



British Evangelical John Stott Named Honorary Chair of Lausanne Committee

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation (LCWE) has announced on 28th June, the influential British evangelical Dr. John R. W. Stott, to become the Honorary Chair of the LCWE. The major and life-long contribution of John Stott to the world's evangelical movement has been highly appreciated by Lausanne.

Rev. S. Douglas Birdsall, Executive Chair of Lausanne, said in many ways the name John Stott is synonymous with Lausanne because of the key role he has played in the development of the movement.

John Stott was born in London in 1921. He obtained a 1st class degree in French and Theology at Trinity College Cambridge. He also has honorary doctorates from British, Canadian and American colleges. He is a committed churchman in the Church of England since he was ordained into the ministry in 1945. He serves the All Souls Church at Langham Place in London, where the street is famous for the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).

During the last quarter century, John Stott has travelled across the world for ministry to pastors and students. He is the founder of Langham Partnership International with a vision to serve the church in the Majority World by supporting evangelical graduate students with discipleship training, pastoral care, theological resources and Christian literature. His ministry is now set up in the US, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong as well as the UK and Ireland.

Nationally, John Stott has worked as a top leader in many evangelical organisations throughout his life, for instance, the Church of England Evangelical Council, Scripture Union, British Evangelical Alliance as well as Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF). He has been a Chaplain to the Queen since 1959. He is now the President of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC).

In addition, his prominence within North American evangelicalism was reflected in his role as Bible expositor on six occasions at the triennial Urbana Student Mission Convention arranged by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He was vice president of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) from 1995 to 2003.

John Stott is a talented author as well. He has written over 40 books. His best known, *Basic Christianity*, has been translated into

more than 50 languages. Other titles include *The Cross of Christ*, *The Contemporary Christian*, *Evangelical Truth and New Issues Facing Christians Today*, and eight New Testament expositions (Acts, Romans etc.) in the 'Bible Speaks Today' series.

Being recognised as a leading evangelical in the world, a recent article in *TIME* magazine in April named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Birdsall described John Stott as "an exemplary churchman, scholar and preacher committed to the full counsel of God and has a heart and a vision for the world". Thus, he models the catchwords of Lausanne – "the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world".

Stott has been involved with Lausanne in various leadership roles since the beginning of the movement. At the historical 1974 International Congress on World Evangelisation, Stott served as chair of the drafting committee for the Lausanne Covenant and was one of the Covenant's principal writers. From 1974-81, Stott chaired the Lausanne Theology and Education Group.

During the Second Lausanne International Congress on World Evangelisation in 1989, Stott was drafting committee chair for the Manila Manifesto, a document that affirmed the Lausanne Covenant and stated, among other things, "...the urgent need for churches, mission agencies and other Christian organisations to cooperate in evangelism and social action..."

Today, the Lausanne Covenant and the Manila Manifesto continue to provide a theological and historical underpinning for denominations, ministries and individuals committed to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Birdsall said Stott's life-long service to Christ and to the work of the church is a life that is "consistent with the gospel we proclaim". He is therefore a valuable model for emerging leaders and established leaders around the world.

Birdsall also believes that Stott's involvement with Lausanne this time will also "provide inspiration for Christian leaders worldwide as they come together to address the task of global evangelisation through a revitalised Lausanne movement."

Eunice K. Y. Or - Senior Reporter

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Lu Hongjian
is our new
Langham
scholar

from mainland China. She is pursuing her PhD at the Baptist University.

She is being interviewed by Victor Sun, General Secretary of Langham Foundation.

Question: Tell us about yourself, where were you born, your family background and childhood.

I was born during the cultural revolution in small town in Guangxi Province. You can tell by my name, Hong Jian meaning “Resolutely Red” My parents wanted me to be a firm defender of Communism. I had a happy childhood with

one brother and one sister. My father worked in the Forestry Department and my mother, a sales lady in the local department store. I studied hard, and was admitted to the School of Media and Broadcasting in the Renmin University in Beijing when I was 18 years old. After graduation, I went back to Guangxi and worked as a news reporter in a local TV station.

Question: How did you meet Christians and what made you decided to find out more about them?

After graduation from university, I was not happy. Life did not seem to have any purpose. Then one day I walked past a church and was drawn in by the songs of joyful singing. That Christmas in 1993, I went to church and bought myself a Bible. It took me a year to read through it. All the time saying to myself if this is the truth, I am prepared to accept it. I was also attending church fellowship regularly. In 1997, I asked for baptism.

Question: When did you first realise God is calling you into the ministry?

While growing up in my Christian faith, I had a strong desire to reach out to the people around me, to tell them about how God has transformed me. So I prayed to God for Him to open doors. He led me to study in Renmin University again for a master degree in the Department of Philosophy in 2002, majoring in Christian thoughts. Then last year, with the financial assistance from churches in Hong Kong and Langham Foundation, I was accepted as a doctorate student in the Baptist University.

Question: What are you studying now, and why is this relevant to Chinese Christians?

