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The Pioneer Journal – Issue 11



God's outlaws

Jeff Lucas urges us to become 'merry men'



8

NEW PIONEERS

How to create church in the emerging culture

10

SUPER GLUE

How to stick society back together again

12

DELIVERING THE MALE

Why men need a good dose of reality

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Prophetic teaching and training from Gerald Coates

Empty nest

It's known as the 'empty nest syndrome'. Our eldest son, Dave, is 22, and moved out of home last year. Erin is 19 and will be leaving for university in September. That leaves our youngest son, Daniel, currently at sixth form college.

It's a strange mixture of sadness and excitement. There is sadness that our children are growing up and moving out. But there's excitement about what this new freedom could mean for me and my wife Caroline.

New identities

We've observed similarities with our own domestic situation, and the Pioneer network. Pioneer has been a family of churches and ministries with a very strong identity. Sons and daughters have grown up within the movement. As they've matured, they've found new partnerships and developed new identities.

The temptation is to try to hold everything together, reinforcing what makes us 'the special ones' – rather than releasing our kids to all God has for them. What holds us together is not structure, but relationships. We are committed to foster and develop those relationships as we seek to develop our understanding of what it means to be a 'network of networks'.

Care for the churches and leadership development will now be taking place within the six teams we have previously identified. But at the recent Pioneer Leader's Conference, I outlined three key areas we wanted to explore together – church planting, leadership development and investing in the next generation.

We don't want to duplicate all the good work being done by other streams and networks that exist across the nation. But we recognise there are still vast swathes of our towns and cities where there is no effective gospel presence.

Conspire together

It's to those places we feel called to go. It's there we need to establish Christ-centred communities bringing hope to fractured lives and communities; to equip men and women to be all God has called them to be; and to raise up the next generation to take hold of God's purposes for them.

Family weddings and seasonal festivals take on a whole new meaning for families that have grown up and moved away. They become times of celebration and reflection. I'm looking forward to those times when we can celebrate all the great things God has done, meet all the new friends our family has made – and conspire together for the future.

Billy Kennedy



Contents



lifeworks page 4&5
The latest news from around the network



lifechangers page 6&7
Having a good laugh at church? If not, why not?



lifestyle page 8&9
How do we create church in an emerging culture?



lifesavers page 10&11
It's time for the Church to step in and fix society



lifetimes page 12
Men need sorting out – with a good dose of reality



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Cover Image: The Adventures of Robin Hood (WB/Kobal, 1938)

Roots for the church

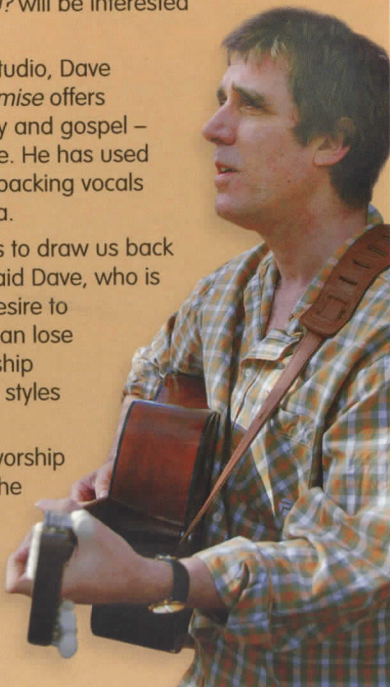
WORSHIPERS, musicians and songwriters who appreciate the raw 'roots' music of Bruce Springsteen's *The Seeger Sessions* and the soundtrack of the hit movie *O Brother Where Art Thou?* will be interested in this new selection of praise songs.

Recorded 'live' at Athlete's Greenwich studio, Dave Bilbrough's latest recording *People of Promise* offers folk-driven melodies with tinges of country and gospel – focusing on the themes of unity and grace. He has used double bass, drums, guitar, piano – and backing vocals that sound like The Blind Boys of Alabama.

'My musical inspiration for this album is to draw us back to who we are and what we stand for,' said Dave, who is a Pioneer associate. 'Sometimes in our desire to become sophisticated and blend in, we can lose our cutting edge and forget that our worship expressions are to be sung in all kinds of styles and settings.'

