

AIPM at Cambridge Road Baptist Church – Middlesbrough 2000 and 2011

Cambridge Road Baptist Church (CRBC) was the first UK Baptist church to have one of our American Interim Pastors. We (Chuck McComb wife Pat) served while CRBC looked for a permanent British Baptist pastor. CRBC was the church the McComb family attended for 4-years in the late 1970's while Chuck was working for Monsanto Chemical Company building a major expansion to an existing plant. An inordinate amount will be written about CRBC in the 1970's because God used those events as a springboard for this ministry that He started 25 years later! It is Jeremiah 29:11 about God's plans for His children proof positive. God knows what he is doing!

5/28/1977 Middlesbrough Baptist Church. AKA: Cambridge Road Baptist Church.



In the 1970's, Chuck and Pat served in CRBC with a British couple (John and Margaret Lewis) and 2 young men (Dave Lancefield and Rick Dudley) running the youth ministry at CRBC. We called the ministry "The Saturday Club" although we met on Friday nights – go figure! Years earlier, the church had to close a youth club because of rowdy young people. God solved that problem for us because in 4-years we never had a discipline problem! Our goal was to provide Bible study, games and refreshments. The Bible study was top priority. We decided that if Bible study were at the end, the youth might leave early and if at the beginning, they might come late. We put Bible study at the mid-point and just before refreshments! Nobody skipped Bible study!



Ca 1977 Whitby Saturday Club Outing
Pat, Dave Lancefield & Simon Blake



Rick & Terry Dudley & Pat McComb

5/1980 Barrington, IL. Lewis' USA visit



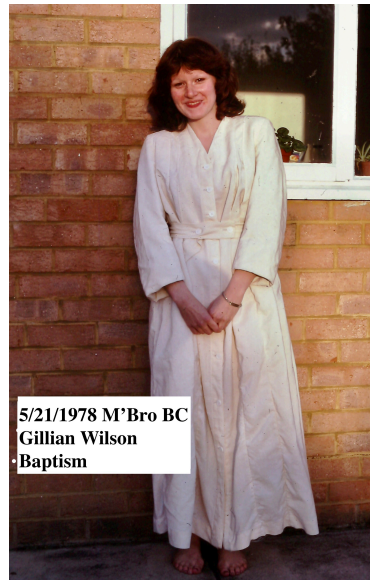
One of the many blessings from doing ministry is the life-long friends we make. The Lewis family visited us in the USA in 1980, the year after we came home. We drove from St. Louis to Chicago for their arrival and returned them to Chicago for their trip home to reduce their ticket cost. We enjoyed taking them sight-seeing including a trip to our hometown, Kennett, MO and to New Orleans.

We visited England several times in the 1980's and 1990's and visited John and Margaret and many others each time. When we were there in 1996, they were aware that God had called me to volunteer pastoral ministry and arranged with British pastor, Rev. Roy Crocker for me to preach my very first sermon ever at Coulby Newham Baptist Church. I will be forever grateful for that opportunity,

The highlight of our Saturday Club was the baptism of 5 of our young people in May 1977. They were Phillip Bainbridge, Michael Bowden, Stephen Carley, Hugh McComb and Gillian Wilson. Our pastor, Rev. Jim

Cargill, told us just before we had an all-day youth meeting at the church that we should tell the young people that he would be in his study in the church building from 10:00 AM to noon on that Saturday and that he would be pleased to talk with any of the youth that would like to chat with him about faith in Christ and the church. We were thrilled that 5 of our group spoke with Mr. Cargill and made professions of faith in Christ and were baptized on a Sunday soon thereafter.





We were well blessed at CRBC with 4 families from the USA worshipping and serving in the church in the late 1970's. From Monsanto Chemical Company there were George, Charlene, Gina and Eric Forsberg from Florida and Chuck, Pat, High and Christiana McComb from Texas. From Phillips Petroleum Company, there were the Autenwrieth's and Skinners from Oklahoma. As a point of reference, CRBC had a regular Sunday morning attendance of 100 or more in those days.

