

Portraits of a Radical Disciple: Recollections of John Stott's Life and Ministry

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Edited by Christopher J.H. Wright, director, Langham Partnership International

Foreword by David Neff, editor-in-chief, Christianity Today

John Stott Like You've Never Seen Him Before

More than a biography, *Portraits of a Radical Disciple* is a “sketch of a man who overflows all attempts to describe him, offered by a tiny few of his many, many friends.” Although biographies have been written about this world-renowned pastor, none paint the kind of frank and honest picture that *Portraits of a Radical Disciple* does from those who knew him most intimately over the years, from world leaders like Samuel Escobar, René Padilla and Mark Labberton, as well as John’s niece Caroline Bowerman and his longtime personal secretary, Frances Whitehead. “But if I were to live my life all over again,” said Frances, “I would not wish to have had any other calling.”

Snapshots from His Friends

“I was amazed at how early it was in the morning that John came in to study the Bible and to pray. It is a lesson I have never forgotten.”
Michael Green, p. 31

“I owe much of my theological education to John’s writings.”
Timothy Dudley-Smith, p. 49

“John would willingly leave his desk for hours in order to scrutinize [some rare bird’s] every movement.”
Dick Lucas, p. 55

“It still amazes me that he emptied my office wastepaper basket every day for many, many years.”
Frances Whitehead, p. 63

“His clear and beautiful voice, his flawless diction, his persuasive logic and appeal all marked him out as one in a thousand.”
Sir Marcus Loane, p. 99

“He enjoyed a good movie, liked Woody Allen, relished a good concert, loved walking the streets of London and was very fond of chocolate.”
Keith Hunt and Gladys Hunt, p. 110

“It was clear that behind the greatness of this man as a communicator of Christian truth was a love for people and a commitment to personal ministry.”

Ajith Fernando, p. 131

“It was significant that a man like John Stott . . . would come to acknowledge that a culturally contextual approach was required for the interpretation of God’s Word.”

Samuel Escobar, p. 138

“I realized that one of John’s most wonderful gifts was that of remembering people by name, sometimes years after he had met them.”

René Padilla, pp. 142-43

“John Stott is the most wholesome, Christlike and globally influential Christian servant-leader I have ever known.”

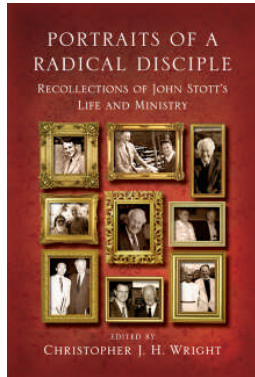
Peter Kuzmič, p. 150

From “The Sermon on the Carpet”

“For what still draws me to John more than anything else is the aroma of John’s life—a life centered and matured in the love of Jesus Christ that bears fruit to the glory of God. John was all the more impressive, not less, the deeper our relationship became. . . .

As John preached that day, I stood so far from where I had been born and raised. I was now working for a pastor whose vision of the gospel had a cosmic and global reach, and who showed me in character and action that to be a disciple of Jesus meant growing in wisdom and love, in humility and hope. The world John knew and served was not parochial. The personal gospel was not a private one, and the particularity of the gospel was for the sake of its universality. . . . I have experienced with peoples from many places and cultures our common center in Jesus Christ, and the ways our hearts and minds grew toward our Lord because of our brother, John.”

Mark Labberton, pp. 212-13



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Meet Some Key Contributors

Christopher J. H. Wright, editor of *Portraits of a Radical Disciple*, is from Northern Ireland. After five years of teaching the Old Testament in India, he worked from 1989 until 2001 at All Nations Christian College, England, as academic dean and then principal. In 2001 he was invited by John Stott to become the first international director of the Langham Partnership International, which combined several ministries John had founded thirty years earlier.

Mark Labberton was one of John Stott's early study assistants. He went on to be senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, California. He has served on the board of John Stott Ministries in the United States, and is now the Lloyd John Ogilvie Chair for Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Samuel Escobar, from Peru, has a lifetime association with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), exercising years of leadership in Latin America and Canada, and speaking many times at the Urbana Student Missions Conferences. He worked closely with John Stott at the 1974 Lausanne Congress. He is a missiologist, with books in Spanish and English, and taught at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania. He now lives in Valencia, Spain, with his wife, Lilly, where he is involved in theological education.

Frances Whitehead grew up in South Devon but spent a few years living abroad after the war (in Switzerland and then South Africa) before returning to England in 1951 and coming to London soon afterward. In 1956 she became personal secretary to John Stott and remained so till his recent death in July, though she officially "retired" earlier in 2011.

René Padilla was born in Quito, Ecuador. He established and led International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) movements throughout Latin America, and has been a foremost writer and publisher in the field of integral/holistic mission. He was a significant speaker at the first Lausanne Congress in 1974 and is president emeritus of the Kairos Foundation, Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he lives. He regards his longtime friend John Stott as the person that best embodies for him the Pauline invitation, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

BIO

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Peter Kuzmič is a native of Slovenia and a citizen of Croatia, in former Yugoslavia. He cofounded and directs the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek, Croatia, and is involved in many European evangelical organizations and ministries, particularly in the Balkans. Since the first Congress in 1974, he has been one of the leaders of the Lausanne Movement. He divides his time between Croatia and his teaching post at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Boston.