All profits will go towards developing worship initiatives that Dave, along with Pat and the band, are involved with in parts of the world that cannot afford to host such events (copies available from www.davebilbrough.com price £12).

COUNTRY CREED: Dave Bilbrough releases an album of Springsteen-style worship



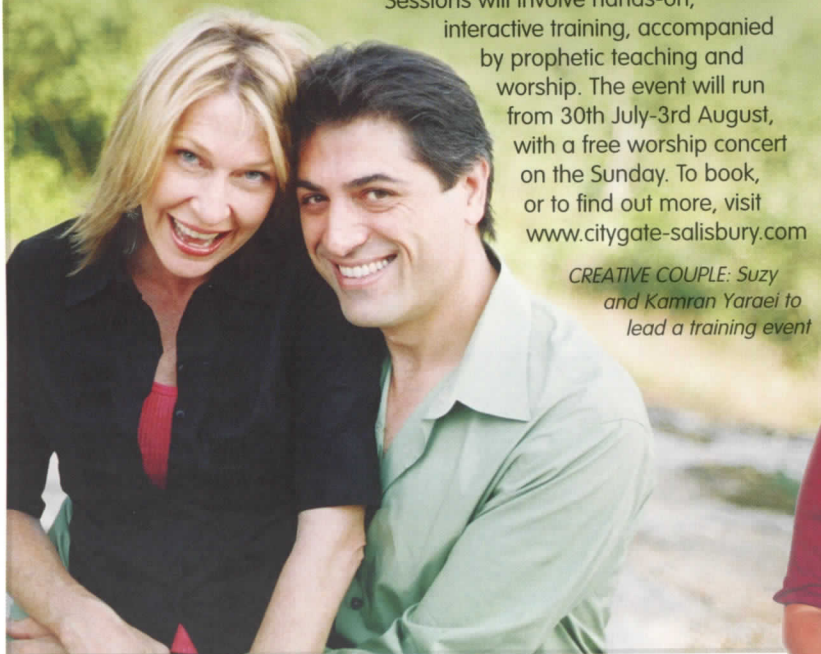
Salisbury to soak in prophetic worship

WORSHIP leader Suzy Yaraei, and her husband Kamran – a former shi'ite Muslim – are to head a five-day conference aimed at inspiring 'a lifestyle of powerful and passionate worship'.

Hosted by Pioneer church City Gate in Salisbury – and joined by Leonard Jones and other musicians from Morning Star in North Carolina (Rick Joyner's ministry) – Suzy and Kamran are seeking to train all those who want to learn and grow as worshippers.

Sessions will involve hands-on, interactive training, accompanied by prophetic teaching and worship. The event will run from 30th July-3rd August, with a free worship concert on the Sunday. To book, or to find out more, visit www.citygate-salisbury.com

CREATIVE COUPLE: Suzy and Kamran Yaraei to lead a training event



They got the picture

PIONEER's Open Heaven church was among more than 500 people from across Loughborough who recently completed a massive picture telling the Easter story – as their contribution to *Hope08*.

Nine different scenes depicted the main Easter events from Palm Sunday to resurrection day. Sections were added each day on a huge scaffolding frame erected outside Emmanuel Church.

Longer than a football pitch and taller than a two-storey house, 'the bigger picture' was produced by schools, community groups, churches and families using 2,500 pots of paint and two miles of scaffolding.

Vicky's victory

OUTREACH drug worker, and member of Sheffield church The Eccles, Vicky Ward has scooped a major national award for her work.

Vicky, who works with the Turning Point Adult Treatment Service, received the Tackling Drugs Changing Lives National Award at a ceremony in London. Home Office Minister Vernon Coaker presented the honour, which also includes a £10,000 cheque for the project or organisation.

Campaign organizers said Vicky 'works tirelessly' to get homeless people into treatment. Visiting squats and streets to locate her clients, she then ensures they can access the treatment and healthcare they need.

WINNING WARD: Vicky from Pioneer's The Eccles gets the highest honour



SPANISH SPEAKING

MORE than 500 delegates from across Spain converged on a men's conference at Toledo, recently – and Pioneer founder Gerald Coates was one of the main speakers.