We believe that a successful youth ministry must have in addition to the leadership team, involvement of the congregation. That was true at CRBC especially for outings such as Whitby.



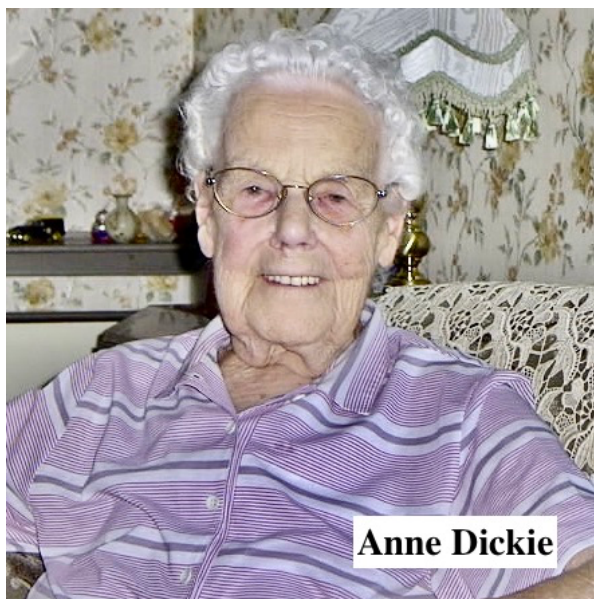
Here ends the recap of our experiences at CRBC in the late 1970's. Now for the beginning of American Interim Pastor Ministries, Inc. Chuck had retired from Monsanto on 1 May 1997 and in the fall of 1997, he and Pat were living temporarily in Ft. Worth, Texas while Chuck was finishing his master's degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. During that time, Chuck and Pat received a letter from Miss Anne Dickie, Church Secretary of CRBC. Miss Dickie wrote that the Baptist World Youth Congress was holding its every 5-years meeting in Houston, Texas in July 1998 and CRBC wanted to send 4 from their youth group to attend. They asked if Pat and Chuck's church in Houston might be able to provide housing for the 4. The McCombs

immediately wrote back that they would be pleased to host all 4 of the CRBC young people in their home.

The 4 young people from CRBC arrived in early July 1998 with several days free before the youth congress. The 4 from CRBC were Simon Maplesdon, Joseph Shepherd, Clare Smith and Tracy Smith (not related). We took them to a Sunday afternoon youth meeting at Sagemont Church. That huge crowd was somewhat overwhelming to our 4 British young people. The next week we took them to a youth meeting at Calvary Fellowship Baptist Church where Chuck had done his internship for seminary and had become friends with Brian Horner who was then the youth minister at Calvary.



The Calvary group really clicked with our guests and Brain organized several activities with the combined groups including trips to Galveston, San Antonio and the waterpark at New Braunfels, Texas. The McCombs took their fifth-wheel RV so Pat could prepare all meals for the group of 19! Chuck took the 4 British youth to each of the 3 days of the conference and survived the loud music thanks to a good set of earplugs.



The result of the visit to Texas for the 4 from CRBC was that they took a glowing report back to England with ample praise for the McCombs. That led their British youth leader, John Rhodes, who was also a deacon at CRBC to sense the Lord's leading to recommend that CRBC invite Chuck to serve as volunteer interim pastor. In the summer of 1999, Chuck was serving as "Relief Pastor" at First Baptist Church, Risco, Missouri. The pastor's wife was getting a double lung transplant at Vanderbilt University and Chuck was serving in his place for about 3-months. Another letter came from Anne Dickie. She told us that the church had voted to invite Chuck to serve as volunteer interim pastor. We told them that we could start around 1 April 2000. We did! Elsewhere, I shall write about Rev. David Hunt, then a Regional Minister in the Yorkshire Baptist Association, and his idea that this ministry would likely be of great interest to other small UK churches and indeed it has been.

