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The Pioneer Journal – Issue 10

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found peace with
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Prophetic teaching and training from Gerald Coates

On the level

I don't know Nadia Eweida. But I do know she was disciplined for wearing a silver cross around her neck. It created a national outcry.

Ms Eweida urged church leaders to speak up for other Christians who face discrimination in the workplace. 'I have to resort to law to establish Christian liberty in the workplace,' she said, 'but it's vital that church leaders continue to make their voice heard. British Airways bend backwards to be politically correct toward other religions. They just forgot there are other Christians working for them.'

'I'm an Anglo-Egyptian Christian and in Egypt, where Christians experience persecution, to wear the cross is second nature and widely respected. BA is sensitive to Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and those of other faith groups and all I want is the same right to wear the symbol of my faith.'

However, I do know Andrew McClintock. The Sheffield magistrate resigned from family work after refusing to place youngsters with same sex couples. His case is going to the Court of Appeal. He said it was in the interest of a child facing adoption, that they should be placed with a mother and a father. At a recent conference he said he had to resign as a JP in the Family Courts as it would be wrong in conscience.

According to Mr McClintock, placing children with gay couples is an experiment in social science – and it is not known what kind of impact it may have on them. By legalising homosexual adoption, Labour are not making paramount the best interest of the child – and are effectively neglecting a statutory obligation.

Both Mr Blair and Mr Brown are churchgoers, and as expected Mr Blair recently became a Roman Catholic. The Catholic Church is very clear on issues of biblical sexuality and fairness in the workplace.

In many churches there needs to be a softening of attitude to those who are attracted to the same sex, many of whom are within the Church and many more outside. But in all my years supporting young adults, several have looked to me for advice and support because of a bad father or no father. Not one of them has ever said they'd like two mothers or two fathers – something now imposed on us by this Government.

We're not asking for special privileges or rights, simply a level playing field where in law we are treated the same as those of other faiths.

Two hundred and fifty million Christians are persecuted for their faith in 60 different countries. Will Britain be the 61st?

Gerald Coates
Executive Editor



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PIONEER

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Arkansas church hosts birthday bonanza

POPULAR singer-songwriter Wayne Drain was among 400 people who recently celebrated the 35th anniversary of Fellowship of Christians in Russellville, Arkansas, USA.

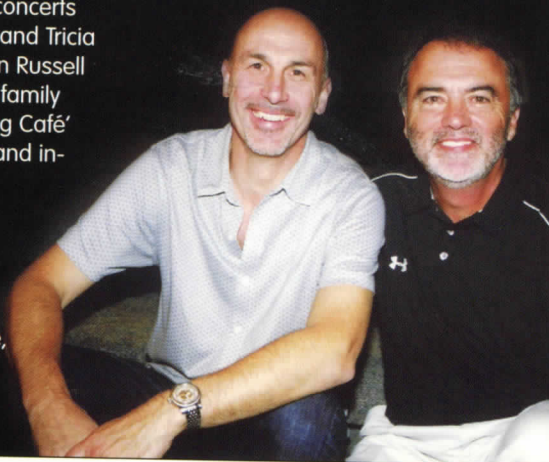
Wayne is Senior Pastor of the fellowship, which is an associate church of Pioneer. He also leads a small network of churches in Arkansas, North Carolina and Texas called Pioneer Connect.

The congregation hosted a weekend celebration of concerts with special guests Noel and Tricia Richards and The Jackson Russell Band. They also enjoyed family activities and a 'New Song Café' featuring special guests and in-house songwriters.

Events culminated in a Sunday morning service which drew several dignitaries including – Garland Eagle, Former Deputy Chief of The Cherokee Nation; Lu Hardin, Former State

Senator and President of the University of Central Arkansas; and Tyrone Williamson, Mayor of Russellville.

MUSICAL MATES: Noel Richards (left) helps Wayne Drain celebrate his church's anniversary



PIONEER PROJECT SCOOPS AWARD

A PIONEER-related project has scooped a major honour. Staff at the Hope Project on Wellingborough's Hemmingwell estate were recently presented with the Neighbourhood Entrepreneur Award for being the best social enterprise or income generating initiative.

The presentation was hosted by the National Neighbourhood Management Network. The awards were presented by MP Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, at a ceremony held at the CBI Conference centre at Centrepont, London, in November.

'The examples of outstanding work which are recognised by these awards are evidence that people are only too willing to get involved in decisions that affect them and their communities,' said Hazel Blears. 'Congratulations to all those who are working to empower communities and truly bring devolution to the doorstep.'