He was also main speaker at a leaders' day in Liverpool and another in Stoke on Trent, where there was significant demand for CDs from the talk.

LONDON CALLING

A SECOND series of Gerald Coates' *Insight: The School Of Prophecy* has been recorded for Premier Radio.

The programme is broadcast at 10.30pm Saturdays and 4.15pm Sundays on: 1305, 1332, 1413 MW – Greater London only; Sky Digital 0123; Virgin Media 968; Freeview 725; DAB; www.premier.org.uk. Gerald has also done a number of interviews for United Christian Broadcasters (UCB).

TOP MARK

A STORY of experience spanning 20 years – from the Atlas Mountains of Morocco to the Welsh valleys – has influenced a new album by Mark Lowe of Antioch Church, Llanelli. Composed by Mark and wife Karen, the nine-track CD *Higher* features some of the church's own gifted singers and musicians. Samples can be heard at www.myspace.com/marklowewales, and copies bought at www.antiochchurch.co.uk/shops_cds.htm.

Pioneer reaches 'turning point'

It was a time of tears. Many wept as they received much valued support through prayer and prophetic input.

They were among the delegates at the Pioneer Leaders' Conference, where two such ministry sessions were held for groups of around ten people each. And they were a huge success.

There was also much humour – from key speaker Dary Northrop, Jeff Lucas' pastor in the USA. His opening talk on Thursday night has been described as 'stunning', and he spoke with clarity and wisdom about church and kingdom. Dary's church – Timberline, Colorado – has almost 10,000 members in a town of only 130,000.

Held earlier this year at Letchworth, the annual Pioneer event proved to be a 'turning point'. That was the conclusion from Billy Kennedy, who with wife Caroline leads New Community in Southampton.

'We're now a network of networks,' Gerald Coates told delegates, 'with many teams representing the team in various parts of the country.'

'We're living with the tension of wanting to be together as Pioneer with a national – and in some cases international – voice. But we're also developing relationships, church training and planting through the various teams and networks across the UK.'

The National Churches Forum, now facilitated by the Kennedys and Gerald's own small network Exchange, are 'working well in their infancy'. According to Gerald, this was reflected in the nature and content of the conference.

Addressing the event, Gerald made it clear that with the sharing of responsibilities with NCF/Exchange and the growing number of networks in Pioneer, the 'centre of gravity' would shift to Billy and Caroline in the next 12 months.

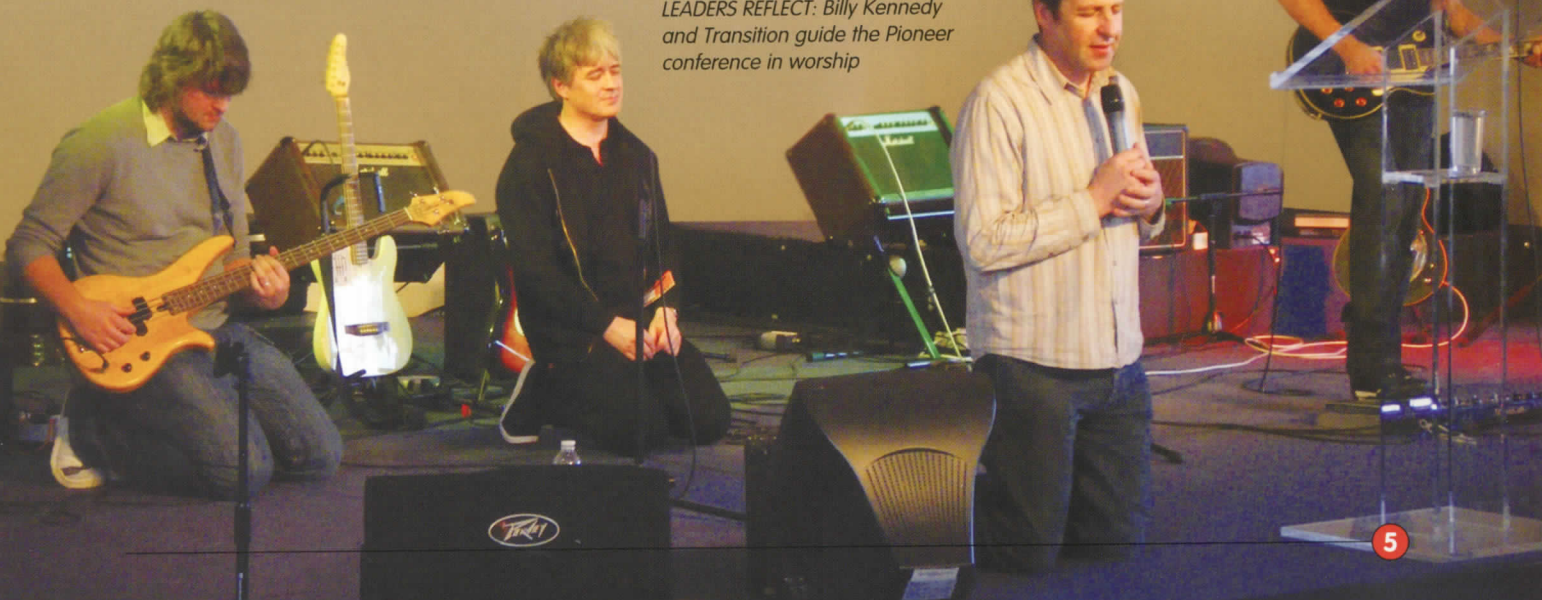
A wide range of seminars on the theme of 'Love...' covered everything from Love Your Estate, The Unborn, The Stranger, The Supernatural and The Earth. Bristol Christian Fellowship provided Transition to lead the worship. They were creative and engaging.



