

THE BRITISH ISLES

The church in the United Kingdom had a heart to spread the Gospel in the early part of the 20th Century. Then the country seemingly turned its back on God. Today, reports suggest that over one-third of British teenagers get high every weekend on a dangerous drug called Ecstasy. Many are involved in Wicca, a New-Age witchcraft. Calvary Chapel has sent missionaries into this battleground.

London hosts a plethora of historical sites, including Big Ben and the millenium wheel.



After leaving CC Vista in southern California in 1996, Pastor Brian Brodersen began a Calvary Chapel work in the capital city of London. His solid Bible teaching gave Londoners the opportunity to hear the Gospel for the first time in years.

Several works had already begun in England and Scotland. Jim King, Peter Aspinall, and David Simpson had started Calvary Chapel ministries in their hometowns years before. However, most areas do not have access to Bible-teaching churches.

Westminster: London, England

"Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them." Joshua 1:6

The year was 1968 and "Hey Jude" was atop the pop charts for the Beatles. Eighteen-year-old British rocker Alwyn Wall had the opportunity to tell Paul McCartney about the excitement he felt since asking Jesus Christ into his life. A curious McCartney listened politely to the up and coming musician and his partner, Malcolm Wild. The Beatles had opened Apple Records for new talent to protect them from unscrupulous agents. "All we knew then was John 3:16," Alwyn confides now with a laugh. "That seemed quite enough at the time."

McCartney was open and interested and said maybe it would be for him someday.

Alwyn Wall and Malcolm Wild started recording songs about Jesus in the early '70's and brought them to the States. They were introduced to Pastor Chuck Smith and Calvary Chapel during the height of the Jesus Movement. "The verse from a Beatles song 'we'd love to take you home with us' took on a whole new meaning," said Alwyn. "We loved it. We wanted Calvary Chapel back home in England. This has been a 25-year-old dream."

Back in England, Alwyn had to take on other secular jobs to pay the bills. During breaks he would go to his car and listen to tapes of Pastor Chuck's teachings. "I remember sitting in the car at midnight during a snowstorm listening to Chuck. That's the impact his teaching through the Word had on my life. It grounded me as a Christian." Former partner Malcolm Wild is now pastor of CC Merritt Island in Florida. Alwyn had married Gloria in '68, and Malcolm married Gloria's older sister Carol. Now they shared the bond of family as well as music. Alwyn was invited to start a church in Vero Beach, Florida. The church grew quickly. However, he and his family had to go back to England since they couldn't get a permanent residence visa. After arriving home, they learned Brian Brodersen was beginning a Calvary Chapel in London. They welcomed this long-awaited news. Alwyn was asked to be worship pastor.

CC Westminster started as a home Bible study. By the year 2000, the church had grown to four hundred attending its Sunday services. The congre-



Alwyn Wall



Missionary Rob Dingman (right) prays before the start of CC Westminster services. He has assisted at the Calvary Chapel in London since its beginning. Rob, long time guitar player for the Robert Case Band, had done many outreaches in the Philippines. He and his wife, Joanie, play on the worship team.



Westminster senior pastor Alwyn Wall made the transition from worship leader and assistant pastor when Brian Brodersen returned to California. Double Sunday services host a multiracial, cultural, and ethnic congregation. A professional musician for three decades, Pastor Alwyn has released his latest CD, *Happy Lambs*. Church is held in a school auditorium close to Buckingham Palace. Home Bible studies throughout the massive city bring a closeness as people are able to help friends deal with conflicts in their lives.



While many countries are represented in the growing congregation, the music brings everyone into a spirit of worship. Old-time hymns remain a favorite.

gation is diverse, with many races and ethnic backgrounds represented. Home Bible studies are conducted throughout the week in different parts of the city. Outreach teams minister in Leicester Square, reaching out to teens through Christian rap music.

Pastor Brian was asked to return to Costa Mesa to assist with duties there. He realized that it was the Lord's will even though it was not his own. He had grown to love the British people. However, Pastor Brian was confident handing the church leadership to Alwyn. It has been a smooth transition. Before assuming the duties of senior pastor, Alwyn recorded his latest CD titled "*Happy Lambs*."

York, England

Dave Sylvester walked along the fortress wall of the ancient English town of York. As he contemplated the growth of the Bible study, he asked the Lord to provide a place representing the uniqueness of the city. For the last several weeks, Dave felt God bringing him to a passage in Ezekiel.