HIGH HONOUR: MP Hazel Blears (left) presents the award to Simon Trundle, leader of Pioneers' Hope Church, and Gill Correa, Hope Project Development Manager



PRAYER LEADERS GATHER FOR SPANISH FEAST

NO FEWER than 200 leaders from five continents recently gathered to pray, worship and celebrate what God has done through the growing 24-7 prayer movement.

They descended on Seville in Spain for the International Leaders' Gathering, which last year was labelled *The Feast*, taking its inspiration from the Jewish tradition of celebratory events. Theme of the weekend was John 15:16 – 'You did not choose me, but I chose you...'

Reporting on the event for the 24-7 website, Lucie Shuker said people from various nations spoke of some of the 'amazing things' happening across the movement. 'More than one person cried as they shared about some of the pain that they had also experienced along the way,' she added.

Part of 24-7prayer's UK team, Lucie said, 'Highs or lows, all the stories were underpinned by a common determination to follow Jesus, whatever that may mean'. Led by Pete Greig, the 24-7 initiative first came out of Pioneer – and like so many other ministries has been 'given away' to the nations (www.24-7prayer.com).

BIG TOP MAKES BIG IMPACT

AROUND 2,500 people took part in the week-long *ReFresh in the Park* at Molesey recently – and enjoyed a packed programme of 'high quality, fun events and church meetings'.

A large blue and white big top formed the base for events which ran throughout the day and evening, most of which were free for the community. There were activities for parents and toddlers, kids' club, youth marquee, senior citizens' tea, social events and a family fun day.

According to organisers Pioneer's Molesey Community Church, the reputation of *ReFresh in the Park* has grown stronger every year, with locals asking in advance for details. Traders support the event by loaning equipment, donating food and advertising space and by personally promoting the events with clients.

'*ReFresh in the Park* changed my life,' said one participant. 'God has helped me through some tough situations – I now feel strong enough to face whatever life throws at me' (www.mccrefresh.com).

Year of hope is underway

THOUSANDS of churches, organisations, youth groups and individuals have been rising to the challenge as the nationwide initiative *Hope08* gets underway.

The past year has been a time of preparation for the project, with more than 800 centres registering – and exceeding the team’s target of 500. In addition, more than 100 denominations and organisations have been identified as associate groups.

They are all taking part in a whole year of holistic mission – with such activities as hundreds of ‘family fun days’, thousands of *Hope08*-related school lessons and assemblies, and thousands of young people being recruited as ‘Hope Revolutionaries’.

A major milestone was the publication of the *Hope08* resource, offering 160 full-colour pages packed with practical ideas for transforming communities. A staggering 15,000 copies left the warehouse within the first month.

‘*Hope08* is first and foremost a grassroots initiative,’ said Chairman Steve Clifford, (also of Pioneer) ‘encouraging churches across the country to rise again to the challenge of reaching their communities through words and actions’ (www.hope08.com).

TAMIL CHURCHES GO GLOBAL

MORE than 20 Tamil churches and groups have been planted in six countries around the world – with as many as 1,400 members.

Alongside church planting, the Paalam Project has been set up to serve the people of Sri Lanka. Activities include – an international school attended by nearly 90 children, a medical centre seeing about 1,500 patients a month, a home with more than 30 children and a centre training up to 20 girls in vocational skills.

Such achievements were shared at a recent meeting of the Inspire Core Group led by Pioneer’s Steve Clifford. They were hearing the news from Karen Dey, who works with Jenny Sinnadurai in reaching the Tamil people. ‘We sat with open mouths as we heard what can only be described as a “21st century apostolic ministry” sent out from Rainbow Church,’ said Steve.

10,000 SCHOOLS SIGN UP FOR AFRICAN ‘CLASSROOM’

NEARLY 10,000 schools are joining forces with an innovative new scheme that brings the realities of African education closer to home for children and young people across Britain.