Delegates' feedback was positive. Phil Moore, leader of Molesey Community Church, said the conference was 'absolutely excellent at all levels'. Linda Ward of Bless in West London also said it was 'excellent', and Mary Dennison from Hayling Island said it was 'one of the best'.

The main sessions can be heard on the Pioneer website – www.pioneer.org.uk. Next year's conference, by invitation only, will take place in Letchworth from 26th-28th February 2009.

LEADERS REFLECT: Billy Kennedy and Transition guide the Pioneer conference in worship



God's outlaws

**Breaking a few rules by having a good laugh at church? If not, why not?
You could be preventing a prodigal from returning – as Jeff Lucas explains**

The prodigal-friendly church is called to be the primary sign of the kingdom – a living banquet, a working model of life lived under the love and lordship of Jesus, and a party with an open-door policy where all are invited to come in from the cold and join in the fun.

One writer compares the church to the 12th-century character of legend, Robin Hood. In that story, the honourable and good King Richard is absent from the

country, and so the land is ruled by his despicable brother, King John. Harsh taxation and national oppression lead Robin, Maid Marion, and a band of 'merry men' to go underground – or specifically, into the undergrowth of Sherwood Forest.

*MERRY MAN: Errol Flynn's Robin Hood aims to bend the rules in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (WB/Kobal, 1938)*

Their acts of defiance and charity (robbing the rich to give to the poor) keep alive the hope of the good king's return. They are a mischievous, subversive lot, characterised by their playful ability to laugh in the face of suffering, because they know that the reign of evil is temporary.

Living signs

As we delight in story, laughter, and outrageous celebration and kindness, we become living signs of the reign of Christ that is here, but is yet to come in its fullness. In a Robin Hood analogy, Graham Tomlin boldly declares that gloomy churches will never make an impact – on the contrary:

'The images Jesus used to describe the kingdom were always full of delight. It is like a feast with lavish food and great hilarity, or a woman finding a priceless lost necklace and throwing a party to celebrate. The picture of a bunch of outlaws celebrating with huge joyful meals deep in the forest in defiance of the false powers is the same kind of story.'

'This is no stern, solemn king, exercising a humourless, cold, rule. It is the rule of the gracious host, inviting us into his home, the place where he is in charge, and where there is lots of deep, rich laughter. Miserable, gloomy and dull churches have simply missed the point.'

The church is a family, and the party we are called to throw is more like a family barbecue than a glittering tuxedo event. Our church family should be like home to us, a place where we can truly be ourselves.

