

Early History of the Work in Britain

Information sent to Craig White in e-mails from elder Robin Jones dated 14 March 2024:

E-mail 1:

Early Members?

Mr Armstrong held two weeks of Evangelistic Meetings in June/July 1956 in the Andrews Halls, London. A Bible Study/Church was initiated - - no. 016 with about a dozen attending. George Meeker (now the London Office manager) was the Pastor.

Later in 1956, Rod Meredith came to London to study at the British Museum Library for his thesis on the Protestant Reformation. By December that year, the new London Church had dwindled to just five or six people.

Rod Meredith saw the need for urgent action. He planned a four week Evangelistic Campaign, five nights a week for January/February 1957. As I was studying in London at the time, I was able to attend those meetings at the Commonwealth Institute on Northumberland Avenue. After that campaign, the London Church had from 20 to 25 attending.

Mr and Mrs Meredith and George Meeker stayed in London until just after Passover in 1957. In those first eight or nine months of the London Church about 10 or 12 were baptised.

Mr and Mrs Howard Silcox. (They later took care of the Ambassador College grounds at Bricket Wood.)

Me and Mrs Silvernail.

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2nd e-mail continuing on from the previous:

Mr and Mrs Silvernail. (He was with the US Air Force) Seven year old Karen would later marry Peter Nathan.

Mr and Mrs Kelly (from the West Indies.) He played piano at our services. Their daughter, Janice, later married Kingsley Mather - our long time minister in Bermuda.

David Catlow

Miss Strain

Mr Symonds and son

Exact chronological order not certain. I'm on the move without records to hand.

Church of God News

In the UK we joined the many local church News Sheets springing up in the early 1960s. All were loosely modelled on the magazine format of the Ambassador College Portfolio. The British version was edited by Robert (Bob) Boraker - who headed the British Letter Answering Dept. and taught the 'Applied Journalism' (Portfolio) class at Ambassador in Bricket Wood.

Finally H Q in Pasadena brought some unity by choosing a single form of layout and a single name for them all: 'Church of God News.'

Bob Boraker had headed the Letter Answering Dept. in Pasadena, and transferred to the UK at the end of 1959 to start a similar Dept. at Bricket Wood. He married English student Margaret Lawson in 1961 and died last year (2023.)

Mrs Palin

Her name was not Ada. I will not be able to give you more information until I return to the UK where I may get some help from my records. But don't hold your breath!

Thanks for your patience.