

Chapter 17

Great Britain



SOME HISTORY

David Fanstone founded the work in this country in 1968. Growing up in a Christian family, he dedicated his life to Christ at the age of 14. After graduating from Cambridge University, he felt the calling to be a missionary. He went to the USA, where his father was a Royal Air Force training officer during World War II. It was there that David attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and later, Columbia Bible College (CBC) in South Carolina. While at CBC, he was inspired by Jim Duffecy and then by Bron Carlisle to begin the work in England. After working in the New York branch with Art Williams and others, he obtained further training in Australia and New Zealand. God ultimately used him to establish the Great Britain branch. The very first open-air meeting was on Sunday, April 14, 1968, in Brighton, which became the ministry's center for many years before David moved to London.



DAVID FANSTONE ON THE VAN PLATFORM

Korky and Anni Davey have also been part of the OAC DNA for many years. They found out about the work through David Fanstone, who was to become the best man at their wedding in September 1965. They moved to London, where Korky owned a 15-room



KORKY DAVEY (LEFT) AT THE SKETCHBOARD

Victorian mansion that had belonged to his grandfather but was now in very poor repair. They worked on it for almost 9 years, and eventually its sale allowed them to buy a house near Trinity Theological College in Bristol and pay for 3 years of tuition. In addition, the Inner London Education Authority gave Korky and Anni a grant to live on! In due course, OAC GB interviewed and

accepted them as staff members, with the understanding that they would commit to OAC for two years, which ultimately extended to four decades!

God blessed, and the "West Country" branch was established in 1977. The growth of this branch was partly due to the ministry in Spain, which rapidly expanded across the country as our staff led missions in various places. Many of the missionaries involved were from the Billy Graham Association, and it was Korky's speaking at the annual Spanish Missions Conference near Madrid that led to an invitation to serve as the Lecturer on Open Air Evangelism at the BGA conferences in Amsterdam in 1983 and 1986. Ministry in the West Country Branch also took place in universities, such as Exeter, which had a Christian Student Union of about 400 members. From the University came student volunteers, giving the branch a strong local ministry. Washington Bible College in the USA and some Irish churches sent teams to help us spread the gospel.

An additional facet of OAC GB history is the strategic ministry outreach to primary schools and academy centers. God has provided an abundance of amazing opportunities in this part of the work over the years, which would fill another book!

The ministry of OAC from Britain out to new fields in other parts of the world, especially in Europe and Africa, is another essential part of our heritage. From his base in Bristol, Korky Davey led and inspired the expansion of our work into France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Greece, Slovakia, Albania, and Romania. He also ministered in several countries in Africa, with the work raised up in Uganda as evidence of this effort. Bristol was home to the Bristol School of Evangelism, which for a year was also known as Project Snowball. Graduates of this training continued to lead it at various times, including Mark Howe, Rob Davis, and Mark Detzler. These and others launched out after their time of training to start new branches. Ian and Caralee Loring are included in this group along with the Mathiesons, Barretts, Dan Truitt, Peter Kent, David Serunjogi (aka Romans), and others.

OAC GB DIRECTORS

Following David Fanstone in the historical leadership of our work in GB, David Glover served as national director from 1999 to 2009. He first learned about OAC as a student at Lebanon Missionary Bible Training College in Berwick-upon-Tweed. As soon as he completed his studies, Dave trained with OAC to become an evangelist. Looking back over his time as director, he notes that, "Serving as UK director heightened my awareness of OAC evangelism around the world. That's why it is vital to encourage travel for effective world



SUE & DAVID GLOVER



GEOFF BECKINGHAM

outreach. Creative evangelism tools are relevant to all cultures. Yet, it's more than just innovative tools; it's a mindset. To communicate the good news of Jesus means engaging with people in completely varied circumstances. Many of us go to schools, prisons, and ships." When Dave stepped down as director, his involvement continued with open-air outreach in Latvia.



