

18 November 2010

Dear friends,

I am sure you will understand that I am no longer able to speak with you in person, but I hope you will allow me to share with you some personal reflections and wishes, as I look forward to the day when the Lord takes me from my earthly pilgrimage to the joy of serving him in all the fullness of resurrection life and vigour.

First of all, it constantly fills me with joy and thanksgiving when I look back more than forty years to the time when, with a group of friends, we founded the Langham Trust in response to needs that we discerned in the growing churches of what we now call the majority world - the need for trained and qualified teachers in the seminaries of the church, the need for books to help pastors in their biblical preaching. By God's grace and blessing, the ministries of what is now the **Langham Partnership International** have grown in amazing ways all over the world, serving the church through the three programs of Langham Scholars, Langham Literature and Langham Preaching. I am grateful to God for the leadership of our International Director, Chris Wright, the team of Program Directors, and the many people in dozens of countries who serve as staff or as volunteers throughout the global organization.

It is my heart's desire and prayer that these ministries will continue long after my death, under God's blessing and provision and with the prayerful and generous support of God's people. If you are already among those who give to and pray for this work, then please accept my sincere personal thanks by way of this letter. If not – then may I commend this ministry to you as an excellent way to stand in partnership with the global church.

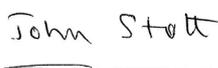
Secondly, I would like to address the fact that in the United States the organization - first registered by friends as the Langham Foundation - has been known and registered as **John Stott Ministries** since 1996. John Stott Ministries is the national member in the USA of the Langham Partnership International, which includes other national "Langhams" in the UK, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand.

- While I fully understand and accept the reasons why the decision was made to associate my name with the organization in this way in the USA;
- And while of course there will continue to be a historical link with myself as the one God used as the founder of the ministries now combined in the Langham Partnership International;
- And while, above all, I know that there are many of my good sisters and brothers in the United States whose generous support for these ministries is in part an expression of their personal love and friendship for me – something I have valued so deeply for so long;

Nevertheless, it is my express wish that the use of my name as the name of the organization should not continue after my death. Accordingly, I have asked the JSM Board, to take the necessary steps to change the name of the organization, by reverting to the "Langham" name by which it was originally known – the name by which the organization is now universally known throughout the rest of the world: **Langham Partnership**. I trust you will accept this as my personal wish and prayerfully considered decision, and that I can count on your continued support for these ministries, for the glory of the only name we honour and serve – our Lord Jesus Christ.

In my increasing frailty, I would so much value your prayer for me, just as my love, gratitude and prayers are extended to you.

Yours warmly in Christ,



PS As I am no longer able to wield a pen, this letter has been electronically signed, with my approval.