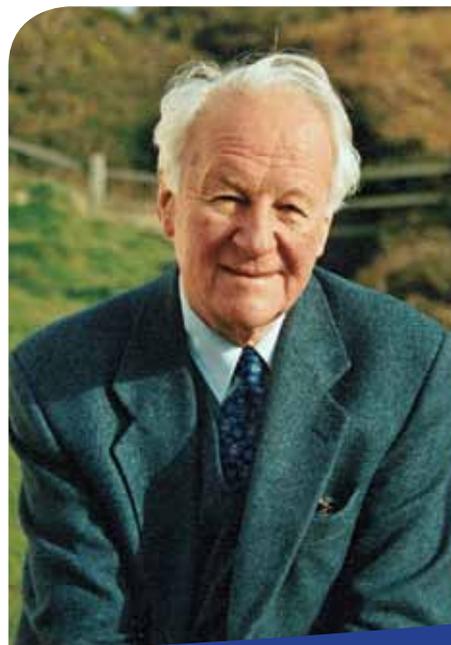
This driving ambition is seen even in the Introduction to his first book, where we read (in 1954), 'There is no greater need among Christian people in our generation than that we should allow our minds to be conditioned, and our lives reformed, by the Word of God.' He would doubtless say the same today.

It was in 1969, at the age of 48, that he founded The Langham Trust, to provide funds for evangelical men and women from the developing world to study for doctorates and then return to teach the Bible and theology in seminaries in their own countries

– and thus raise the standards of training for pastors and preachers. And it was in 1971 that he founded the Evangelical Literature Trust, recycling the royalties of his own books into a fund to provide books for pastors all over the world, where good Christian books are so scarce. And in 2001, at the age of 80, he travelled with Chris Wright to lead preaching seminars in Peru and Argentina, which led to the formation of Langham Preaching.

In congratulating him on this special milestone, we remember and thank Frances Whitehead, only a few years younger, who singlehandedly administered both Trusts for many years and has served John Stott for more than fifty.

Happy Birthday, Uncle John!



**"All of John Stott's writing had a common purpose – to help people understand the Bible and to insist that we must engage our study of the Bible with the realities of contemporary life in the world."** Chris Wright

In this edition of Langham News we are paying tribute to John Stott as he celebrates his 90th birthday – a true Radical Disciple! Of course there are still the encouraging stories from our Preaching, Literature and Scholars programmes to inspire you. May I challenge you to consider your support in prayer and giving to Langham's ministry. Wendy Toulmin AM (Exec. Officer LPA)

**"The growth of the non-Western church is going to change the world. Langham Partnership is a leader in equipping the global church to grow in maturity. I can think of no more strategic work. They have my full support and should have yours too."**  
Tim Keller, bestselling author and pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City



# Jesus showed up at Cape Town:

## Reflections on Lausanne III Congress



### Message of Greeting from John Stott

Owing to my ill health I shall be very sorry to miss being with you in Cape Town in October. But I will be with you all each day in prayer, expectation and confidence as you plan to make known the uniqueness of Jesus Christ all over the world.

I have been thanking God all through the years since 1974 for the growth of the Lausanne Movement and how God has used it for his own glory. Even more, however, I thank God for the growth of the worldwide church in those years, especially in the great continents of the majority world.

For that reason I rejoice that this Congress is being hosted in Africa and I pray that you will be able to share richly in the blessing God has poured out on the church in that continent, as well as sharing in the pain and suffering of his people there.

As you will be studying Ephesians together, my encouragement to you echoes the Apostle Paul:

*"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

*John Stott*

"Jesus showed up. That was hardly surprising. The One who promised to be in the midst of two or three who meet in his name could hardly stay away when some 5,000 members of his worldwide body came together in his name. But still, there is no doubt that those who gathered for the Third Lausanne Congress in Cape Town, in October 2010 met with the Lord in remarkable ways."

Chris Wright

*[Chris Wright's full reflections on this awesome event are well worth the read. Email info.lpa@langhampartnership.org.au or contact LPA's office for a copy]*

The Cape Town Commitment available through any Christian bookshop or online retailer. Bulk discounts from [www.ChristianBooksDirect.org.uk/partners/lausanne](http://www.ChristianBooksDirect.org.uk/partners/lausanne)



# Preaching Shoots in China

At the Level Two seminar it was encouraging to hear of initiatives sprouting in provinces across China:

Some of these exciting initiatives are listed for your ongoing prayers and support.

- Four pastors organised a condensed 'Level One-like' seminar for 100 pastors.
- A group is introducing the principles to an 'inter-church prayer fellowship' in the hope of developing a systematic Bible preaching programme which they share

together. Also on the agenda is a 'preaching clinic' where those whose preaching is 'unwell' can receive treatment!

- Two Bible School lecturers are organising daylong seminars for new students as each semester starts.
- One woman, working on her DMin in Preaching, is using Langham material in her hermeneutics and homiletics courses.

