

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a long time friend of Tony Horne and associate in attempts to restore Presbyterianism in the Bristol area, it was good to see Hugh Williams' tribute in the *British Reformed Journal* (issue 48). An interesting part of his story seems, however, to have been missed out (probably due to lack of information). We are told that Tony's magazine, *The Presbyterian*, "... was soon noted all across the world," but how a locally produced magazine could reach such an audience, in the days before the internet, is not explained. In fact, soon after launching the magazine, Tony linked up with several like-minded brethren in the Bristol area and the Bristol & Bath Presbyterian Fellowship was formed with a Committee of Tony, Rev. Derek Martin and myself. The Fellowship had the objective of forming a *Westminster Standard* and regulative principle Presbyterian church in our area, and then, via the magazine, to encourage and sponsor similar pioneer efforts in other parts of England. In order to become known and (God willing) receive help and encouragement in this, the Fellowship Secretary was tasked with making contact with "sound" Presbyterian and Reformed churches and denominations across the world, and sample magazines were often sent as part of these contacts. This is how the group became known "across the world," and it was in this way that the Fellowship made its first contact with the Protestant Reformed Churches (although Tony was already a reader of PRC books and literature). When the PRC sent Jason Kortering and Gise Van Baren to England on a mission of enquiry the initial meetings were held in the Fellowship Secretary's home in Bristol. It is probably fair to say that, of all the denominations contacted, only the Protestant Reformed Churches responded with more than token messages of goodwill. It must be equally recorded that with growing contacts with the PRC, the Fellowship Committee divided, with two members believing that the introduction of the "continental" *Three Forms of Unity* in the United Kingdom was a mistake and urging that all help received be strictly within a *Westminster Standards* Presbyterian framework, whilst Tony saw the PRC as offering a new start for things Reformed in Britain. In light of this, the Bristol & Bath Fellowship dissolved, and the magazine *The Presbyterian* ceased production. The rest, as they say, is history, but it is a fact that in the short lived Bristol & Bath Presbyterian Fellowship lay the true origins of the British Reformed Fellowship.

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