DAWN GETLEY



OLIVER BUCKLEY

In 2009, the directorship of the work in Great Britain passed on to Peter Kennelly. During Peter's tenure, the London team launched the "Streetwise" training program. Peter also headed a joint outreach with the London City Mission called "Tell-A-Tourist." In 2014, he transitioned his ministry location and emphasis to work with OAC in France.



ROGER GRAY



JENNY CARROLL

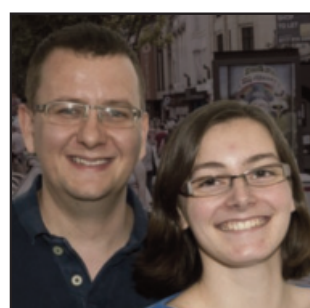
Marten Holmes has been working full time with OAC since 1992 and was appointed national director in 2014. In 2018, OAC GB celebrated 50 years of ministry in that part of the world. Over 60 evangelists, former evangelists, and supporters gathered to celebrate the past, learn more of the present ministry, and pray for the future of OAC. During the weekend of the celebrations and the previous weekend, OAC evangelists took part in a series of evangelistic street outreaches as part of the Brighton Fringe Festival. Marten stepped down as national director at the end of 2022, but continues his ministry with OAC through school assemblies and open airs in and around Truro, Cornwall.



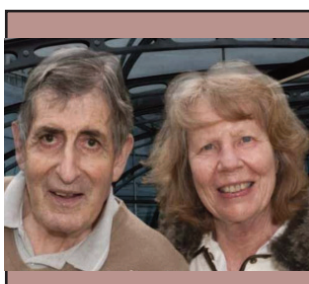
STEVE GURNETT



ANNI & KORKY DAVEY

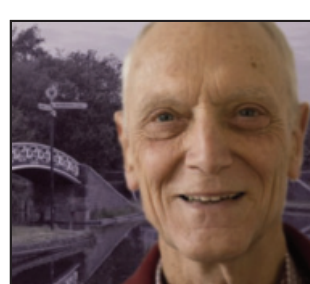


STEVE & BECKY HARRIS



DAVID & ALICE FANSTONE

Steve Harris has been working with OAC since 2007 and, after serving as the training director for a number of years, became the national director on January 1, 2023. With many of the OAC GB evangelists getting older, Steve has been particularly focused on recruiting new



JOHN HEYWOOD



PETE HODGE



MARTEN HOLMES



JOHN HOWARTH



ALLAN JENNER



MARIOS KAIKITIS

evangelists to the work. He has started a new Year of Evangelism program to provide training to those who feel God is calling them to be evangelists, in the hopes that, from these candidates, future OAC evangelists may be found.

EMPHASIS ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

All evangelists in OAC GB are members of a local church and are often involved in preaching and teaching roles. The evangelists are trained to work within the church and are particularly effective in all-age evangelistic services. Many of their evangelists lead both adult, youth, and children's missions within churches and also use the power of creative storytelling to share the love of God in a wide range of public settings.

OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN OTHERS

OAC has always been a "give-away" organization. Training and motivating Christians for evangelism is a central part of our ministry. Jesus spent most of His ministry talking to people in the streets and marketplaces, and it's still an effective way to reach people today. You can stop a crowd with a clear and powerful presentation using creative visual aids, and street work can be invaluable for reaching people who wouldn't dream of accepting an invitation to church. For many years, the Bristol School of Evangelism offered a one-year program that taught every aspect of evangelism and missions. The Dutch, Belgian, Danish, and Albanian branches developed from this program. Ministry also overflowed into Spain and France.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, OAC GB has conducted much of its training online via Zoom, with many more people attending courses than the in-person classes. Evangelism Essentials is an excellent introduction to evangelism and is run twice a year, and It's Child's Play, which focuses on evangelism with children, is run annually. In addition, Streetwise is a fantastic, in-person, practical evangelism training course



PETER KENNELLY

that is ideal for anyone who wants to learn the basics of street evangelism. Each year, this course is offered in both London and Cardiff. This program is a practical, hands-on course that will sharpen evangelistic skills and give participants the confidence and ability to communicate the gospel on the streets.