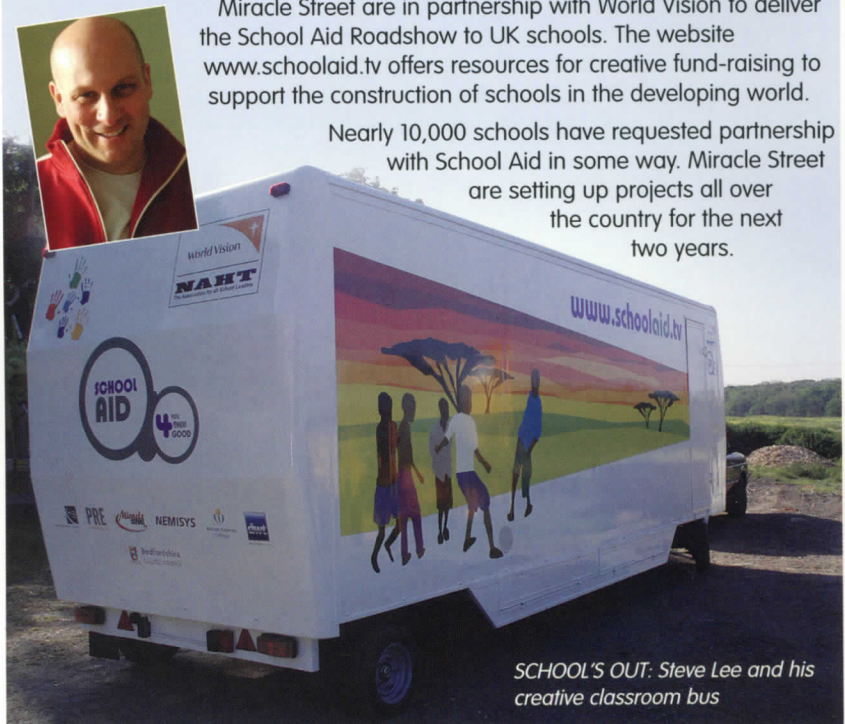
They are signing up for the School Aid Roadshow – led by Pioneer associate Steve Lee (pictured) – which comprises a trailer fitted out as an African classroom. This exciting interactive experience sounds the call for education to be made available to nearly 100 million children worldwide.

‘Children and young people are given an idea of how millions of kids experience school beyond the interactive “smart board” classrooms they are used to,’ said Steve, whose Miracle Street team are behind the project.

‘They discover a world where children walk several miles to school on an empty stomach having drunk from a polluted water source – and cared for younger siblings in family that has lost both parents to AIDS-related illnesses.’

Miracle Street are in partnership with World Vision to deliver the School Aid Roadshow to UK schools. The website www.schoolaid.tv offers resources for creative fund-raising to support the construction of schools in the developing world.

Nearly 10,000 schools have requested partnership with School Aid in some way. Miracle Street are setting up projects all over the country for the next two years.



SCHOOL'S OUT: Steve Lee and his creative classroom bus

MAD ROAD TRIPPERS HEAD FOR MOROCCO

COULD you get a photo of a nun in the boot of your car? How many nurses in uniform could you persuade to get into the vehicle? How many ‘do not disturb’ signs could you collect from hotels while travelling?

Such probing questions are being asked by Pioneer People Wirral, organisers of *Road Trek Morocco 08* – which they are promoting as ‘the most outrageous fund-raising event of the year’. The main objective is for each team to get a vehicle from Merseyside to Morocco – but while doing ‘madcap stunts and challenges’.

Each challenge will earn the team points – and the more extreme the challenge, the greater the points. The team with the most points will be crowned ‘King Of The Road Trek 08’. Participants will be raising funds for two Moroccan charities – an orphanage and a project providing therapy for children with disabilities.

Teams will hit the road on Good Friday 08 (March 21st) from ‘a secret location’ in Merseyside, and will need to arrive at an equally secret location in Fez, Morocco, by 10pm on Tuesday 27th March 08. For more information, visit www.roadtrek.eu.

Beautiful noise

Disappearing or developing? That was the question in the last edition of *Library Of Lives*. Gerald Coates rounds off his exploration of the Pioneer experience by examining issues of vision and values that will take us forward in the 21st century

Dietrich Bonhoeffer watched the Nazis take away the artists, academics, homosexuals, communists and gypsies. And he noted that the Church remained largely silent. They were taken up with doing their thing as they had always done.

'This is what religion does,' said Bonhoeffer, 'we need a nonreligious approach to Christianity.'

It was refreshing to hear moderate Muslims, following the recent imprisonment of a teacher in Sudan who allowed a pupil to name his teddy bear 'Mohammed'. Diplomacy and common sense prevailed because people were willing to speak up. By all accounts the teacher, Gillian Gibbons, is a fine Christian.

Bold sounds

It takes guts and courage to stand up and be counted. It is easier to creep back into religion than to speak up for Jesus. I have often wondered what Christ would think if a ten-year-old boy named his teddy bear Jesus. From reading Luke 15, I think it would bring a smile on his face – not a sword in his hand.

Perhaps Pioneer is best known for its nonreligious approach to church and Kingdom. But it is so easy to slip back to religion, which empowers the few and disempowers the rest.

Recently somebody complained in a church about the need for a weekly 'Lord's supper/breaking of bread' experience. But after a little discussion it was clear this family, eating together at least once a day, never broke bread and 'remembered the Lord'. They didn't do it when Christian guests came to a supper party – and they hardly ever did it in their house/cell group as part of church.