Laughter is a sure sign of our being at home, both with God and each other. And people desperately want to be part of a family like that. Witness the upsurge of reality television, together with the popularity of television series such as *Friends*. The opening theme song from the television series *Cheers*, popular in the 1980s, says it all about the desperate hunger for authentic relationships:

*You wanna be where you can see,
troubles are all the same
You wanna be where everybody knows your name*

Churches that will create space for meaningful relationship, fun, and laughter will grow – and that includes returning prodigals who want to be part of them.

Recently a British student studied large, growing churches from charismatic and non-charismatic denominations, evangelical and historical/traditional backgrounds, and both the Protestant and Catholic elements of the Christian family. The research student was looking for the 'X' factor in them all that might point to the main reason for their rapid growth.

The study took a year, and finally he reached his conclusion. The common factor that each and every one of these fast-growing churches shared was that each was a community where people laughed together. Steve Chalke commented on the research project: *'Each church provided the kind of environment in which people were relaxed enough to be able to laugh. You only really laugh when you can be yourself – when you feel comfortable'*.

Good medicine

We must abandon the idea that prayer and Bible studies are spiritual and that social events – golf tournaments, movie

evenings, barbecues – are less so. A pastor friend of mine announced to his church, *'We're having a golf tournament this week. Now I know that's not terribly spiritual, but we'd like you to come anyway...'*

Stop right there. Who says that being together, sharing a sport, laughing and listening and relaxing and playing – that these aren't spiritual? We are people who can glorify God in everything we do. The only thing that is secular is sin.

Laughter needs no defence. The health studies that have shown the multiple psychological and physiological benefits of laughter only serve to confirm what Christians and Jews already know from their Scriptures – laughter is good medicine. And there are even more benefits for a partying church that knows how to laugh.

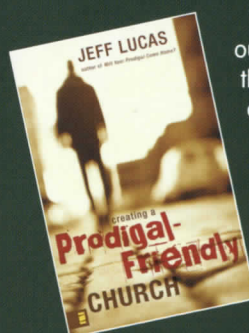
Humour is a tremendous vehicle for communication and learning. When we laugh, it's because we've understood the punch line or seen the funny side to the story. In short, we 'get it'.

The relaxed atmosphere created by humour means defences come down, enabling us to be open to the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Surely this is why the court jester in medieval times was such a vital and important figure.

That fool was no fool. He was a brilliant, irreverent, and amusing critic to the king, an immensely powerful rogue who alone could nudge the mightiest power in the land to do the right thing all through his wit and repartee. He could speak bluntly, could tell the king exactly what the common people were thinking, and was confidant to some of the king's personal life that nobody else shared.

Some jesters were even used as ambassadors and diplomats, navigating their way through intricate and tricky negotiations with their powerful humour and charm. The best jesters were handsomely rewarded and, in some cases, showered with honours, titles, pensions, and land. The jester taught with laughter and sought to bring healing to painful situations.

With an ability to laugh at ourselves, our churches would be able to steer their way through delicate and hurtful conflicts, and enable people to grow in their understanding of truth. All this could happen if the role of the jester/preacher/leader were more acknowledged – and we abandoned our suspicion of the smile.



Jeff Lucas is a bestselling author of 14 books. He is on the leadership team of Spring Harvest, a teaching pastor at Timberline Church, Colorado, and is a respected ministry in the Pioneer network. His article is taken, with permission, from his new book *Creating A Prodigal-Friendly Church*, published by Zondervan 2008. (www.Zondervan.com)

*Humour is a
tremendous
vehicle for
communication
and learning*

New pioneers

The world is changing. So how do we create church in this emerging culture? Pioneer church leader Roger Ellis and Beth Keith of St Thomas' Church, Sheffield, offer some guidelines

The rapid pace of change in our culture has raised a number of questions for a church failing to grow – or even sustain itself. In these surroundings, many have heard the call to become missionaries at home.

Fresh expressions of church are emerging all over the place – with different styles and theologies echoing and adapting to the assorted nature of our culture.

Enter *ReSource*. This church planting initiative came about in response to the challenges of navigating these new cultural pathways for the gospel. It is aimed at:

- those who are already engaging with this journey wanting applied training and input;
- those already involved in leading a new expression of church or seriously interested in starting something;
- those who want to discover God's missional heartbeat and live with it in the emerging culture.

