

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 became inspired by Jim Duffecy and then by Bron Carlisle, to start 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 center of the ministry 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 nine years, and eventually, its sale allowed them to buy a house near Trinity Theological College in Bristol and pay for three 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 on as staff members with the understanding that they would commit to OAC for two years, which ended up extending to four decades!

God blessed, and the “West Country” branch was established in 1977. The growth of this branch was partly a result of ministry in Spain, which rapidly expanded across the country, as our staff led missions in different 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 the invitation to be the Lecturer on Open Air Evangelism at the BGA conferences in Amsterdam in 1983 and 1986. Ministry in the West Country Branch took place in universities as well, 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 churches from Ireland sent teams to help us spread the gospel.

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

The ministry of OAC from Britain out to other parts of the world, especially in Europe and Africa is another important 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 at various times to also lead it, such as 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 initially found out 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 noted 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 time of leadership, 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

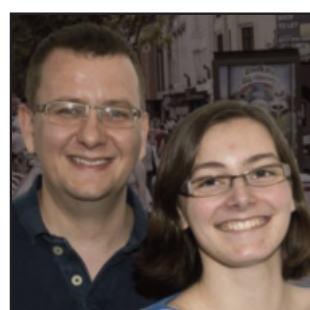
Marten Holmes has been working full time with OAC since 1992 and was appointed National Director in 2014. In 2018, OAC GB celebrated 50 years of ministry in that part of the world. Over 60 evangelists, former evangelists, and supporters gathered to celebrate the past, learn more of the present ministry, 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 in Cornwall.



STEVE GURNETT



ANNI & KORKY DAVEY



STEVE & BECKY HARRIS



DAVID & ALICE FANSTONE

Steve Harris has been working with OAC since 2007 and after being 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



JOHN HEYWOOD



PETE HODGE



MARTEN HOLMES



JOHN HOWARTH



ALLAN JENNER



MARIOS KAIKITIS

focused on recruiting new evangelists to the work and has started a new **Year of Evangelism** program to provide training to those who feel that God is calling them to be an evangelist 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 use the power of creative storytelling to share the love of God in a wide range of public settings, as well.

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 period where they 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, a large amount of OAC GB's training is run online using Zoom with a much greater number of people coming to the courses than happened with the in person courses before.

Evangelism Essentials is a great 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

PREACHING & SHARING THE GOSPEL

STREETWISE

A practical learning experience to help equip you in sharing your faith.

- Feb: Saturday 22nd
- March: Saturday 29th
- April: Saturday 26th
- May: Saturday 31st

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Creative visual aids
- Working as a team
- Preaching whilst people are listening
- Responding to challenging questions
- Using the Sketchboard
- True or False poster

Time: 10 AM - 5 PM

Where: The Angel Church, Chadwell St, Angel Islington, London, EC1R 1XD

Contact Matt to Sign Up:
matt.evangelist.oacsgmail.com
07469721805

OAC MINISTRIES



PETER KENNELLY

course which 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 is engaging to the 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



DAVE MWANIKI

One tremendously bright spot in the history of OAC GB is the ministry in the schools. The law requires that each school should have a daily act of collective worship and the majority of the acts of worship over a term must be wholly or mainly of a Christian character. Despite many groups trying to change this, the law still remains on the statute books to this day. OAC finds itself in a wonderful situation of being able to conduct school assemblies to fulfil the requirement for religious instruction in the schools and, of course, present the gospel. We are grateful to God that there is still such an open door into schools and this is because head teachers trust us, because we're professional, reliable, and sensitive to schools' needs and concerns.



THE LORD CALLED
GARETH OWEN TO
HEAVEN IN 2020

Countless numbers of children in both primary and secondary schools have been reached for Christ in these assemblies. The school ministry remains a mainstay of outreach to this day. We enjoy excellent relationships with the schools we work in, mainly because we appreciate the legal, educational, and cultural issues surrounding schools' ministry. That's why we get invited back again and again, usually at least once a term.



KEVIN WELCH

FESTIVAL OUTREACH

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

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. These servants of God are His gift to us; together, we serve Him. 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. As we look back on 50+ years of ministry outreach, which has been completed by OAC in Great Britain, we rejoice and look forward with them in anticipation to 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. THEY CONTINUE TO MINISTER IN ALBANIA, SEE THAT CHAPTER FOR DETAILS



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 IN WHICH THE GOSPEL CAN BE PROCLAIMED