They've been robbed of initiative, creativity and relevance. It's far more relevant to break bread in this fashion than to do it in a large setting, often surrounded by people we barely know and in some settings passed on by a church leader.

Jesus Christ was not religious. Most of his rebukes were not aimed at the powerless, poor and criminals – but at religious leaders who enjoyed power. Jesus models servant leadership, and doesn't keep power at the centre – but empowers and gives it away.

'It is easier to creep back into religion than to speak up for Jesus'



But nonreligious Christianity is not primarily about meetings, religious clothes, places, calendars and experiences. As one non-Pioneer national church leader commented, 'The genius of Pioneer is its willingness to develop partnerships where there is no Pioneer branding'.

In the last issue I addressed whether in the light of our willingness to lose Pioneer branding (March For Jesus, ACET, futurist Dr Patrick Dixon, popular author/speaker Jeff Lucas), Pioneer is disappearing or developing.

Well, I suppose Pioneer is more of a DNA than a branding machine. The Kingdom of God has never been about Pioneer – though I am proud to have founded it and remain a senior leader within it.

Big bands

Increasingly, church has not been about a meeting, but a missional community who also want to meet and are often three generations together – praying, worshipping and giving a platform for apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors and evangelists.

I'm a member of OFCOM (Office of Communications) and CRAC (Central Religious Advisory Council). It has been a huge battle, particularly with the BBC, to help them understand that while many churches are closing, many charismatic – and indeed conservative – evangelical churches are growing. They are planting new expressions of church and are involved in community transformation through *Hope08*.

My Christian colleagues and I have had to block prejudice, ignorance and the general sense the Church has 'had it'. While not programme makers, we have been influential in helping to shape the sort of programmes which should be screened.

'Pioneer is more of a DNA than a branding machine'

Best tunes

Hope08 – a sort of Soul in the City in every village, town and city throughout this year – is going to transform how millions of people see church. God's people will be restoring houses, cleaning up parks, washing away graffiti, clearing debris and providing money, food and shelter across the UK on a grand scale.

There will also be hundreds of new Alpha groups, special evangelistic meetings, festivals where people can be prayed for and other fun events. People will be showing that God is not a disagreeable, angry judge on the throne, but as Jesus portrayed him in the story of the lost son – a partying, dancing Father.

And I really am proud that the chairman of *Hope08* and several other key leaders on the team are from Pioneer.

With the loss of my younger brother due to a mystery illness some months ago, and more recently my friend the Methodist evangelist Rob Frost, we are reminded we are not here forever.

And whether our years be many or few, we need to be looking at our own individual and corporate values. It is so easy to talk the talk rather than to walk the talk. Jesus Christ didn't just talk it – he did it.

As evangelicals we are activists. That's why the New Church movement has grown so rapidly over the last 30 years, with at least 300,000 members and 2,500 churches planted in that time.

But activists need to reflect. We need to ask ourselves, are we living by our values? Have we got sloppy and talk about relationships, while there are fractured relationships down our street, and we're not giving them the time of day?

Songs Of Praise continues to get three or four million viewers on an average Sunday. Many of these programmes are thoroughly evangelical, with incredible stories of conversion, redemption and reconciliation.

Recently we were shown a taster from what can only be described as an absolutely stunning series currently called *The Bible*. It relies heavily on animation. The BBC are spending £1.3 million on each programme. Such a move is virtually unheard of.

Another series that was stunning – but publicised insufficiently at the time – was the Rageh Omaar series *The Miracles of Jesus*. The BBC's 'man in Baghdad' during the 2003 Iraq war, the programmes use state-of-the-art effects, on-location reporting and dramatic reconstructions to explore Jesus' miracles. Every church should have a set of the DVDs, thankfully now available through Bible Society.

It's quite a challenge. So, let's make our personal music, our localised symphonies, and occasionally participate in the big band sound. God knows how much people around us need the music of heaven – along with its truth, beauty, love, mercy and grace.



Gerald Coates is founder of the Pioneer network of churches and ministries, and Executive Editor of *Library Of Lives*.

Carry your coffin

Are you ready to risk all for worship? Even if that means dying to your own tastes? Dave Bilbrough explains how we need creativity and courage if we want to see music and mission knotted together

They took their coffins with them. That's how many of the early missionaries equipped themselves for a life of worship, as they embarked for distant shores. They fully expected they would not return home alive.

I marvel at the missionary endeavours of such men and women. Fearlessly, they went into the unreached – and unknown – lands for the gospel, leaving loved ones behind at great personal sacrifice.

In 1793 William Carey set sail for India. Years later, C T Studd embarked on a lifelong identification with people in the Belgian Congo of Africa.