Like the pioneers of the early church on these islands, these '21st century missionaries' also face the unknown – what are we getting into and how are we going to cope with it? That's where *ReSource* offers to help.

After all, church is not about theory or clever models. It is about people relating to God and to each other. In that context, *ReSource* aims to equip today's pioneers to 'do church' – taking theory out of the textbooks and onto the streets.

Team members come from a wide variety of churches and organisations – united in the same quest to engage with the world.

They include Bob and Mary Hopkins (Anglican Church Planting Initiatives), Simon Hall (Revive Leeds and Director of Training Oasis), Andrew Grinnell (Alove/Church Planting in Leeds), Roger Ellis (Revelation Church, Fusion), Jonny Baker (Grace, CMS) and Paul Weston (Pioneer and New Generation Sidcup).

They have also found themselves on the journey of planting expressions of church aimed at the emerging culture. And they have already enabled and encouraged more than 80 delegates through the course.

As a result, several new plants have been catalysed, inspired and equipped.

The *ReSource* course brings support in the following four areas:

1 Meeting up with others on a similar journey

Starting churches can be a lonely business. Even if you're in it with others, there can be a real sense of – 'we're out on our own, we don't know what we're doing and we get misunderstood'.

This is the exciting – and daunting – reality of pioneering something. Talking to others experiencing similar things helps you feel supported, encourages reflection on your own experiences and offers the opportunity to learn from others.

2 Building on insights from cross-cultural mission

There is a temptation to start with our experiences of church. However, lessons learned by those involved in cross-cultural mission can be more appropriate in this post-Christendom culture. They can help us to think creatively to develop contextual expressions of gospel and church.

Fresh expressions of church are emerging all over the place



3 Re-imagining church from the ground up

Thinking creatively about discipleship can enable more organic community development. Re-imagining things like leadership, gifts and worship expression – as they grow up out of a community – builds a church more 'in sync' with its surroundings.

4 Spiritual growth on the road

Developing practices that nourish both individuals and the community are key to sustainability. Some of the Celtic and monastic traditions – which cultivated spirituality in missional communities – offer insight for today, striking a balance between support and challenge, accountability and freedom, rootedness within the faith and connection with context.

But what happens to the delegates?
How do they benefit from all this?

For Andy Goodacre, being on *ReSource* was helpful on a number of different levels. 'I benefited loads,' he said, 'from the teaching and input we received, which covered a broad range of formats, styles, and subjects.'

Starting
churches can
be a lonely
business

Fresh provisions for pioneering

ReSource trains people with a vision to engage in mission and start churches in the emerging culture. It's for anyone currently involved or wanting to get involved in mission and new forms of church.

Transforming Communities

17th May 2008, 10.30am-4pm, The Oasis Centre, Whitfield Ave, Hunslet, Leeds, LS10 2QE. A day focussed on community transformation, social justice and the emerging church. Worship, teaching and discussion with Andrew Grinnell (Alove), Jonny Baker (Grace) and Simon Hall (Oasis).

Mission and Culture

31st October-2nd November 2008, St Christopher's, Spark Hill, Birmingham. Looking at how churches can engage with the communities they are part of. Stories and insight from mission in diverse ethnic neighbourhoods and to emerging cultures. With Jonny Baker (Grace), Richard Sudworth (CMS), Bob and Mary Hopkins (ACPI and Fresh Expressions).

Emerging Church

20th-22nd February 2009, St Laurence's, Reading. Focussing on how to develop church from mission, leadership and building community. Includes stories from St Laurence's on young people, mission and church. With Roger Ellis (Fusion), Allan Cox (New Community, Southampton), Beth Keith (*ReSource*).

Transforming Communities

17th-19th April 2009, Leeds. Looking at community transformation, social justice and the emerging church. With Andrew Grinnell (ALOVE) and Simon Hall (Oasis).



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e-mail info@resourcechurchplanting.com,
or phone 0114 2789378.

'Some of the teaching was really down-to-earth and practical, with real-life examples, while other sessions were visionary and inspirational – yet nevertheless connected with the church and the world as they currently are.'