"...When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head." Ezekiel 33: 2-4

He felt called to be that faithful watchman and warn the English to turn back to Almighty God. Looking for a temporary reprieve from the chilly British mist, Dave entered an open door along the wall. The fortress, made of huge stone blocks, was built during Queen Elizabeth



Francis Chan, a member of CC Westminster, witnesses to a rap fan at the outreach. Francis is now training at CC Costa Mesa.



Through harmonies and relentless lyrics, Robert and Efram reach out to the youth. The talented rap artists lead an entourage from CC Westminster congregation after Sunday morning services. Many go to Leicester Square to share with those drawn to the words of the love of God. Robert, wearing the white coat and hat, and Efram are a part of the Westminster ministry. Both are English by birth and write their own arrangements.

It's time. He had entered a medieval defensive gate called Walmgate Bar.

"This was where the watchman of the city lived," David was told, "and it is for rent." After a trial period of occupancy, York officials lowered the monthly rent. The Sunday service now has people overflowing the centuries-old buildings; even the stairway is jammed.

Twenty-eight students attend the Calvary Chapel York Bible College that began this past fall. The college is located in the watchtower of the church. "Students attend classes here and run the coffee shop that is open to the public," mused David. "They can meet and evangelize the tourists, who come from all over the world. All this is accomplished without leaving the building." Twenty-three of the students came from the Murrieta campus. The vision for the Bible



Dave and Nancy Sylvester with their children, Sarah, Rachel, Charlie, and Jayne, on the watchtower's gate, known as Walmgate Bar, where CC York is held. A CC extension college began this fall with 28 students.



Above: Traffic flows directly underneath the CC church at Walmgate Bar.
Right: Pastor Dave Sylvester is well known for his musical ability and gave a seminar at the conference in Hungary this past summer.
Far right: The York Minster attracts tourists from around the world.



College is found in Isaiah 58:12. "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

"When you think of the great Christian heritage this nation has left the world, this Scripture fits like a glove," comments David. "I believe the Lord is going to use Calvary Chapels, as well as other Biblically-based churches who teach the Word, to carry out this Scripture."

Originally from Arizona, David spent years as a touring musician. Moving to California, he spent time in the Costa Mesa fellowship. In 1983, he went to Mike McIntosh's Horizon School of Evangelism. David came to England and led worship for Jim King at Calvary Chapel Church on the Way in Bradford. He began traveling to York, conducting Bible studies. This led to the beginning of Calvary Chapel York.

Bradford, England (Idle)

"...but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Jim King, born in Bradford, England, was street-wise in his youth. When he accepted Christ as his Savior in 1971, he would tell anyone who would listen, whether they were on the streets or in pubs. Soon after Jim married, he took over the youth ministry in the local Methodist church. These kids seemed to be lost in the traditional church setting. Jim approached the minister about introducing guitars and praise music. His ideas were not well received. He knew God was calling him elsewhere to minister to the youth. Leaving his Methodist Church was difficult since the minister was his father-in-law.



His wife's parents would not speak to him. Other friends involved in the ministry shunned him as well. None of the other local churches were receptive to his ideas. He started his first home study with five people. The next week there were eleven. It continued to grow at a fast pace until fifty people crammed into his home every Sunday morning. The church complex sits on one of the most visible sites in Bradford, with an adjacent Christian school. A visit to CC Costa Mesa years ago had established a bond with Pastor Chuck Smith, and eventually led to an affiliation with Calvary Chapel. Through the years, they have maintained a close relationship with CC Costa Mesa, exchanging outreach teams. He reconciled with his wife's family eighteen months after leaving. Jim's father-in-law has taught at the Church on the Way on many occasions.

One of the most heartwarming days in the ministry occurred this past spring. The Methodist Church he left so many years ago asked Jim to teach and pray over the elders at their new dedication. "Now they have guitars, contemporary worship, and teach through the Bible," said Pastor Jim. "It was a tremendous gift from God."



Otley, England

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42

Both Peter Aspinall and Jim King felt stymied by the choice of churches in northern England. They wanted to get away from the tradition and ritual that seemed to deaden the local churches. They decided to go back to the simple teaching the apostles demonstrated in the early church in Acts 2:42. English musicians Malcolm Wild and Alwyn Wall told them about a movement in California that had started in a little church and had revolutionized worship. Journeying to America to see for themselves. They heard Pastor Chuck Smith for the first time. He taught on Acts 2:42.

"I realized then that I was in the right place," said Peter. Both Englishmen had felt the Lord leading them to teach through the Bible, and hearing Pastor Chuck confirmed this sound principle.