Western styles

Much of their legacy has been amazingly positive and tremendously fruitful. However, some of the negative

outcome has been 'colonialisation' of the gospel and mass export of *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, imposing western styles of 'doing church' and how our musical expressions of worship are executed.

Contrary to popular belief, music is not a universal language. There are many languages in music – just as there are many languages that are spoken. What can touch the heart in musical expression in Prague can be quite different from what moves someone in Mumbai, India.

Across the age groups and also musical genres, there are many subtleties and nuances of great variety that stir the soul. We are allowed preferences but not prejudices when it comes to worship.

Increasingly, the role of the *ethnomusicologist* has become a valuable one – working with remote tribes learning the musical vocabulary of the people groups and encouraging indigenous expression.

God wants us to be authentic to who we are, and he moves into our culture to meet us where we are. In many cities across the world, the youth have embraced MTV culture so they would value western musical expressions.

Contrary to popular belief, music is not a universal language

We need to learn to fuse together different styles to create something of the 'new song' the Bible talks about. We have opportunity for fusion and remix affirming cultural values and flavours – while also recognising the current trends of various people groups.

This is something of the missionary legacy. Luther took music from the taverns and introduced words of praise in a way that was radical and groundbreaking to the Christian landscape of his time. Wesley did the same.

Now in the West we live in a culture of rap and hip-hop and a bewildering array of musical styles. Let's not allow ourselves to become stereotypical in our thinking, even encamping around a contemporary worship banner that owes much of its existence to the 80s rather than this current musical climate.

Each generation has a new song to sing. And it will be different from the style of the last generation.

Mud huts

Over the years I've had the privilege of being in a multitude of diverse styles of Christian gathering; sitting in rows, in a circle, half-circle, on the floor, in pews (ouch!), on chairs; being 45 minutes in from the official start-time with people still chatting and realising the meeting had already begun; singing in mud huts in the jungle, glorious cathedrals, theatres, cinemas, stadiums; to young people, old people and everything in between.

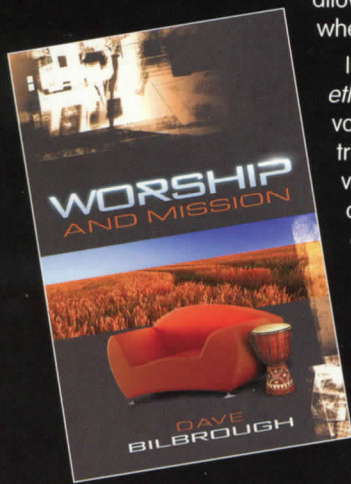
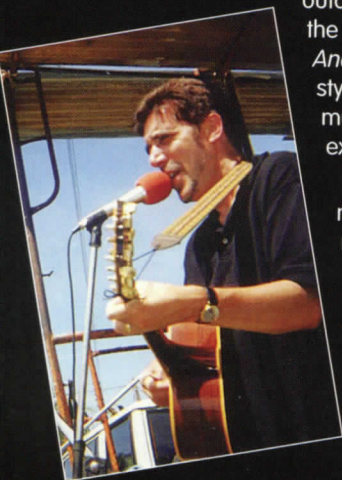
I've even sung in an abattoir and a boxing ring!

The New Testament writers had very little to say about the style of our worship meetings – they simply need to reflect our culture and background. Jesus wants to be uniquely expressed through each church situation.

The old covenant prescribed set forms of worship that will point us to the new, but now the external rituals have been replaced by an internal spiritual reality. This leaves us free to jettison prescriptive and patterned procedures and to explore the spontaneous, unique and indigenous expressions arising from our gifts and skills and our geographic location.

If our worship is to engage in mission, we need to connect with the styles and culture that are surrounding us – and avoid the temptation to isolate ourselves from the fashions, music and social trends around.

Whether we are traditional, emergent or liquid, it's OK. What brings it all together is our new birth in Christ for in and through Christ all things are brought into unity.





The New Testament concludes there will be a new heaven and a new earth where God is praised in every language, (Revelation 7:9; 14:6); that people of all cultures will walk in God's light (Revelation 21:4); that all nations will be healed, (Revelation 22:2).