My thesis will be about the “Trinitarian concept of grace in contemporary theology”. Trinity and Grace are both alien concepts to the Chinese traditions and philosophy. Through my research at the Baptist University, I hope to be able to understand how the two concepts can be integrated into contemporary thoughts and philosophy. This is important as the truth about who God is and how He deals with man should make a difference to the way a Chinese Christian relates to his family, work, community at large and worldview in general.

Question: What do you hope to do when you return to China?

I would like to teach Christianity related subjects in the university when I return home. My primary objective is to have contact with

young people, to make them understand the transforming power of the Gospel, to challenge them to have a strong and vibrant faith, so that the church in mainland China can grow into maturity.

Question: Do you have anything you would like to say to our readers?

It’s great to be able to share my life story with you. Just one last point, after becoming a Christian, my name which I told you earlier, takes on a new meaning—It now reminds me of the price my Lord paid for redeeming me. And now I am glad to see how God is accomplishing his work in my life, changing and guiding me in fulfilling His purpose in serving Him.

Words from the Chairman

With a fearful and grateful heart, I receive the baton from Dr. Stephen Lee, to become the new Chairman of Langham Foundation. From the day I listened to Rev. John Stott, when he shared his vision to help the training of scholars in theology, the organisation of preaching seminars for pastors, and the distribution of quality Christian books in developing countries around the world, my heart was deeply moved. How I wish the Christian community in Hong Kong, China, and Asia can have a part in the promotion and realisation of this vision.

Langham Foundation had a humble yet fruitful start, and I pray that we can witness together the emergence of a new generation of Langham scholars, particularly from China and Asia.

With the contribution from Dr. Chris Wright, we have created a new platform for the sharing of biblical and theological insights on contextual contemporary issues; such as being a witness in the market place, Christian involvement in politics, Christian view on homosexual behaviour and legal issues related to homosexual relationships and marriage.



New Chairman of the Langham Foundation
Dr Philemon Choi delivering a lecture.

Langham Foundation will continue to promote the Langham vision in our part of the world; at the same time, we wish to offer seminars related to the vision to the local Christian community. We are relying on grace and strength from the Lord, and we are counting on your participation and prayerful support.

Words from our new General Secretary

Like most of you who are associated with the Langham family, the common denominator is Uncle John. I was studying in an American university more than 30 years ago when our fellowship group decided to attend the Urbana conference held in 1973. It was my first encounter with Uncle John whose powerful and persuasive preaching on the theme of Jesus Christ and the Authority of the Word of God still reverberates after so many years. Then in the mid-80s, I was working in a major international bank and got myself re-located to London. My wife, Mary and I knew from the



Victor Sun and his wife, Mary

first Sunday in town that All Souls church was the place for us. We loved the preaching and took an active role in ASIF (All Souls International Fellowship) until moving to Shanghai in 1992. Then it was back to London in 1997 when we were gradually made aware of the special ministry known as Langham Partnership International which provides financial and literature support to pastors and teachers from the developing countries. In fact, just before leaving the United Kingdom in 2001, we had expressed our hope to Uncle John that one day we might see Langham Partnership International extending its scholarship programme to worthy recipients from mainland China. Needless to say, we have always shared Uncle John's vision to equip and train young evangelical leaders so that they can effectively serve the growing churches in the Majority World. It was therefore such a privilege when Langham Foundation offered me the position of General Secretary in May this year. As the only member organisation located in East Asia, Langham Foundation has been given the task of bringing the Langham vision and objectives to the Asia Pacific region where the number of Christians have already exceeded that of Western Europe. I hope to play a part in this worthy enterprise serving the Lord.

Langham Foundation had a busy week in June...

Dr. Chris Wright, the International Ministries Director of Langham Partnership International, was in Hong Kong at the same time as Mr Pieter Kwant, the International Director for Literature Programmes in June. Besides attending to the various meetings and speaking at the week-long lectures held at the China Graduate School of Theology, Chris Wright was also invited to preach at St Andrew's Church and the Hong Kong Community Church. The contrast between the two churches was striking. St Andrew's is a red-brick Victorian building in old Kowloon while the community church is a glass and steel structure located in one of the tallest buildings at the Apex of the Central Plaza on the 75th Floor with a stunning view of the beautiful harbour and the lush green mountains of the Hong Kong island.

Our visitors from Langham Partnership International were in town just in time to say farewell to Dr Stephen Lee, who has recently stepped down as the Chairman of Langham Foundation. Stephen is moving his family back to Toronto, Canada in July this year.

A fund-raising dinner for Langham Foundation's friends and supporters was held on 14th June 2005 at the Club Lusitano, Hong Kong. Ms Lu, our new Langham scholar from Guangxi province gave her testimony while Pieter Kwant spoke about his trip to China. He was thrilled to see that some of John Stott's commentaries were being printed although not available in large numbers. The high point was Chris Wright who gave a brief talk entitled "from the Academy to the Grassroots". It was a thought-provocative observation of how in many parts of the Majority World such as India, Langham scholars teaching in seminaries are responding to the needs of the local village churches by training and equipping young Christians in church-planting missions. Dr. Philemon Choi, the new Chairman of Langham Foundation challenged the audience to give generously for the support of our ministries. The dinner was attended by over 50 guests and friends.