In the late '60s, Peter and his wife considered themselves hippies. In 1971, their lives changed after Pam experienced 18 months of depression. One day in their garden, she was reading "Peace With God" by Dr. Billy Graham. She read through the chapter explaining why Christ had to die on the cross for us. Peter came home from work to a totally transformed wife, radiant with joy after accepting Jesus as her Savior. The depression was gone. Two difficult months passed for Peter, coping with the reality that his wife had a joy that he did not share. "I began to look at my life and despair," said Peter. "God, if you are real, come and change this life of mine." The next morning he woke up, saying to her, "Isn't Jesus great." He felt light, like a heavy burden had been lifted. They went to an unpretentious little chapel the next Sunday. The minister's words spoke directly to them. After the service, they waited to be the last to leave and shared what had happened to them. "You have been converted," the minister said to him. That sounded awful to Peter, like he had contracted some deadly disease. The minister opened his Bible to the Gospel of John and explained what they had experienced. The Scripture said they had been reborn. Over the next several months, Peter and Pam would turn up at the minister's home at all hours of the day and night with questions.

The testimony of Jim King, pastor of the CC Church on the Way, tells of God's grace in his life. The church complex is on a busy intersection in Bradford, England.

"We went to the streets and started handing out tracts about Jesus," said Peter. He and his wife ventured back into the pubs and shared their faith. He and Jim King met and established an outreach in Bradford. They opened a coffee house and shared the Good News about the saving grace of Jesus. Peter helped Jim King begin the Church on the Way. Peter met several people in his hometown of Otley who also wanted to study the Bible. By 1981, the Bible study in Peter's home grew into a Calvary Chapel. Peter taught through the Book of John, Corinthians, and then into Acts. Even today, the core of believers at CC Otley came from that group of young people in the initial study. "There is a shallowness in England," said Peter. "People are desperate for some kind of spiritual reality. A legacy of Bible teaching is almost nonexistent. People are looking for user-friendly churches, regardless of the doctrinal soundness. We offer them teaching from God's Word and the way to meet God personally." Steve Aspinall, worship leader at CC Otley and son of Peter Aspinall, began a ministry called Righteous Books. This is a result of their close association with Bible teacher Stanley Voke and the desire to put his ministry into print. Now carrying three titles, this ministry is a blessing not only to Calvary Chapels but to the entire Body of Christ.



Above: Pastor Peter Aspinall, CC Otley, was one of the few preachers in England teaching through the entire Bible. He immediately felt at home when he connected with CC Costa Mesa in the early '70s. He and his son, Steve, have collected all of Stanley Voke's teachings. They have published three books and plan to publish his entire writings.

Below: Peter teaches mid-week Bible study.



Motherwell, Scotland

David Simpson had been involved in the music ministry in his native Scotland during the '70s. David lived in the Scottish town of Motherwell, close to Edinburgh. He journeyed to America and experienced the spirit-filled worship at CC Costa Mesa. He went from church to church in Scotland but could not find what he found in the U.S.

Englishman Malcolm Wild was at CC Costa Mesa and brought over an outreach in 1981. He encouraged David to start a Bible study. As the church grew they met in the local courtrooms that were deserted on the weekends; using the witness chair as the pulpit and the cells for childrens' ministry. The fellowship then rented community halls in the beginning. As the townspeople saw the heart of the ministry, however, their attitudes have changed. This past summer Calvary Chapel was asked to run the youth ministry in the city. David was asked to serve on a ministry council by the same man that had vowed to run Calvary Chapel out of town.

A disturbing fact is that the Muslim mosque began at the same time as Calvary Chapel of Motherwell, each with six people. Now over a decade later, the mosque has 2,000 in attendance while 200 call Calvary Chapel their home.



David Simpson pastors the CC at Motherwell, Scotland. They recently purchased an old church building.

Ayr, Scotland

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Shortly after arriving in the Scottish town of Ayr, a British tabloid's headlines caught the attention of Pastor Bob Brown.

"Lost Generation," the Daily Mail said. "On drink, drugs, and unwanted pregnancies—British teenagers have the worst record

in Europe."

"Oh, how we need Jesus," thought Pastor Bob. He had been an assistant pastor on staff at CC Vista, California, for three years. Mission trips to the Ukraine and Hungary had led him to bring his family of five to Scotland. Ayr is a northern Atlantic coastal city, 60 miles west of Edinburgh and 35 miles southwest of Glasgow. This past summer, Bob's sending church, CC Vista, California, and CC Brandon, Florida, sent teams over to minister to the area youth. Through concerts, dramas, movies, sports, and picnics, hundreds of youth accepted Christ as their Savior. A remnant of those come to church regularly with an eagerness to develop a relationship with God.