Here ends the background for the beginning of AIPM in Middlesbrough in April 2000.



Ca. 2005. Charles and Pat. Friendswood, TX

Pat and Chuck McComb arrived at CRBC in early April 2000 and were pleased that the manse and a rental car were arranged and ready for us to start ministry. We were asked if we needed a couple of weeks to settle-in before starting (typical British graciousness) but we asked that someone else take the service on our first Sunday so we could observe how things work and thereafter we would be pleased to take the services. The highlight of AIPM's ministry at CRBC in 2000 was the baptism of 3 adults! CRBC planned several activities during the McCombs's interim pastorate including church "walks" in the beautiful English countryside and

a "Car Treasurer Hunt" involving several non-members. Another special even was having the local youth band that rented the church hall for practices play for a Sunday Worship service. This resulted in many non-members attending worship. A team was established to arrange activities to include non-members in the age 35 to 45 group. We were able to accomplish some building upgrade work including painting the church hall with all the labor provided by church attendees some of which were not members but loved the church very much. CRBC considers fellowship an important part of church life and arranges an annual weekend away for its members and friends.



CRBC - Church Walk



CRBC Weekend Away



God surely had His hands all over our service at CRBC in 2000 and at nearby Thornaby Baptist Church in 2002 and 2004! For one reason, I was able to serve in the community where my beloved pastor from the 1970's, Rev. Jim Cargill, lived in his retirement years. He became mentor to this inexperienced USA pastor (even more inexperienced in UK churches) and helped me with many issues that were of great concern to me. He used the same kind of wisdom that he had used 25-years earlier in inviting us to work in CRBC's youth ministry. I recall asking Jim where I should be on the Sunday that CRBC had invited a candidate to preach in view of call. Jim's immediate answer was, "Away." I preached that Sunday at Durham Road Baptist in Gateshead.

When we learned that Jim Cargill was retiring in 1985, we sent a private letter to the deacons with an offer to host Jim and Margaret in the USA. If the church were inclined to donate funds for tickets to America all other expenses would be covered. The offer was accepted, The McCombs picked up the Cargills in Chicago as with the Lewis family. They spent a week in St. Louis, and we drove them to Pensacola, Florida for a week with the Forsbergs. George and Charlene took them to New Orleans for a flight to Bartlesville, Oklahoma for a week with Charles and Gladys Skinner. The Skinners drove them to St. Louis for their trip to Chicago and then to England.

The goal of AIPM is to help the church until they can have a British pastor. CRBC called a British Baptist pastor in September 2000 so that Chuck and Pat were free to return to the USA. Our British brothers and sisters in Christ show their appreciation for our ministry alongside them while we are serving and especially as we prepare to return to our homes. They arranged a British/American party for us. Since we were vastly outnumbered, several of the congregation wore USA costumes.



In 2011, CRBC was without a British pastor and called Darrell Grice (wife Faith) to serve in the interim for a few months. This was the fourth of six assignments the Grice's had with AIPM! They started with us in 2004 as interim pastor at Milnsbridge near Huddersfield. In 2005, they served at Hamsterley in County Durham and volunteered to take Sunday afternoon services at nearby Wolsingham. In 2007, they served at Mirfield, also near Huddersfield. In 2011 they took this 4th assignment at CRBC. In 2014, the Northern Baptist Association recognized a need to provide encouragement for the pastors in their partnership with Lithuania Baptists. The NBA's leaders had observed that Darrell and Faith were blessed with the spiritual gift of encouragement and invited them to visit 6 pastors in Lithuanian churches over a 6-week period for a ministry of encouragement. AIPM partnered with the NBA and the Grice's in helping fund the trip. The Grice's 6th assignment was at Bootle Evangelical Chapel in Cumbria in 2014.



Darrell & Faith Grice



Roseberry Topping from Sutton Bank