'All the sessions were conducted by practitioners, people doing the stuff, on the ground. As such their examples – and the other stories and case studies which they used to illustrate their teaching – were particularly helpful in opening my eyes to what could be, and to the hope there really is for the church of the future.'

Most significantly, Andy felt *ReSource* gave him the opportunity to rub shoulders with, and talk at length with 'older, wiser, more experienced leaders, visionaries, pioneers, and church planters'.

There are new opportunities as well as profound challenges, renewed excitement and vision – alongside the reality check of how hard it actually is to plant a church from scratch. It's time to pioneer again.



MISSION MODEL: Pioneers need help to re-imagine church from the ground up



PEOPLE POWER: Pioneers need to meet others on a similar journey

Roger Ellis is an established leader within the Pioneer network, a leader of Revelation Church and part of the *ReSource* core team. Beth Keith leads *ReSource* part time. Alongside this, she also works for a regeneration partnership in Sheffield, and is setting up a missional community with some friends which is connected to St Thomas' Church, Philadelphia.

Super glue

**Society is becoming unstuck at the seams. It's time for the Church to step in and fix it.
That means you and me. Gerald Coates applies the truth**

Evelyn and Henry shuffle past our cottage most days. Both are in their 80s. They hobble down an attractive but long road of houses, and cross another road into our cul-de-sac, which has a little pathway at the end, leading to Bookham High Street.

They go through this little routine of exercise and survival, to arrive at the local supermarket. It's the only place they shop. However, we've noticed Evelyn has been taking the journey on her own recently. Stopping her for a talk, it turns out that Henry's legs are now 'so bad that he can't even get downstairs'.

Eternal issues

Evelyn has a severely curved back and is in considerable pain. But there's no one to shop for them. One son lives an hour-and-a-half away. Another of their children 'lives up north', Evelyn tells us, waving her hand skyward.

They barely even know their neighbours' names. No community spirit. Not really a community. So the church in their road – in other words, my wife Anona and myself – springs into action. Anona has just given Evelyn her phone number. I expect to hear from her soon, and do some shopping for her.

Our friends seem to have little experience – or indeed knowledge – of the gospel and eternal issues. Given their health, it's highly unlikely either would visit *Church in The Theatre/Engage*, which I lead with a team in Leatherhead, Surrey.

But there could be another church in the road. That is, if we look for opportunities to serve them and share our faith. Then we can help create the community they need so much. But commitment to one another, or to the society around us – and even marriage itself – is diminishing.

Not far away in Portugal, that country's government have completely redefined marriage. That means easy divorce for heterosexuals, gay marriage and a sort of 'pretty much anything goes'-type approach to these relationships. They have the highest divorce rate in Europe. Why? The pleasure principle has been put before loyalty. There's no commitment.

Back here in the UK, I've heard of very fine Christians moving away for the attractive scenery of the West Country, the New Forest and Wales. In occasional messages picked up directly or indirectly, I hear the reasons: nice neighbours, good schools for the kids, a larger house or walks in the countryside.

No mention of Christ, Church, Kingdom – or indeed society.

Those who understand biblical values of commitment and community – and who stick with those values – will be among churches up and down the land who are becoming the only physical expression of community in the nation. The Church is now the glue – particularly in this year of *Hope08* – in a society that's becoming unstuck at the seams.

Corporate purposes

Cyberspace and virtual community is a growing phenomenon. But unintentionally or otherwise, it beguiles us all into a world of trust and intimacy with people we've never even met. We can't even be sure they are who they say they are.

We're not made for individualism. We're made for community. God's purposes are not just for individuals. He has corporate purposes for church and society.

What society needs – and that includes Evelyn and Henry – is a community made of love, care, respect, commitment and sacrifice. That means a community large or small, where giving dignity to those in their later years is not just left to doctors and nurses in a hospital.

Already, *Hope08* is working in more than 1,000 situations, either benefiting from whatever community spirit exists – or actually helping to reshape community. It's described as a nationwide initiative, promoting holistic mission. But it's also something of a party – of care, love, practical work – and hopefully, wherever we can, with the sharing of why we do what we do.