East West Institute (Asia) Limited hosted a leadership seminar for entrepreneurs and senior business executives conducted by Chris Wright. The seminar was entitled "The Bible and Business: How can they be mixed?" In order to allow two-way interaction and sharing of experiences, each of the three sessions was limited to a maximum of 25 participants. Chris Wright managed to enthral the audience by first focusing on the key principles of the Bible, such as Creation, the Fall, Old Testament economic regulations. He then moved onto the implications of specific texts to discern God's will and purposes for the marketplace, finally ending the four hour session with a call for Christians to practice engagement and distinctiveness. A total of 75 people signed up for the seminars.

On 17th June, Langham Foundation together with Fellowship of Evangelical Students and the Kong Fok Church in the business district of Hong Kong jointly sponsored a public lecture on the controversial issue of "Homosexuality : What does the Bible actually say - A response to Gay



Chris Wright conducting a workshop with the East West Institute on Bible and Business - how can they be mixed?

Hermeneutics.” This was held in the Kong Fok Church where more than 700 people attended. With Gideon Yung assisting in the interpretation, Chris Wright gave a most comprehensive and detailed lecture in the overall context of human personhood reflecting God’s image of unity and complementarity, the Old Testament ethics, and the teaching of our Lord and Apostle Paul. In the end, he reminded the audience that the Bible has more to say about economic sins and we should guard against hypocrisy. Our proper attitude should be to demonstrate Christ’s love for the Gay people without condoning



their sinful practices. The response made by Stephen Lee of China Graduate School of Theology, also a Langham scholar, was well-received. He emphasised the importance of putting the homosexuality controversy in the light of Biblical authority, challenges of pluralism and human fallibility.

A second public lecture was held the following Friday where Dr Kwan Kai Man, a Langham scholar, discussed issues relating to the proper Gay movement in Hong Kong. This was followed by a response from Dr Philemon Choi, our new Chairman.



The Grace of Giving – 10 Principles

During the Langham Foundation’s fundraising dinner held on 14th June in Hong Kong, the diners at the Club Lusitano were given the recent published booklet “The Grace of Giving” by John Stott. It was such an appreciative souvenir that one supporter requested 60 copies for the Bible study groups in his church.

This booklet is based on an address given by John Stott in 1999 at a Christian conference in San Diego. It is an exposition of 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. This booklet helps Christians to effectively steward the resources God gives them in ways that would honor the Lord and expand His Kingdom Edited by Julia Cameron, a Langham Partner’s 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. There are limited supply of this booklet in the Langham Foundation’s office. For those who are interested to order copies, please send an email with your request to langham@hellovoice.com

Moving Forward

For the financial year 2005-2006, Langham Foundation intends to raise HK\$1.5 million for the three ministries: Langham Scholarship, Langham Literature, and Langham Preaching.

HK\$900,000 (60%) will be earmarked for providing partial support to TEN promising scholars in the region to pursue doctorate studies in Theology in acceptable evangelical seminaries. These scholars are expected to return to their home countries to serve. Since the average annual cost per student amounts to HK\$180,000, Langham Foundation would usually contribute half of that amount, i.e., HK\$90,000. Currently, we are sponsoring four scholars in their doctoral studies in the UK and one doctorate student in the Hong Kong Baptist University. Of the five doctoral scholars, two of them are from mainland China, one from Hong Kong, one from

the Philippines and one from Lebanon. We need to ensure that these five students will continue to receive financial assistance for the coming year. Moreover, we hope to raise enough funding to support five more doctoral students during 2005-2006.

Besides providing scholarships, Langham Foundation are funding two literature projects, namely, the Graduate Book Programme and the Library Grant Programme. Our aim is to make available good theological books to students, graduates and the libraries of theological seminaries or universities (especially those in mainland China or others parts of Asia) where evangelical reading materials are in short supply. The Publishing Grant Programme will be used to publish evangelical theological books in the local languages such as, the Chinese translation of the Bible Speaks Today Series. These literature ministries are essential for equipping and educating theological students, pastors and Christian lay leaders in the Majority World.

As of 30 June 2005, Langham Foundation has cash balances of approximately HK\$300,000, we would need your generous giving for at least HK\$1,200,000 in order to be able to meet our budget target for the coming year.

Langham Foundation Ltd Budget for Financial Year 2005-2006

(July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006)

| Programme | % | Items | Total Cost (HK\$) |
|------------------------|----|---|-------------------|
| Doctorate Scholarships | 60 | 10 X 90,000 per scholar | 900,000 |
| Literature | 15 | Graduate Book Program \$75,000 Library Grant Program \$75,000 Publishing Grant Program \$75,000 | 225,000 |
| Preaching Seminars | 10 | Speakers’ tickets and accommodation; venue; publicity; materials, etc. | 150,000 |
| Administration | 10 | Salary and administrative expenses \$72,000 Miscellaneous \$78,000 (mailing, publicity, newsletters, travel, stationeries, telecommunications, etc.) | 150,000 |
| Contribution to LPI | 5 | | 75,000 |
| TOTAL | | | 1,500,000 |

Langham Foundation Council

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GROWING A NEW GENERATION OF PREACHERS AND TEACHERS