

Langham Partnership news

China welcomes John Stott back

Marking his continuing love and concern for the church in China, John Stott led a delegation of six representatives from Langham Partnership International on a visit to China and Hong Kong, in January 2006.

The purpose was to build upon the good relationship established during his previous visits in 1996 and 1999. As a renowned international Christian leader, John Stott is well-respected by the Chinese churches. Cooperation with the church leaders in China has resulted in at least four of his books, including three volumes in the Bible Speaks Today series, being translated, and published by the Chinese Christian Council and these are being distributed through the country-wide official church network. The delegation included Chris Wright, Mark Hunt (International Chair of LPI), David Cansdale (Chair of LPUKI), Philemon Choi (Chair of Langham Foundation East Asia), Abigail Lim and Victor Sun (members of the council of LFEA, from Hong Kong).

There were much cherished times of fellowship with the senior church leaders in the national as well as the municipal level Committees of Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) and China Christian Council (CCC) in Shanghai. John Stott explained the Langham vision and

logic and then introduced Chris Wright as his successor. Chris further explained the three programmes of Langham Partnership International. Our Chinese hosts warmly received John Stott's wish to explore further cooperation with the Chinese churches in any ways in which the Langham programmes can be of assistance.



L to R. Victor Sun, Philemon Choi, Mark Hunt, Chris Wright, Rev Cao, John Stott, Elder Ji, David Cansdale, Abigail Liew

On Sunday 8th of January, we attended Grace Church, a local Chinese church in Shanghai for morning service. Well over 1500 people were present at the one service and the church has a total membership of around 7,000, growing by 200 a year.

John Stott was invited to bring a five-minute greetings and encouragement to the congregation. In the afternoon, both John Stott and Chris Wright preached in the foreign community church at the 2pm and 4pm services. It was surprising to see more than 1,000 expatriate (mostly other Asian) Christians now worshipping at the three English language services in Shanghai. Victor Sun who was a resident in Shanghai for five years between 1992 to 1997 remembered that there were only 40 foreigners worshipping in a hotel room 15 years ago.

Chairman's Word

Langham Partnership Australia continues to play its part in the strengthening of Bible ministry in the growing churches of the majority world. It is an exciting privilege as you will see from some of the articles in this edition.



The Board is also making the decision that it is time for it to be more representative and more widely connected to the Christians in Australia. We are undergoing a process of seeking to make sure we have a representative of the different denominations on the Board. We are also keen to establish some state groups who will function for Langham Partnership in their state. The work is too big and Australia itself too diverse for Langham Partnership Australia to be focussed only in one city.

Already there are very keen members and supporters in a number of cities in Australia and we look forward to making Langham Partnership a truly Australian ministry as it continues in partnership with Langham Partnership International, a truly worldwide ministry. We will again this year have the privilege of Jonathan Lamb and Chris Wright visiting us briefly - see back page for details. I hope you will keep on supporting this significant and strategic work.

Robert Forsyth

After the service at Grace Church, Shanghai.





The next stop for our visit was **Nanjing Union Theological Seminary** — the premier national seminary in China. The delegation shared tea with faculty and students, Chris Wright gave a talk, and we learned much about the needs of the seminary and its library. We were impressed by the dedication of the students. In Nanjing we also visited the **Amity Press** and Amity Foundation. Amity Press, which enjoys good relationship with the government authorities, has produced more than 37 million copies of Chinese Bibles besides other theological books.



On the train to Nanjing - Philemon Choi, Mark Hunt, Chris Wright and David Cansdale



Faculty and students gathered to meet the delegation



Nanjing Union Theological Seminary

On the whole, we were overwhelmed by the warmth and enthusiasm wherever we went. Throughout the trip, John Stott was accompanied by his medical friend Jonathan West, our 'beloved physician', and we are indeed thankful to God that John coped with the rigours of the journey and had strength for all the meetings and speaking engagements. We rejoiced to see the evident popularity of his books in both English and Chinese, as well as the high esteem and personal honour in which he is held in East

Then the delegation flew down to **Hong Kong**, where several meetings were arranged for Chris and John by the Langham Foundation East Asia. These included a lecture on the relevance of Old Testament law for contemporary ethics by Chris to the Lawyers Christian Fellowship, and then a reception and dinner for 180 supporters and donors. John Stott spoke on "A Call to Christian Maturity" from Colossians 1:28-29, after which Chris Wright introduced the Langham ministries and showed our DVD. The evening ended with Dr Choi, the Chairman of LFEA, successfully launching the Langham Partners' scheme in Hong Kong.

