

# 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 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 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 work included strategic ministry outreach into the primary schools and academy centers. God provided an abundance of amazing opportunities in this part of the work, which would provide enough information to fill another book!

Korky and Anni have been key to the extension of OAC ministry from Britain to other parts of the world, especially in Europe and Africa. From his base in Bristol, Korky 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 (Romans), and others.



God has used a lifetime of learning and obedient application of proclaiming Christ in the open air in prompting Korky to write "Jesus - Faith and Fact," a book about the origins of the Gospels along with "Biblical Patterns of Evangelism," which can be found at [www.korky.info](http://www.korky.info).

## OAC GB DIRECTORS

In addition to David Fanstone, David Glover served as GB 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 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."



SUE & DAVID GLOVER

When Dave stepped down as director, his involvement continued with open-air outreach in Latvia.

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.



GEOFF BECKINGHAM

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. As of this writing in 2020, Marten continues to serve as the director.



ROGER GRAY



OLIVER BUCKLEY

### 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.



STEVE GURNETT



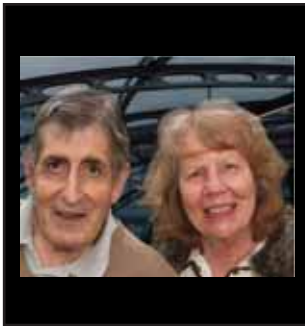
ANNI & KORKY DAVEY

### OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN OTHERS

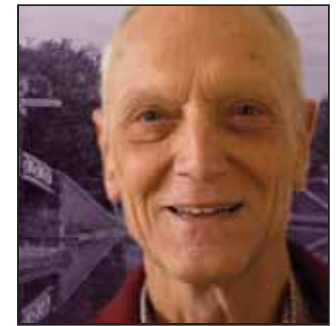
OAC has always been a "give away" organization. Training and motivating Christians for evangelism is a central part of our ministry. Jesus spent most of His ministry talking to people in the streets and marketplaces, and it's still an effective way to reach people today. You can stop a crowd with a clear 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. Today, Streetwise is a fantastic, practical evangelism training course offered, which is ideal for anyone who wants to get into, or brush up on, street evangelism. It is composed of a six-session course in street evangelism, taking place on one Saturday each month for six months and is offered not only in London but in Sheffield, as well. 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.



STEVE & BECKY HARRIS



DAVID & ALICE FANSTONE



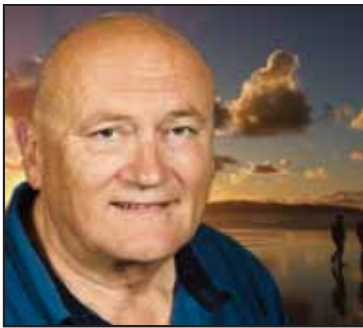
JOHN HEYWOOD



DAWN GETLEY



PETE HODGES

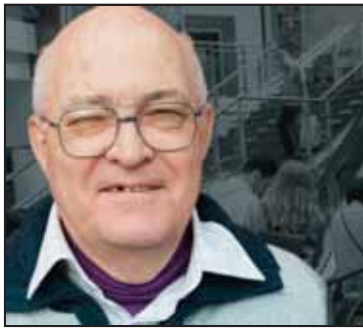


MARTEN HOLMES

“I thank God for the courage and professionalism of OAC. At All Souls, we’re desperate to proclaim Christ on the streets of our parish and in the centre of a world capital, and a major reason that we feel able to do this is because of the training and leadership we’ve received from OAC.”

– Revd Rico Tice, All Souls, Langham Place, London

God has also opened the door for us to conduct training seminars to teach folks effective evangelism within the public school system. This training is composed of practical sessions lasting for one week and designed for those who want to start or develop a ministry taking assemblies in primary schools. Participants learn how to tell a Bible-based story in a way that is engaging to the children and how to comply with local laws governing collective worship. This school training seminar covers topics such as storytelling, use of visual aids, including the sketchboard, and magic tricks. During this time of training, our staff take participants into local schools throughout the week to see first-hand OAC assemblies in action. By the end of the week, folks taking this course are confident enough to conduct assemblies on their own. The course is also suitable for anyone working with children in the 5 to 11 age group who want to improve their storytelling skills and learn how to use the sketchboard, magic, and more.



JOHN HOWARTH

### INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS

One tremendously bright spot in the UK OAC history is the ministry in the schools. Despite the present pagan state of this country, the school system still requires “religious education” because the Anglican Church is a state-run institution, and the law to offer such spiritual training remains on the books. OAC finds itself in a wonderful situation of being able to conduct school assemblies to fulfill the requirement for religious instruction in the schools and, of course, present the Gospel. We are grateful to God that we are blessed to have one of the most extensive and effective schools’ ministries in the UK: head teachers trust us because we’re professional, reliable, and sensitive to schools’ needs and concerns. The school ministry started at one of Korky Davey’s first open-air meetings in Bristol. A teacher in the audience asked if he could do a presentation at her school. Because of the written statute that requires “every school day to commence with an act of collective worship of a mainly Christian nature,” Korky was permitted to step out and move in this direction. For the most part, local churches did not take advantage of this opportunity, so for the last 40 years, OAC has filled the gap. Countless



ALLAN JENNER



MARIOS KAIKITIS



PETER KENNELLY



MULTIPLYING THE MINISTRY THROUGH TRAINING

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. And the schools don't want us to stop. As of this writing in 2020, Anni Davey shares that they are gearing up for the new school term, and she will be doing two or three primary school assemblies each week. In addition, Korky has eight presentations to do in a big secondary school in Cheddar (where the cheese came from!) for about 250-300 youngsters at a time. Four of these assemblies will take place in one week and four in another. Korky offered to retire from the assembly team last term, and the staff said he is not allowed to retire!



DAVE MWANIKI



THE LORD CALLED  
GARETH OWEN TO  
HEAVEN AS THIS BOOK  
WAS BEING COMPOSED  
IN 2020



MINISTRY IN SCHOOLS - A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT CHRIST



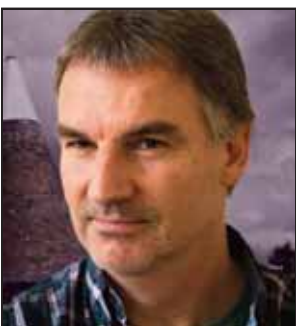
KEVIN WELCH

### FESTIVAL OUTREACH

A regular feature of British life are New Age festivals 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.



DAVE WORKMAN

### 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. Marten Holmes sums it up when he says, "OAC looks forward to another 50 years of evangelism unless, of course, our Lord

returns beforehand!" 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're confident of the message we all carry forth and present in the open air, we are bound to meet challenges as we present it. 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.



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