"It is hard to believe that a land so rich in its Christian heritage, sending out missionaries and evangelists worldwide, could be so starved for the solid teaching of God's Word," said Bob. A seemingly dead orthodoxy of the state church gave way to sensational cults. The older generation views any new church with skepticism.

Church growth in Scotland is a slow process, building off of personal relationships. Trust needs to be gained. Nearly two dozen meet at nearby Kyle Academy. Wednesday night is Bible study, while Friday night is reserved for youth ministry.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Pastor Bob Brown, pictured with his family, enjoys the



CC Stockport, England

Editors note: In a most unusual switch, Ken Sutton, pastor at Stockport, England, and Mike Murray, pastor of CC Lynden, Washington, will exchange leadership of their Calvary Chapels. Pastor Mike was born in Manchester, England. Even though his parents moved to Canada when he was 2-years-old, his relatives remained. Stockport is a suburb of Manchester. He has always felt God leading him to return permanently and share the Gospel. Ken Sutton felt led to return to Washington where he grew up and his wife's parents live close-by. After much prayer and a visit by Mike this spring, both men feel confident that this exchange will be beneficial for everyone involved. Ken will return with his wife, Lynn, and their two girls and move into Mike's house in Lynden in December. Mike will journey to England with his wife, Yvonne, and three daughters in January. They will move into the parsonage above the church.

"When I brought a guitar for the first service, the people stared at me like I was an alien," recalls American Ken Sutton, pastor of CC Stockport, 200 miles north of London. The woman playing the church organ was 82 years old. The church, a century old itself, had run out of money. Newcomers had not visited the church for seven years. They sought out Calvary Chapel's assistance to save it from closing. The minister and his wife remained in the home above the church eight months after Ken squeezed into a small portion of the home with his wife and baby daughter. With scant leadership before, regulars seemed to resent the changes Ken was implementing. Gossip escalated. The people who were being critical began to leave. Ken remembered a teaching from Pastor Chuck. "A critical spirit cannot survive in an atmosphere of love." Either God will renew their spirit or they will leave. "I held onto that adage with every fiber of my being." Now there is little division or strife, and the seemingly once-dead church is alive with the Holy Spirit. People raise their hands in praise. Years before, Ken and his wife, Lynn, had planted a Calvary Chapel in Romania. After several years, they turned the church over to a national. Pastor Brian Brodersen asked Ken to join the CC Vista staff in southern California. They were there for several years before Pastor



Ken Sutton,

Brian felt the Lord's guidance to go to London. Brian then asked Ken to accompany him to Westminster to plant the first Calvary Chapel in London. Both men felt God leading them to do something that to their knowledge had not been tried before—turning a failing traditional church into a Calvary Chapel. Ken's heart is for the lost youth of the Stockport area. In a town of 30,000, there are no full-time youth pastors. The teenagers spend their weekends in clubs, high on a drug called Ecstasy. Disc jockeys are idolized by their loyal fans. The church has grown to 50 people. Sunday night is youth outreach night. Many area ministers feel the youth are beyond hope and show no attempt to reach them. "I wonder what would have happened if Chuck and Kay Smith had given up so easily on the hippies and flower children back in the '60s?" Ken mused.

Portsmouth, England

“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. 2 Cor 4:5

“I remember the reaction of the people when we finished our first book of the Bible,” said Ron Matsen, pastor of CC Portsmouth in England. “There was a great sense of accomplishment, as most of the congregation had never experienced expositional teaching before. Later when we finished the New Testament, the people spontaneously broke out into a round of polite applause.”

CC Portsmouth is located on the first floor of a shopping area in the village of Horndean, five miles north of Portsmouth. The famous sea town is located along the southern coast of England and is the home of the Royal Navy.



Ron Matsen

King Henry VIII started the English Navy in its harbor.

While at Maranatha! Music in the late '70s, Ron had begun an association with Malcolm Wild that led their combined musical ministry efforts to England. An opportunity for a Great Britain work permit in 1991 opened the door to live in a country where Ron felt called. The church began as a home Bible study. Initially Ron, wife Marcie, and their five children fellowshiped with the local evangelical churches, seeking to simply build up the Body of Christ. Ron was given an opportunity to teach in some of the local churches. The ministers of these churches were comfortable with

his Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa background. Ron was approached by one minister who said he believed that it would be a great idea if Ron started a new church in the area, one that taught the Word. The home Bible study had been in progress for six months.