The high point of John Stott's visit to Hong Kong took place at the Wing Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church in Lok Fu.

More than 1,500 people turned out for an evening of thanksgiving to God and honouring John Stott for his 60 years of faithful service. We began by singing John Stott's favourite hymn, 'Jesus, The Name High over All'. A number of community leaders representing the Anglican Church, seminaries, student work, mission agencies and Langham Scholars paid tribute in turn to John Stott as a Bible expositor, Christian leader and evangelical statesman. A special Chinese calligraphy scroll containing the words from Philippians 2:9-11 was presented to John Stott as a token of our appreciation amidst thunderous applause from the congregation. John gave a powerful delivery of his special address on "A Call to Radical Discipleship". Many responded to Dr Choi's closing appeal by becoming Langham Partners that evening.



John Stott presented with a scroll of Philippians 2 in Chinese calligraphy in Hong Kong.

Asia. We believe God is opening a door for Langham Partnership to find ways of helping to resource the phenomenal growth of the churches in China. What Langham can offer is exactly right for the needs of churches of all varieties with whom we hope to work. Pray for LFEA in Hong Kong and the International Programme Directors as they work in the months ahead to follow up this initiative and build on the welcome already received.

Chris Wright

Chinese hospitality over meals was a daily delight



Langham Preachers



The Preaching Seminar group in Congo (DRC).

An update on the work from Jonathan Lamb,

International Programme Director for Langham Preaching

Initiatives in French-speaking Africa

“Presently the country is facing civil war, caused by ethnic and political tensions. The country is split in two parts. That situation has created a lot of uncertainties at the education, economic and social levels. The church is affected, as most Christians are predominantly from the south. The north, occupied by the guerrilla, has few churches. Participants were very excited by the Preaching Seminar. They started a Yahoo email group and they are interacting, asking advice from others if they are going to preach on some specific passages. At the end of the seminar, they unanimously requested a second level for next year.”

This was the report sent by Daniel Bourdanné following the launch of the Langham Preaching programme in **Cote d'Ivoire** in Autumn 2005. It is typical of news we are receiving from several parts of the world - a story of social instability, economic collapse, the ravages of war and illness, coupled with news of a genuine desire to equip a new generation of preachers and teachers to strengthen growing churches.

The story is very similar in **Congo (DRC)**. There were several challenges related to the development of the Langham Preaching programme there last year, not least the civil war affecting some delegates, the poor communications, and the difficulties of travel. We confronted several problems:

- one of our two facilitators fell seriously ill three days before he was to leave the UK, and on medical advice was not allowed to travel
- the Government in Congo introduced an unexpected curfew on flying from one part of the country (due to the high number of aircraft crashes), which meant a group of our delegates from that region could not attend
- our remaining facilitator had considerable travel difficulty arising from the air crashes, which resulted in him having to take a two day overland trip back to Entebbe.

But the Lord was in control, and the event went forward with 35 delegates, strong local leadership, and very positive commitments to develop the training regionally and nationally. The Langham Preaching Facilitator, Gordon Woolard, had this to say afterwards:

“The eastern region of Congo is still in a state of tension with outbreaks of inter-tribal or rebel warfare. The UN presence is keeping an uneasy peace for the moment. There is high unemployment. The average pastor is paid about \$80 a month. Overall the delegates were deeply committed to the Word. I was told that most preaching would be topical and not very close to the text. I found the delegates all to be well-educated and articulate and ready to handle the Langham material.

On the last day each diocese came up with a follow-up plan. Some were overly ambitious but they are clearly planning on follow-up workshops and preachers' clubs. Logistics and expenses will be big challenges for them given the state of the country, but there was a clear desire to carry on to the next levels of training.” **Please pray for the 2nd year of training planned for Congo (DRC) September 2006.**

Looking to the future



2006 has already seen the next stage of training in **Myanmar** and **Albania**, in **Tanzania**, **Ethiopia** (March), **Uganda**, **Pakistan** (April and June), **Poland** (May), **Ghana** (May), **Kenya** (May), **Eurasian leaders** (held in Ukraine in June), and **Jamaica** (June). All of these are ongoing programmes now established over at least two years. Normally the actual Preaching Seminars last for the inside of a week, but follow-up events and local preachers clubs are part of the effort to build continuity into each national movement.