- In one region seminars are being organised and there are strategies to cover the entire province with them.
- There is a pastor's fellowship with 40 people – and just the one Langham participant. But when it is her turn to take the study, she models what she is learning. "People enjoy it and over time I hope to convince them all of its value for their preaching."

# "I am like a branch that is on fire"

Years of terrorism and civil war in Cambodia have contributed to more than 40% of the population living below the poverty line. Corruption, prostitution and human trafficking continue to be severe problems.

Here, pastors are aching for help to give the people a message of hope that they might not otherwise hear. Langham Preaching recently had the privilege to gather 55 leaders of various denominations from all over Cambodia, offering sound biblical preaching training and resources. Each of the participants had at least five years preaching experience.

Here are some stories from that seminar, confirming the enthusiasm and motivation these church leaders have for sharing the true Word of God with their communities.

- Midway through the seminar week, Khaie Bunsong, from the province of Kratie, testified, "I have been looking for a more effective approach. This is it! **I am like a branch that is on fire** – but the fire may go out. What

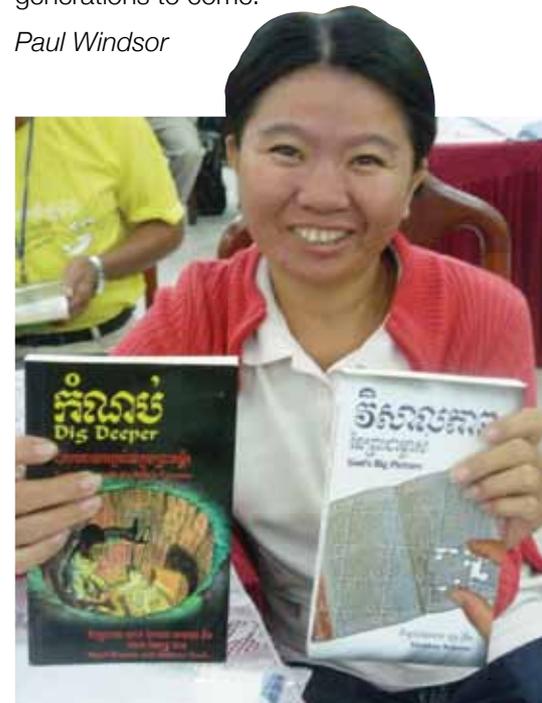
can I do?" Watching him run from the back of the room to receive his books on the final day seems to be a good start!

- Then there was the response to Neil Watkinson of Singapore, working – against the backdrop of the notorious "killing fields" – through his Bible Overview sessions and reaching Revelation and the Second Coming. Participants responded to him, not with a few quiet "hallelujahs", but with spontaneous and boisterous sustained cheering and applause!
- During one exposition, one participant spent the entire sixty minutes with arm outstretched recording the message on his cell phone!
- Look at the joy on MP's face (pictured) – with name disguised as she has a sense that God is calling her to be a missionary in a tough neighbouring country – as she receives Langham resources. Books funded through LPA and Langham Literature's partnership with Fount of

Wisdom Publishing House in Phnom Penh.

Now, the task at hand for Langham Preaching is to not only make sure that the church leaders of Cambodia become like "branches on fire", but also to ensure that the fire stays lit for generations to come.

*Paul Windsor*



## Paul Barker gives a glimpse of some recent Langham Preaching Events ...

Thein Toke is a very unassuming man. A lawyer by training, he went to theological college in his 40s. Now he teaches, preaches and ministers in a remote part of Southern Chin State in Myanmar, near the Bangladesh border. He walks to train pastors in the villages in the mountains and measures distance in terms of hours to walk. Thein Toke has done every level of our Langham training. He aids us now as a translator, works with the small groups working on Bible passages and translates all our materials into Khumi Chin language.



*Thein Toke working with small group*

Myanmar is very under resourced, quite impoverished and with few models of expository preaching. Langham is now in its 4th year here under the sponsorship of the Anglican Church, with Archbishop Stephen very keen to promote biblical preaching to counter the liberal influences in the country. [A second Langham strand begun this year in Myanmar draws participants from a variety of denominations.]

In March, I spent a week in Kathmandu, Nepal, with Neil Watkinson (Crosslinks UK) training 100 people from various churches in Level 1. The week was translated but there was strong encouragement to return for Level 2 next year. The Anglican Church there has also asked for training and Neil is hoping to return later this year to do Level 1 with them.

More recently, under the promotion of

the Anglican Bishop of West Malaysia, Bp Ng Moon Hing, 25 participants came to my home seminary (Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, Seremban) for a week of Level 1 training, again co-taught with Neil Watkinson. The participants included Methodists and Lutherans. Their comments afterwards were appreciative, and keen for more help. New preaching clubs are being set up and several have asked me to visit and join them at some stage.

