

John Stott at rest

John Stott died on 27th July 2011, but his work and his vision go on. **Chris Wright** shares memories of his funeral and burial.

"I tell you the truth," said Jesus, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (Jn. 12:24).

All around the world memorial services have been held to give thanks for the abundant fruitfulness of his life [visit www.johnstottmemorial.org]. His life will go on bearing fruit long after his death, through his books, his friendships, the organizations he founded, such as the Langham Partnership, and most of all through the example of his life itself. For the secret of John's fruitfulness was this — in words that Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, one of his Study Assistants, wrote on the day he died:

"John Stott did not die today. He died more than a half century ago, when he accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on his behalf. And as Paul declares in 2 Corinthians, Uncle John bore that death every day since, until his last, as he sought to reveal with word and deed the life that was no longer his, but was hidden in Christ."

John Stott was indeed a single seed. But by dying to himself in the way Jesus meant, he has indeed produced more seeds than anybody will ever be able to count.

His funeral at All Souls Church on August 8th was marked by moving tributes spiced with joy and humour, along with an outpouring of praise to Jesus Christ. John had asked that I should preach. I chose two verses that John said were among his favourites. The first is **Galatians 6:14**:

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Remember your leaders

You may recall that in our May LPA newsletter we paid tribute to John Stott as he celebrated his 90th birthday. You will no doubt have heard that John died on 27th July. I believe it is only fitting to share with you in this edition, Chris Wright's reflections on John's funeral service at All Souls in London, which I was privileged to attend, and also the burying of his ashes in Wales.

You will, I pray, also be encouraged in your support of Langham through the few snapshots of what God is doing through this strategic ministry founded by John — continuing to bear fruit around the world — to the glory of God.

Chris Wright wrote recently ...

"John Stott rejected flattery during his life and would not want it after his death. But while we rightly avoid shining on him the glory that he himself would want only to go to Christ, we can just as rightly give thanks to God for his life and for the enormous legacy of all that God accomplished through him — including the founding of the Langham ministries.

Only eternity will reveal (or perhaps it won't need to) the vast impact for the kingdom of God that has been made not only by John's own books, but also by the hundreds of thousands of books that have been received — and now also being written and published — all over the world because of his vision in creating **Langham Literature**. Or the impact not only of John's incomparable preaching at All Souls and all over the world — but also of the better biblical preaching of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders who have been trained by **Langham Preaching** movements and are now training others also. Or the impact not only of John's diligent research and scholarship that undergirded all his writing, but also of the three hundred **Langham Scholars** who are now teaching others and raising the standards of global evangelical theology."

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Heb. 13:7)

Wendy Toulmin



John Stott with Wendy Toulmin, London 2005

Local Leaders Shining in the Regions of Pakistan

Pakistan is a country living in the global headlines for all the wrong reasons. And yet it is home to one of the longest running Langham Preaching programmes in the world. A feature of the movement is the number of respected senior leaders who are involved. **Dr Pervaiz Sultan** (St Thomas, Karachi) has been committed right from the beginning — and at the recent Level Three programme in June 2011, **Ashkenaz Khan** (Principal, Zarephath Bible Institute, Islamabad), **Irfan Jamil** (Bishop of Lahore), **Asif John & Chris Hawke** (St Thomas, Karachi), and **Kaiser Julius** (Director, Open Theological Seminary, Lahore) were all involved in

delivering the training.

In July 2009 it was decided not to have any programmes facilitated by overseas trainers for two years. Instead *regional* initiatives — in and radiating out from Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad — with local trainers taking Level Ones were to be encouraged. This has been happening. Asif and Chris have been active in Karachi for a number of years.

Kaiser writes: “It is exciting. People appreciate the teaching. We are now receiving requests from other areas and I am trying to develop a team of facilitators who will be able to help in leading the seminars in the future.”



Kaiser Julius — beneath the ‘five looks’ diagram devised by Andrew Reid (Melbourne) and so loved by Langham trainers globally — taking a Level One seminar with 45 people in Lahore.

Kaiser has been accepted as a Langham Scholar to begin at Melbourne School of Theology 2012. Please pray for a successful outcome to his student visa application with Australian Immigration.

Record number of Scholars graduate with Doctorates!

We give thanks to God for the wonderful news that during the academic year 2010-11 19 Langham scholars successfully completed their programmes and graduated with doctorates. This is a record! It is also testimony to the hard work of the scholars, the generosity of those who have financially supported the programme, and the faithfulness of those of who have prayed, and above all the goodness of God.

Please pray with us:

- for scholars in the final stages of writing up their theses (includes Alfred Olwa here in Australia)
- for scholars who have recently begun their programmes

Travelling Mercy

“We are about sharing lives, not just sermon outlines”, writes Mercy Ireri (Langham Preaching Kenya Coordinator). This is the attitude that shapes the Refresher programmes which Mercy runs twice a year with her team of local facilitators. Each person will have the opportunity to preach a sermon and be critiqued, to bring updates on both their preaching clubs and their family life, and then to prepare together for upcoming training events in which they will be involved.

They come from all around the country. From the Eastern region there is Ignatius of Kitengela, Elisha and Josephine of Embu, and Luke and Tabitha of Machakos. From the Central region

comes James of Kianyaga and Joseph of Keroguya. From the West comes Wesley of Kakamega and Mary of Mumias. And then there is Patrick of Nairobi.