EDWARD LEKARKIN

There are also practical follow-ups to the It's Child's Play course, which help participants to learn how to do effective evangelism in the public school system. Participants learn how to tell a Bible-based story in a way that engages children and how to comply with the local laws governing collective worship. This training covers the practical use of visual aids, including the sketchboard, object lessons, and ventriloquism.

INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

One tremendously bright spot in the history of OAC GB is the ministry in the schools. The law requires that each school have a daily act of collective worship, and that the majority of the acts of worship over a term must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. Despite many attempts to change it, the law remains on the statute books to this day. OAC finds itself in a wonderful position to conduct school assemblies to fulfil the requirement for religious instruction in schools and, of course, to present the gospel. Our staff are grateful to God that there is still such an open door into schools, because head teachers trust OAC. After all, we're professional, reliable, and sensitive to schools' needs and concerns. Countless children in both primary and secondary schools have been reached for Christ through these assemblies. The school ministry remains a mainstay of outreach to this day. Excellent relationships are enjoyed with the schools where our staff work, mainly because we appreciate the legal, educational, and cultural issues surrounding the schools' ministry. That's why we get invited back again and again, usually at least once a term.



DAVE MWANIKI



THE LORD CALLED
GARETH OWEN TO
HEAVEN IN 2020

FESTIVAL OUTREACH

New Age festivals are a regular feature of British life, taking place mainly in the summer months, particularly in the southwest of the country. Our teams in Cornwall and the southwest are frequently featured at these events and are usually listed on the program as "Traditional Story Tellers." Our marquee is a good place for people to come, relax, chat, watch children's presentations, get their faces painted, and more!



KEVIN WELCH

REACHING OUT TO THOSE ON SHIPS

Some of our staff in port cities are involved in cooperation with the Seamen's Mission in visiting ships. This has been found to be a very effective way of sharing the gospel with people from around the world.

OUR STAFF MAKE THIS WORK

We are grateful to God for the workers He has brought our way through the years. Each one is of great value whether they be full-time, associates, young, or old. All of these folks are part of the team and we marvel at the variety of gifts, talents, and abilities represented among them. Staff not pictured include Paul & Albana Alkazraji, Anna Bayman, Karen Bolton, Tony & Ruth Booth, Chris Cascarino, Angela Cattell, Carol Chamberlain, Barry Cummings, Adam Colman, Alun Davies, Mike Getley, Jonathan Harris, Susan Johnson, Pauline Jones, Marie Lamore, Dave Madden, Gordon Rea, and Patrick Williams.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We are grateful for the rich heritage in OAC, which God has given to us as a mission. Looking back on 50+ years of ministry outreach completed by OAC in Great Britain, we rejoice and look forward in anticipation of the future. Steve Harris sums it up when he says, "OAC GB has reached many with the gospel, but there are many challenges still ahead and many who do not know Christ, and so we pray that as a mission we will be able to continue to 'Present Christ By All Means Everywhere' until He returns."

With the Lord's command to "Go into all the world," we confidently move ahead, trusting Him to go before us, knowing that the days are evil and the time of His return draws closer. While we are confident of the message carried forth and presented in the open air, in schools, and anywhere else we can, there are challenges from our enemy. So, let us pray for one another and uphold the workers He has called to this part of the vineyard through OAC in Great Britain.





FLORJAN AND ASHLEY ADILI CAME ON STAFF BY WAY OF TRANSFER FROM OAC ALBANIA IN 2024 BUT CONTINUED TO MINISTER IN THAT COUNTRY (SEE CHAPTER 3)



DAVE MWANIKI IN THE OPEN AIR



MARIOS KAIKITIS AT THE BOARD



CITY PARKS ARE A GREAT PLACE TO SHARE CHRIST



BUSY SIDEWALKS PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES WHERE THE GOSPEL CAN BE PROCLAIMED