Radical life

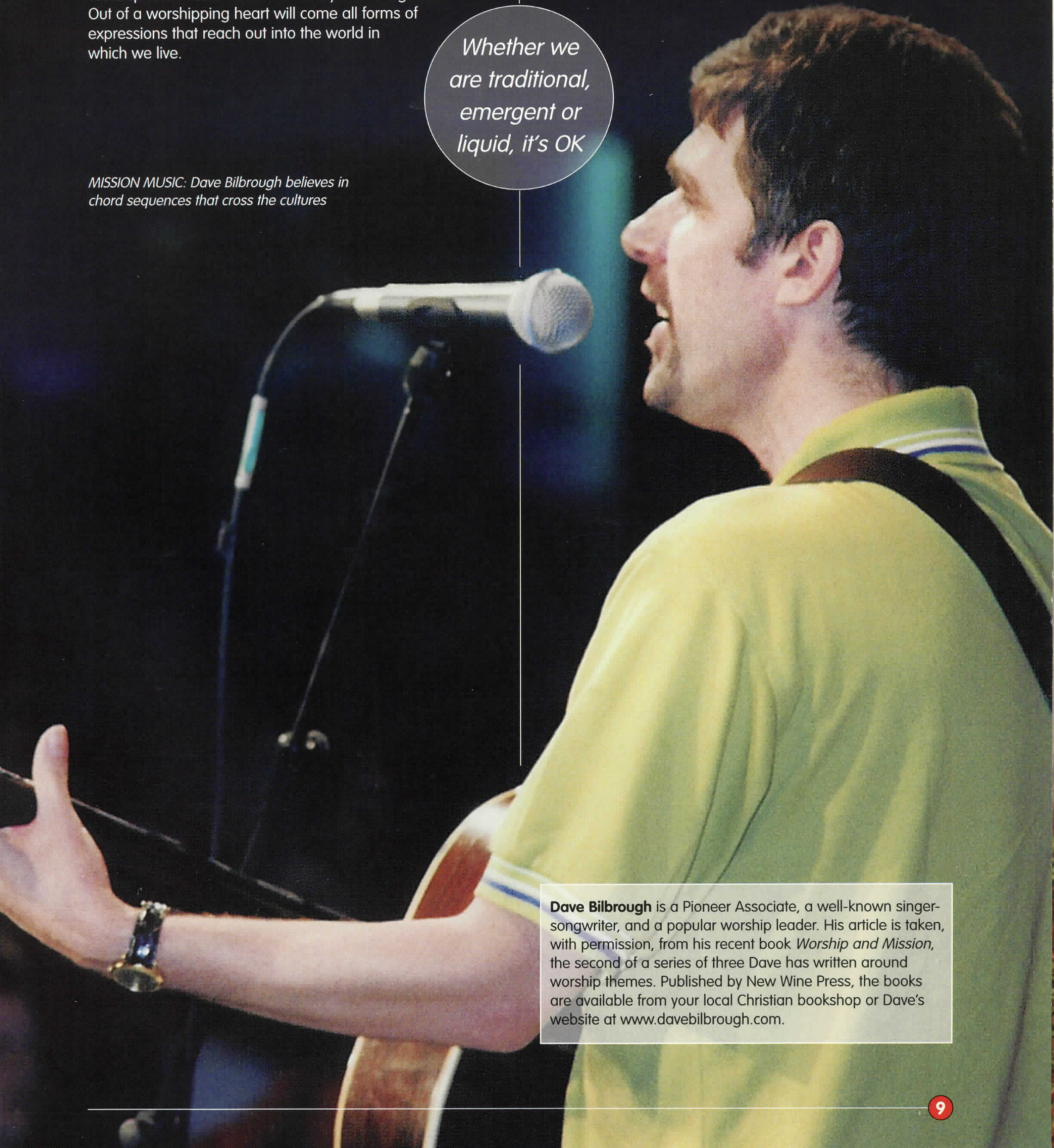
Our distinctive cultural and unique flavour is made all the richer as we play our part in tandem with others but joined together by the head, who is Christ. Worship and mission are inextricably linked together. Out of a worshipping heart will come all forms of expressions that reach out into the world in which we live.

Jesus lived a radical life of worship in outrageous abandonment in obedience to doing the Father's will. He stepped down from his throne in heaven to become one of us – and in so doing not only left behind his comfortable surroundings but also chose to identify and communicate in a language and culture that was relevant to the times.

In the same way our life of worship should look for ways to connect with the world around by making his word accessible.

Whether we are traditional, emergent or liquid, it's OK

MISSION MUSIC: Dave Bilbrough believes in chord sequences that cross the cultures



Dave Bilbrough is a Pioneer Associate, a well-known singer-songwriter, and a popular worship leader. His article is taken, with permission, from his recent book *Worship and Mission*, the second of a series of three Dave has written around worship themes. Published by New Wine Press, the books are available from your local Christian bookshop or Dave's website at www.davebilbrough.com.

Through the looking-glass

Who am I? Where am I from? These are key questions for us all – and Anona Coates broke into her timeline to find the answers. What she found proved to be unsettling, to say the least.

Clive Price previews her dramatic story

GRIPPING YARN: Anona Coates has decided to tell her life story - and it's far from a cosy fireside read.

