



The Revd John Stott

Obituary • John Stott

John Robert Walmsley STOTT, CBE (1921–2011)

John Stott died peacefully in London on 28th July surrounded by friends reading Scripture and listening to Handel's Messiah. The New Zealand Christian community is grateful to God for the life and ministry of JRW Stott, for his books and commentaries, the University missions he led, his role in the 1974 Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, but especially for the Biblical influence he had on the church worldwide. Bishop Peter Brain, of the Diocese of Armidale in Australia, who spoke at this year's Latimer Retreat, wrote to his clergy:

'Uncle John' as he was affectionately known by many, especially those who worked with him over the 60 years that he was associated with All Souls' Langham Place, exercised a remarkable influence for evangelical good across the world. Committed as he was to a careful exposition of the Bible, to a simple life style, to a generosity that funded books for developing world pastors and Bible colleges and to a prayerful interest on countless Christians he met on his travels, he stands as a mentor, hero of the faith and example to us all.

John Stott's conversion was very much the result of 'Bash' (E.J. Nash) his mentor and pastor. His follow-up was very faithful involving John in the Bash Camps that led him into evangelism to different age groups. John Stott said that Bishop Ryle's book 'Holiness' was most influential on him in his early days. One quotation that he learned from Ryle: 'Justification is a crisis, Sanctification is a process' remained with him all his life and he took great care to pass it on. Our daughter Stephanie visited his church during her OE and told us that she met many people there from all over the world including other New Zealanders. Doubtless this was the result of the many young people contacted during University missions all over the world. Colin Tonks in the news-sheet for St. Martin's, Spreydon wrote about such a mission in Melbourne:

I met John Stott in Melbourne in 1958, while studying at Ridley College. He had come to Australia to take some University missions. The lunch-hour addresses were superb, models of clear explanation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. At Ridley, John Stott spent some time talking to the students, our only let down was to discover that instead of the

wife and three children we had all expected in England John Stott was a bachelor.

We were blessed by books sent to the Bible College in Mombasa, Kenya, from a Trust that John Stott set up. Not only did the library benefit, but at ordination each student was given a set of books to help in sermon preparation. Studies include some on the bible and the Christian life which are available both as books and DVDs. Such material is being used in home groups especially in parishes linked to the Evangelical Fellowship of the Anglican Communion. (EFAC known in NZ as The Latimer Fellowship) Bishop Brain wrote: I have for over 30 years been involved in one way or another with EFAC. This body is testimony to his ability to gather people of like mind into ongoing fellowship or partnerships that have ensured the growth and flowering of evangelical ministry across the world. To have read Stott's books, commentaries and other works has been a source of inspiration and confirmation that I've been on a well proven track and model of how to approach the Bible and various issues biblically. I thank God for giving him to our generation as a gracious and generous mentor, friend, teacher and leader.

Stott wrote or edited almost 60 books, among them his classic, Basic Christianity, which sold more than a million copies and has been translated into more than 60 languages. Many would echo the following testimony: Of the books that he wrote, I have found 'Issues Facing Christians Today' to be particularly helpful. He was insistent upon the social & moral responsibility of Christians. John Stott's book 'The Cross of Christ' has a challenge that is profound and yet straight forward, especially when read in context: There is blood on our hands. Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us (leading to faith and worship) we have to see it as something done by us (leading to repentance). (page 60).

John Stott was indeed a mentor, hero of the faith and an example to all of us.

Bishop Henry Paltridge

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