The current worship leader and pastoral assistant came to the Lord during CC Portsmouth's first formal missionary outreach in 1994, led by Costa Mesa. An English teenager, Simon, overheard the outreach team conducting a Bible study and followed them. Later he committed his life to Jesus Christ. A few weeks later, Simon's girlfriend, Laurie, became a Christian. In 1995, Ron presided over their wedding. Simon became the first full-time staff member of CC Portsmouth.

“We have also been blessed by seeing a large percentage of our fellowship come to the Lord as new believers,” said Ron. Over half of the youth involved in the church committed their lives to Jesus while attending CC Portsmouth. With the support of Alwyn Wall, who is now the pastor of CC Westminster, CC Portsmouth formally began in the summer of 1993.

training internship. He met John Henry Corocran, who is from Ireland. John was an assistant pastor at CC Costa Mesa at that time. John Henry shared his burden for his native Ireland with Jim. The city of Cork, located in the southern part of the Republic of Ireland, was the area Jim felt drawn. He raised a support team and had the first home Bible study in Ireland on Easter Sunday of 1999. The fellowship now meets in a hotel and has weekly Bible studies. His wife Lorie has a women's Bible study followed by cross-stitching. They have three children.

This past summer they were blessed by two different Calvary Chapel outreaches. Poimea Chapel and Pastor Oden Fong brought Crim-son Mercy, a praise band and drama teams. A day later, CC Tucson arrived with a ministry directed at the Irish youth through sports outreaches.

“As a young church, it is so refreshing to see those who are willing to sacrifice their time and finances to come here to Ireland and live for Jesus,” said Pastor Jim. “Many Irish are religious but don't know God in a personal way through Jesus Christ.”

Shawn and Deanna Tebbe, from CC Placentia, moved to CC Cork in August of 1999. While Shawn plays guitar and leads worship, their main ministry is to teach God's word in 'Kids Church' while the parents are listening to Pastor Jim. Dramas, music, and visual props help demonstrate the love that Jesus has for the little ones.

Both have been continually amazed at how much they receive in return for their obedience. They are excited to be used to build up a solid Christian foundation.

One Sunday Deanna was feeling homesick and the effects of her first pregnancy. As the teaching ended, a 5-year-old girl approached Deanna. She gave her teacher a hug and told her how much she loved children's church and hearing the Bible stories. Deanna wanted to cry. The Lord had sent her a little bearer of hope just at the perfect moment.

On September 2, 2000, Deanna and Shawn were blessed with the arrival of their first child, Ester Rose Tebbe. She weighed in at 7 pounds and 10 ounces.

During the summer outreaches in Cork, a dialog began with teenagers hanging out in a park. Calling themselves Gothic kids, they profess to be pagans and some claim to practice witchcraft. Pastor Jim asked if these young people would be willing to sit through a Bible study on Saturday afternoons. To everyone's amazement they accepted.

CC Cork has asked for intercessors to stand in the gap and pray for this crucial outreach on Saturdays at 8 a.m. EST.

John Vickery formerly the pastor of Chalfont

St. Giles Christian Fellowship located just outside of London is presently in the process of planting the first Calvary Chapel fellowship in Wales. John, a native of Wales, is returning to his homeland after over 25 years of ministry in England to plant Calvary Chapel of Cardiff. John has a heart for planting churches in the UK and was instrumental in the work getting started in Westminster. His son Philip is looking to establish a work in Oxford in the near future. Please keep these new works in prayer. Phil and Meagan Pechonis and their two young boys have recently moved to England's West Country, from Calvary Chapel in North Dev-



Irish children spend time in prayer at "Kids Church."

on. Phil is connecting with a group of surfers that Brain Brodersen was involved with while living in the UK. His vision is to see Calvary's planted among England's surf culture.



Shawn Tebbe gets down to the children's level to teach. His wife, Deanna, was pregnant at the time.



Jennifer, daughter of Pastor Jim and Lorie Arnold, helps with the young ones.



Cork, Ireland

Jim Arnold had been invited by a friend to attend Harvest Fellowship in 1981. The words spoken by Greg Laurie were convicting to Jim. He gave his life to Christ that evening. His fiancée, Lorie, rededicated her life several weeks later. They began a youth ministry.

In 1989, Lorie encouraged Jim to go on a short-term mission trip to Scotland with the CC Arrowhead fellowship and others from CC Downey. Jim was able to minister to the Scottish youth he met in the area and saw that he could be effective in relating God's Word. “That trip changed my life,” said Jim. “God

spoke to me. If I were willing and available He would use me.” Jim and Lorie went back twice and eventually came over to assist. Upon returning to America, Jim went before the elder board at CC Arrowhead, telling of his desire to permanently enter the mission field. He spent two years in a pastoral