The Kenya Preaching Network is developing around these local leaders. Life has its challenges, with issues related to employment and health often surfacing — as well as fears of further ethnic conflict with future national elections.

The Preaching Clubs can stutter and falter; but by mixing a pastoral heart with administrative skill, Mercy maintains contact with each one of them — both by mobile phone and with personal visits to them and their clubs.



Mercy, 2nd right (at Lausanne CT) meeting women involved in Langham Preaching

Will you pray for and support PNG Preaching level 3 (Dec 2011)?

“What we learned last year has been presented here in Aiyura to pastors, lay preachers, youth leaders, Sande & Saturday school teachers, worship leaders & mama ‘bung’ leaders. 3 staff members broke down the teaching into bite size chunks exactly for the right kind of audience. Each participant in their own style will bring forth fruit from those hand-full of hours that we did spend learning at Langham Preaching Conference in 2010.” *Patty*

A New Start In Cambodia

Colin Macpherson, Langham Literature

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. Over the last three years Langham has already supported FoW in the production of several important titles. But it is clear that the need is significant and that FoW needs investment and mentoring over an extended period, in order to meet the need in the longer term.

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 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.

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)



Staff of FoW in Phnom Penh with Colin Macpherson (& family) of Langham Literature

Would you consider giving \$50 a month to Langham's strategic literature programmes?

“God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

“For John, the cross was not only (as it will say on his gravestone) ‘the ground of his salvation and the subject of his ministry’. It was also the shape of his life — a life of dying to oneself, taking up the cross and following the Lord Jesus. Paul called this combination, **“the obedience of faith”**. John Stott modelled this “obedience of faith” in his life of Christlike humility, integrity and simplicity.

John’s other favourite text is **John 14:21**:

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. Anyone who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

Here, matching Paul’s “obedience of faith” is John’s **“obedience of love”**. Three times in John’s Gospel and five times in 1 John, we learn that Jesus commanded us to love one another. Our love for Christ is proved by the obedience that generates unity and love for one another. John worked tirelessly for unity, speaking with love and grace even to those with whom he radically disagreed. May his example of obedience to the command of Jesus rebuke our dividedness and hostilities.

To faith and love must be added, of course, the third of Paul’s great abiding trio — **hope**. Billy Graham has said: *“Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.”*

John Stott has changed his address. One day that address will be God’s own address as he takes up residence with all of his redeemed people in the new creation. In the meantime, may we, like our brother John, walk in the obedience of faith, in the obedience of love, and in the certainty of hope.”



A month later on **September 4th, John’s ashes were buried**, as he had requested, in **the cemetery in Dale, Pembrokeshire**, close to **The Hookses**, his beloved writing retreat. The service, led by Rev Bill Lewis, took place in the church of St. James the Great, and was attended not only by family and close friends but also by many from the local community who remembered John fondly and paid their tributes in the service.

As I laid his casket in the earth, the place seemed utterly fitting for a man who, like Moses, was one of the greatest leaders God has ever given to his people, and yet one of the humblest men on earth. I can think of no more appropriate place for his earthly memorial than the green grass of that small corner of a tiny village cemetery, surrounded by birds and cattle, with ivy, wildflowers and brambles climbing over the ancient red sandstone walls, and the salty wind blowing in off the ocean.



Chris Wright

Don’t Miss Out!



Many of you receive our ‘Daily Thoughts’ taken from one of John Stott’s 50 books via email. This is being updated and refreshed and if you would like to continue to receive this **or begin to receive it** then you will need to sign up again. Please visit: www.langhampartnership.org.au and click on the link to subscribe. Alternatively, you can tick the box on the response form and give us your email address. We will see that you receive both the Daily Thoughts and our monthly eNews prayer & update bulletin.

Response Form

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



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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.

Have you considered including Langham Partnership in your will?

Like many mission organizations we can benefit greatly when friends make a final gift that continues to bless the ministries they have generously supported in life. Once you have made proper and primary provision for family and friends this can be a very effective way to go on making a difference to the church on earth when you have joined the church in glory! If you would like to consider this option in your will please contact Wendy Toulmin at LPA.

Langham Preaching Calendar

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| October 1 | Zimbabwe |
| October 3 | Nigeria |
| October 10 | Cambodia |
| October 12 | Uganda |
| October 24 | Rwanda |
| October 31 | Burundi |
| November 5 | Zimbabwe |
| November 7 & 21 | Nigeria |
| November 10 | Bolivia |
| November 15 | Liberia |
| November 17 | Greece |
| November 19 | Uganda |
| November 24 | Ecuador |
| November 28 | Peru |
| December 2 | Colombia |
| December 3 | Zimbabwe |
| December 5 | Papua New Guinea |
| December 6 | Bosnia & Herzegovina |
| December 20 | Liberia |
| January 3 | Trinidad & Tabago |
| January 6 & 9 | India |
| January 16 | Myanmar |
| February 13 | Sri Lanka |
| February 18 | Liberia |
| February 20 | Solomon Islands |
| February 20 | Romania |
| February 22 | Ecuador |
| March 8 | Bolivia |
| March 23 & 26 | Nigeria |
| April 12 & 17 | Colombia |
| April 16 | Ethiopia |
| April 23 | South Africa |
| April 30 | Chile |
| May | Vanuatu |

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www.langhampartnership.org.au

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