It's the ontological argument. We do what we do because of who we are. Were it not for Christ we wouldn't be who we are. So we wouldn't be doing what we're doing, during *Hope08* or at any other time.

Maybe we can help Evelyn and Henry, unwell and in pain and in the last season of their lives, to define themselves. And in the words of Bill Johnson, perhaps they'll do that not by who they've been or what they've done – but who they might become.

So I'm expecting the phone to ring soon. And I shall be doing a little exercise myself and hope to bring them support, care and understanding – and maybe the gospel and even some physical healing.

Long live the community of the Spirit!

*The pleasure
principle has
been put before
loyalty*



Gerald Coates is founder of the Pioneer network of churches and ministries. He is also leader of Insight, the school of prophecy.

Delivering the male

Men need sorting out – with a good dose of reality. That realisation hit Lee Jackson and Baz Gascoyne so hard, they decided to do something about it

Hot on the heels of their successful paperbacks – *Dead Men Walking* and *Cut To The Chase* – Lee Jackson and Baz Gascoyne have produced what could be the first ever audiobook in the UK aimed directly at Christian men.

The Pioneer network's very own 'dynamic duo' have released an audio version of *Cut To The Chase*. That means listeners get four hours of unabridged insights – including some the authors weren't allowed to print!

Positive feedback

Published by Authentic, the book itself made quite an impact – Lee and Baz have received much positive feedback for their straightforward, down-to-earth approach to men's issues. 'We just wanted to be honest,' said Lee. They're humorous, too.

'We felt lots of books, both Christian and not, often don't tell the truth – even autobiographies are polished up to sound better than they are, and issues are avoided completely! We wanted to say you can follow Jesus as a man – and you can do it by being manly and also realising you are a plonker/sinner!'

With such chapter headings as *Michael Jordan's Light Bulb* (about perseverance) and *Mr Tinky And T'Internet* (about porn and masturbation), the book appears to have lifted the lid on a number of men's issues.

'The book has sold okay, I guess,' said Lee, 'but because of its nature it isn't in the "ahhh that's lovely" section at some bookshops. We joke that it's sold in brown paper bags below the counter! We get loads of feedback from guys.'

Over the years, Lee and Baz claim they have enjoyed friendships with other men where they were able to be themselves. But they realised that many other Christian males simply do not have such good, honest relationships.

'They may know other guys in church – but they just aren't honest with them,' said Lee. 'You only have to look at the number of affairs and issues with porn to see the hidden lives of lonely guys. It's pretty sobering.'

Grizzly prophets

So what do they seek to do, through their various projects?

Apparently, Baz always says he is 'on a mission to ban the word "F.I.N.E." which stands for "Feelings Inside Not Expressed"'. Said Lee, 'We just want reality in the Church and in men's ministry. As Jeff Lucas says, "More Reality = Less Burnout".'

Author and speaker Dave Roberts described the authors as 'two grizzly prophets' and 'apple cart upsetters'. As fewer and fewer men attend church, perhaps it's time to listen to what Lee and Baz have to say.

People can buy the audiobook as four CDs (£12.99) an "iPod ready" MP3 data disc with ID3 tags + artwork (£7.99) and as an MP3 download (for only £6). All are available on their website www.leeandbaz.com.

Lots of books, both Christian and not, often don't tell the truth

Lee and Baz: the quotes

- 'Ebenezer Scrooge is still alive and kicking in many churches and Christian organisations. We need to kick him off once and for all and demonstrate the lavish generosity of God's love and grace in all our financial dealings'
- 'Sex is brilliant! But like anything else it can be tainted and made ungodly. A bit like a bad remix of a good song that you hear only as a low quality MP3. It sounds so bad it puts you off the real song'
- 'The gospel (the good news of Jesus) is not for "fine" people. It's for people who are broken, helpless, who are in pain physically and emotionally'
- 'When we were writing this book for guys, we felt it was important that we didn't do the "ra ra ra we can take the world for Jesus with all smiles and no farting thing". It's important that we have a dose of reality' (quotes taken from *Cut To The Chase 2006*)



BIBLE BUDDIES: Lee is clearly guarded by the angel of the north, while Baz raises his glass to a successful publishing ministry