It's a wartime drama, a child's living nightmare and a full-blooded family saga – all rolled into one. Anona Coates, supportive wife of Gerald, founder of the Pioneer network, has stepped into the spotlight to tell her own story.

Some people would have heard snatches of it over the years, as Gerald has opened a window on his family's ongoing experiences at Pioneer conferences. Yes, many of us heard of Anona's discovery that she had been adopted.

But very few of us really knew the full inside story.

Different identity

'One day, when I was 43 years of age, I found a skeleton in my cupboard,' said Anona. 'The amazing thing was, it looked just like me.' As she 'stared' at this 'mirror image', Anona wondered, who was this person? Where was she from?

'She had a different identity, a different family,' said Anona. 'She had a past I knew nothing about, but a future that would be changed by what I'd discovered. I knew for sure, from that day on, my life would never be the same.'

To be at peace with herself, Anona felt she had to find out about this person she never knew. She has now documented this journey in a book, to be published this spring. It's a heart-warming story of a carefree childhood in an age before gridlocked motorways, Sunday shopping and a media-soaked culture.

'Until I was four years old, life was an adventure,' she admitted. 'After the shortages during the war, mothers were proud to have fat babies – they spoke of health and prosperity – and I certainly was one.'

'My only defect was that my ears stuck out.' Her mother tried the old remedy of sticking them back with sellotape, which didn't work. 'Still, I came second in a "Beautiful Baby" competition,' said Anona.

However, after the sepia-tinged serenity of the early years in Surrey, it's also a moving account of abuse that eventually marred this age of innocence.

Photograph:
www.andynewboldphotography.com

Disturbing episode

Anona was just 13 when, early one Saturday morning, her adoptive father went into her bedroom and shut the door. 'He knelt down beside the bed and started to kiss me on the lips... I was not sure what he was doing,' she recalled.

'His breathing got heavier and he was saying, "I love you", which he never ever said. Eventually it was over, he went downstairs, and I got up and followed, not knowing what to expect.' Her dad would be pleasant to her that day. The horrific 'visits' would occur every few weekends over the next two years.

It is an intensely disturbing episode in her story.

'I dreaded those mornings and grew to really hate my father,' Anona remembered. 'I had no understanding of what was happening but I knew it was wrong and I hated it.'

Not surprisingly, Anona became desperately unhappy at home. 'Apart from what was happening with my father – I felt Mum should have been protecting me – I felt my mother never treated me like a daughter,' she said.

'We didn't go shopping together or talk about life, boys or any girly things. She had no interest in clothes or make-up and gave me no help or advice as I grew into a young woman.' Resenting both parents, she plotted her escape.

One day, walking home through the woods, she felt desperate. 'I even considered killing myself,' she said. She thought over the various ways – slitting her wrists, hanging herself, swallowing tablets – and stopped herself. 'I realised they were all painful and I was too much of a coward,' she recalled.

It was during this time that Anona became plagued by nightmares – 'nearly every night'. One of the dreams was of her house ablaze, and being trapped in her bedroom with no way of escape. Another was about being chased down a narrow track by a 'man in black'.

A light broke through her seemingly endless darkness. Growing up, she found a faith in God – and a husband in Gerald. He supported her as she took steps to find her roots, no matter how painful that would be. Anona kept a record of her journey, and of how she felt at milestones along the way.

'At last I've proved something I suspected from way back when I was a child and life did not seem to make sense,' she wrote in her journals. 'I am adopted.'

But when Anona first saw the adoption certificate, it was as if she was reading about someone else. 'Even the setting was surreal,' she recalled. She was sitting in the car, in a traffic jam in Trafalgar Square, London, at midnight.

'Gerald was with me wearing a Hawaiian shirt and I was wearing a grass skirt with a necklace of flowers around my neck. We had just left the 40th birthday party of our friend Peter Meadows and...the theme had been *Hawaii Five-0*.'

Her husband had left early that morning for a church conference, taking the mail with him. After opening it during the lunch break, he realised he needed to speak to Anona alone.

'How would you feel if you did discover you were adopted?' he asked.

'Relieved,' she answered. Gerald handed her the certificate.

'At first, I thought it was my birth certificate,' she remembered, 'it looked similar and had my name, my parents' names and their details.' Then she noticed it was headed 'Adoption Certificate'. She had been adopted on 15 July 1948.

What did that feel like?

For Anona, the revelation produced a sense of freedom. She felt set free of all ties and responsibilities. She felt set free to choose how to relate to her adoptive family.

'I walked around in a daze and enjoyed that sense of freedom for a couple of weeks. Then curiosity got the better of me and I started my search for the "real me".'