Then we are also engaged in some research visits over the next few months to explore how best to respond to invitations to develop work in **Turkey**, the **Central Asian Republics**, **Nigeria**, and **Sudan**. A

Three years on and still growing fast

Langham Preaching is now entering its fourth year, and we are very thankful for the steady growth of the programme. Your prayerful solidarity has enabled our small team to develop the preaching network in different corners of the world. Last autumn saw the launch of work in French-speaking Africa, with plans for further development later this year. One positive spin-off from the Cote d'Ivoire event is that a small group travelled to Abidjan from **Burkina Faso**. Having caught the vision, they too are seeking to launch a Langham programme later this year. At the same time, a new programme took place in **Kenya**, and plans are underway for a follow-up event in May this year. It was also very encouraging to see a further seminar programme in **Zimbabwe**, run alongside the Zimbabwe Keswick Convention, when a good number of theological students from Harare joined pastors and lay preachers for three days of study together. The local team did a great job despite the special pressures of life in Zimbabwe - 1000% inflation, shortages of many basic food stuffs and energy supplies, and sustained political pressure from the Mugabe regime.

small Langham team has also just returned from **China**, strengthening links with leaders of different church groupings

there and looking at how best to support that remarkably burgeoning church through the three Langham programmes.

To meet all these challenges, we are continuing to strengthen the **team of volunteer trainers** around the world, and are hoping to hold several small consultations for trainers in the coming months.

Although each country programme is still small and vulnerable, it is wonderful to see so many young leaders keen to strengthen the ministry of preaching in order to serve their growing churches. They are doing so in some of the toughest regions of the world. They join us in thanking you for your prayerful support.

Thank you!

Jonathan Lamb



Langham Scholar 'waging peace' in the Middle East



Martin Accad is a Langham Scholar who is now the Academic Dean of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, in Lebanon. Recently he wrote to us:

"Lebanon as you know is going through tremendous change, that is both exciting and risky. Please pray for the security in our country and that the Lord may take control."

In June 2006 we launched our **Institute of Middle East Studies**, which I had been working to develop over the past two years. It was a great celebration, done under the patronage of a member of parliament and attended by political, religious and media personalities. We feel that IMES will play a very positive role among our Arab societies for years to come, and be an Evangelical mouthpiece to address current affairs.

We are holding our third **Middle East Conference, June 19-23, 2006**, on the theme 'Waging Peace from East to West'. It will focus on political Islam, politicized Christianity, and conflict resolution and reconciliation. The Vision Statement of IMES is 'to bring about positive transformation in thinking and practice between Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and the West.' **Please pray for Martin Accad and the Institute of Middle East Studies, and especially their upcoming Conference June 19-23.**

John Stott in Queen's New Year Honours List

John Stott was recognised by the Queen in her 2006 New Year Honours List. He was awarded a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) "for services to Christian Scholarship and the Christian World". The award was presented to him at Buckingham Palace February 22nd. Please pray for his continued health. His latest book "Through the Bible, through the Year — following the Christian Calendar" is to be released shortly.

Jonathan Lamb,

International Director for Langham Preaching, will be in Sydney July 1st – 10th 2006 giving 4 Bible expositions at the Student/ Young Graduate Strand of the International Christian Medical & Dental Congress being held in Sydney at that time. He will also be speaking at churches in Sydney on Sundays 2nd & 9th. An informal evening is planned for Saturday 1st in Sydney – check the website, email (wendy.toulmin@langhampartnership.org.au), or ring Wendy Toulmin on 02 4751 9036 for more details.

Chris Wright,

the Langham Partnership's International Ministry Director, will be in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth during October this year.

October 5th–9th in Sydney; October 9th–12th in Melbourne; and October 12th–15th in Perth. Again, please check the website, email or ring Wendy for more details closer to the time.



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



langham partnership australia

PO Box 530 Springwood NSW 2777

Tel/Fax 02 4751 9036

Email mail@langhampartnership.org.au



LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP AUSTRALIA Response Form

Yes I would like to stand with you

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- 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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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

Langham Partnership Australia
PO Box 530 Springwood NSW 2777