"Langham Preaching is a good strategy for working on preaching. It remains a small work and at times it feels like just a drop in the ocean. But for every preacher whose preaching improves through the training, there are several people who will benefit from listening and other colleagues who may be influenced also. This ministry is well worth supporting." – Paul Barker

# a week in the Langham Literature warehouse



It's been a busy week in the warehouse with books coming in and going out. We received a container of 22 pallets from the US which among other books contained Study Bibles and stock of our African imprint, Hippo. After sorting and counting we put them into stock ready for orders to be supplied. We also have a large shipment of 200 Portuguese Africa Bible Commentaries leaving for Northern Mozambique. Due to the size and destination we have to prepare official documents and courier them ahead of the shipment for customs approval. We just got the go ahead from Mozambique so we will load the shipment onto a truck to be booked on a flight straight to Maputo. Now it's time to begin planning with our partners in Yangon, Myanmar how best we can get the library grants books to their colleges safely and securely!

It's been a good week for Library Grants with over 50 different orders leaving the warehouse and going to several regions including Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. We've also had to pack a few large orders of the Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) that are off to Uganda, it's always a lot of packing with the one-volume commentaries so they are kept safe in transit. We get in several shipments each week from UK & French publishers which first have to be unpacked and sorted and then combined for the relevant orders. So a lot is going on in the packing room!

## meanwhile in Australia ...



# Scholars Update & Prayer

## Ronald & Mary – Myanmar

- Praise God Mary and the children have been able to join Ronald in Melbourne from Myanmar, and pray for them as they adjust to the cold weather!
- Please pray for their adjusting to school and family life here and for Ronald's PhD studies, especially with his main Supervisor away for a few months leave.



*Ronald & Mary together with Jedy, Bruce & Rody*

- Please pray for the continuing good support they are receiving from individuals and churches here in Australia – both pastorally and financially.

## Alfred & Susan Olwa – Uganda

- Please pray for good focus and clarity for Alfred as he writes the final chapters of his thesis, giving thanks for his supervisors.
- Give thanks too for the opportunities he has had to minister to many in churches and conferences during his time with us here in Australia.
- Please pray for him as he prepares to return to his position as Dean of Theology at the Uganda Christian University with its 10,000 students, later this year.



*Alfred & Susan*

## Ma'afu & Elizabeth Palu – Tonga

- Praise God for the ministry he has given both of them with University students in Tonga and also at Sia'atoutai College in formal classroom settings as well as informal teaching and mentoring of the students.
- Pray with them that their ministry will bring glory to God and bring many into his kingdom.
- Pray for them as they seek to raise their 3 boys to love and serve Jesus.



*Ma'afu & Elizabeth*

# Response Form

LPA is involved in exciting projects, will you stand with US? Wendy Toulmin AM (Exec Officer LPA)



## My Gift

I want to —

Give something regularly — monthly / quarterly / annually (circle whichever applies). *Please complete the donation amount and the payment authority sections below.*

Give a one off gift of (\$)  *Please make cheques payable to Langham Partnership (Aust) or complete card details below.*

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## Periodical Payments/ Internet Deposits

You may wish to arrange with your Bank to set up Periodical Payments from your account directly to the Langham Partnership Bank account or to transfer monies directly via Internet banking. The details you will need are:  
**Account Name** Langham Partnership (Aust)  
**Bank and Branch** Westpac, Springwood NSW  
**BSB** 032-837 **Account Number** 14-4002

See Website for Online Donations  
[www.langhampartnership.org.au](http://www.langhampartnership.org.au)

Langham Partnership Australia  
 PO Box 530 Springwood NSW 2777

# Langham Preaching Calendar

May Saturdays	Zimbabwe
May 2-6	Chile
May 2-6	Nigeria
May 13,14	Grenada
May 13-15	Kenya
May 16-20	Bolivia
May 16-20	Nigeria
May 21-26	European Bible Teachers Track, ELF Hungary
May 23-27	South Africa
May 26-28	Hungary
May 29-June 3	Uganda, West Nile
May 30-June 3	Indonesia, Jakarta
June 6-9	Vanuatu
June 6-12	Pakistan
June 7-10	Bolivia
June 13-17	Nigeria
June 25-30	UK
July 2-9	Liberia
July 3-8	Uganda
July 25-29	Solomon Islands
July 30-Aug 4	DRC, Aru
August 5-7	Kenya
August 8-12	Kenya
August 9	Australia Indigenous line up
August 12-15	Argentina
August 22-28	China
August 29-31	Bolivia
September 5-9	Brazil
September 12-16	Cote d'Ivoire
September 12-18	North India
September 19-23	Indonesia
September 19-23	Benin
September 25-27	Australia, Melbourne
September 26-30	Bolivia & Peru

# Langham

Partnership Australia

## A Member of Langham Partnership International

Langham Partnership, founded by John Stott, works alongside Christian leaders around the world, especially in the continents of the south and east, helping to equip them with skills and tools for growing the church with depth and maturity. Three integrated programmes work in partnership with them in:

- planting national movements for continuous training in biblical preaching;
- providing preachers and seminaries with evangelical literature, and mentoring indigenous writers, editors and publishers;
- offering doctoral scholarships for theological leaders who will train the next generation of Bible teachers in their own countries.

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, faithfully expound and relevantly apply the Word of God.