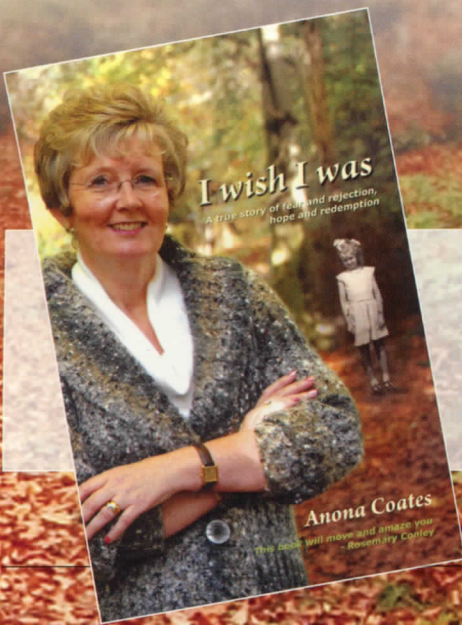
'One day, when I was 43, I found a skeleton in my cupboard'

Moving moment

From the early 90s onwards, a trail of tears led into a road to forgiveness as Anona experienced healing – and found her true parents. But it wasn't easy, and this discovery opened up another major set of challenges.

One of the most moving moments occurred just after Anona met her birth mother. 'A few days after she returned home, I received a lovely card thanking me for the visit,' Anona remembered.

'She enclosed a cheque for me to buy a silver teapot I had admired in an antique shop near Hampton Court. She wrote, "This is several years of birthday presents". I was very touched.'



Clive Price is Editor of *Library Of Lives*. Anona Coates' book *I Wish I Was* is published by Authentic at £7.99 (ISBN 9781860247019). Apart from being an encouraging, heart-warming story, it will be useful reading for those searching for their own family roots – and for family, friends and counsellors who are helping them. A list of agencies is included at the end of the book.

Have all the jobs gone?

How TiE Teams, then DNA, has helped reshape the genetic code of church leadership over the past 20 years

It started over a drink in a pub at Bognor Regis between Steve Clifford, Roger Ellis and Pete Gilbert. And so the history of TiE (Training in Evangelism) Teams began.

As a network, Pioneer was becoming aware that a number of individuals were approaching their leaders to enquire 'if all the jobs had gone'. Aspiring to leadership and usefulness, they didn't want to go away to Bible College but required on-the-job training and character development.

So TiE Teams ran for ten years, with Steve Clifford responsible for the programme, before handing it over to Pete to carry forward in 1995.

Mission opportunities

Hundreds of people did the one-year programme based in churches, being personally fast-tracked in discipleship and made useful in mission opportunities in the UK and overseas. Several thousands more experienced a 'taster' summer opportunity.

In 1996/7 Pete thought about the need for TiE Teams to be more accessible, flexible and creative. After much prayer and advice DNA was birthed in 1997, building on lessons learned, lives changed, churches served and leaders developed.

Now 20 years on, the initiative has seen more than 900 individuals having journeyed through TiE Teams/DNA and into areas of usefulness both inside and outside the Church. They are people who have wanted to pay the cost for personal church-based discipleship.

A show of hands at any Pioneer leadership symposium, conference or forum shows just how many of the network's leaders have been through DNA or TiE Teams. Around 30 per cent of trainees go on to full or part-time church leadership, leaving an equally exciting 70 per cent in leadership positions engaging with community through the workplace.

Partnerships over the years have operated with countless churches from an extremely wide variety of background – both in terms of sending trainees to do DNA and in being placement churches. Churches have been served across denominations and networks as diverse as Salvation Army to Baptist to Methodist.

'They are people who have wanted to pay the cost for personal church-based discipleship'

Partnerships operated

Most DNA years see around 20 churches being served, with an average of 50 per cent from outside Pioneer. And so the network continues to be enriched and influenced, and enrich and influence, beyond its sphere of churches and relationships – a value that is in itself close to the heart of Pioneer.

Partnerships have also operated with organisations such as Fusion, Peaceworks, Through the Roof and more latterly Urban Saints (formerly Crusaders) and SWYM (South West Youth Ministries).

The staff team over the years has changed – the current team of Pete, Guy Bevir, Bob Lock, Tim Raynes and Caz Rouse have all done either TiE Teams or DNA. Other staff

members over the years have been Steph Carr, Steve Howarth, Andy Horne, Rachel Schorah, Sarah Smith, Christabel Tuke, Linda Ward and Ness Wilson.

Have you considered upgrading your genetic code? DNA might be able to help.

TIME TEAM: They would like to give you a life-changing year – the DNA leadership team

