

# libraryoflives

The Pioneer Journal – Issue 5



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PIONEER



Furious?  
Records

Furious? Records Presents:

# delirious? mission tour

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**Tim Hughes**

\*except 31st Oct & 1st Nov -  
support: Reuben Morgan

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# Roots

**WE ARE witnessing a return to 19th century evangelicalism. It is an attempt to find the balance between demonstration and proclamation. One normally suffers at the expense of the other.**

Entire movements started with proclamation. Within decades they ended up with demonstration – feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and offering a wide range of resources to better both life and relationships. But the 'core' gospel was lost.

## GOSPEL STORY

The Salvation Army have gone back to their roots. They realise the need for church planting, flexible approaches to uniforms and music, maintaining demonstrations of love and care while telling the gospel story and inviting a response.

But there are global issues such as the environment, AIDS, poverty and hunger that a local church or even a network of churches cannot deal with. So we have Christian organisations, several of whom have also gone back to their evangelical roots.

And they are tackling some big issues – like TB. The facts speak for themselves:

- more than 5,000 people die from TB every day;
- TB is the number one killer of people infected with HIV;
- up to 50 per cent of people who have HIV will develop TB;
- worldwide 14 million people are co-infected with TB and HIV;
- TB is a classic disease of poverty.

There are well over eight million new cases of TB a year. In Eastern Europe, TB is declining, but it is also found in the former Soviet Union, parts of China, and is increasing at a rate of over four per cent a year in Africa.

Tearfund have provided a pack for churches, explaining what they are doing, creating networks of clinics and paramedics – and providing medical treatment to slow down and eventually halt the disease.

Among other Christian agencies, they are reaching out to help those stricken with this disease. Christian doctors, nurses and assistants are to be found on the frontline of poverty and sickness.

## SAVING LIVES

Mother Teresa herself summed up the challenge that we all face. *'The biggest disease today,'* she said, *'is not leprosy or tuberculosis – but the feeling of being unwanted.'*

You and your church can make a difference. *'Not only is Tearfund's money saving the lives of people who have the disease,'* said a senior doctor, *'but also it is preventing other people from getting the disease.'*

*'For every patient cured, that is another patient or two every year who won't develop TB – because the source of the infection has been eliminated.'* You and your church can make a difference by phoning Tearfund on 0208 943 7890 or contacting [jo.weeks@tearfund.org](mailto:jo.weeks@tearfund.org).

Gerald Coates  
Executive Editor



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PIONEER

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Executive Editor: Gerald Coates

Editor: Clive Price

Design and Print:

Verité CM Ltd,  
Worthing,  
West Sussex BN11 5JG

Publisher:

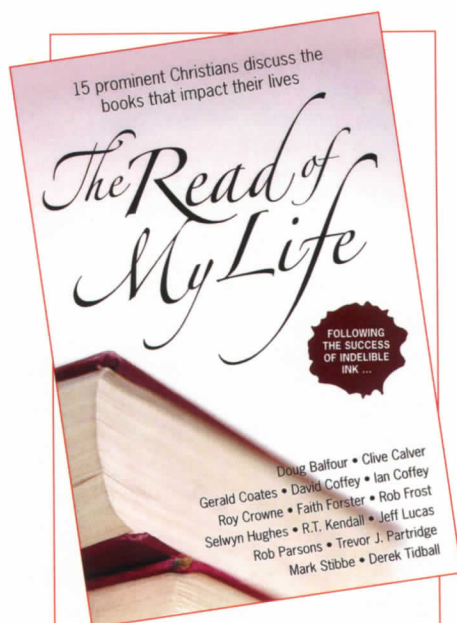
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Pioneer is a registered charity (no 327160) and a member of the Evangelical Alliance.



## BOOK BONANZA

**PIONEER LEADERS** have contributed to an unusual collection of insights into books that have changed people's lives.

Published by CWR, *The Read Of My Life* features 15 prominent Christians, discussing books that have had an impact on them.

Writers include Gerald Coates, Jeff Lucas, David Coffey, Faith Forster, Selwyn Hughes, R T Kendall, Clive Calver and Mark Stibbe. The publication was conceived by Selwyn Hughes to encourage healthy reading.

Gerald chose to write about A W Tozer, drawing heavily on his writings, which he said greatly influenced his view of God, the work of the Spirit and scripture.

Jeff Lucas, on the other hand – despite wanting to choose a 'heavyweight' – ended up selecting *The Sacred Diary Of Adrian Plass Aged 37 3/4*.

He spoke of the liberating effects of laughter. He had decided he would use humour in every way he could whether his audiences were large or small.

The publication is available from Christian bookshops and CWR.

## DELIRIOUS? FULLY LOADED

**FULLY LOADED** with seven new videos, a full LCD screen – and even more than the usual tricks and turns – *Delirious?* are taking to the road across the UK this autumn.

As they present their latest round of concerts in October and November, the band will also release a new album and DVD package, *Live Worship At Willow Creek*.

*'Touring the UK is always special,'* said lead singer Martin Smith, *'but there's something special about these next 13 dates that we're all particularly hungry for.'*

*'The chance to see the Church united, praising and going out to serve the world in need, is a huge privilege.'*

The tour starts in Southampton on 11 October and ends in Reading on 1 November (see inside front page advertisement for venues and telephone numbers).



Photographs © Joshua Dunford

## VOLUNTEERS FOR INDIA

**A CALL** has gone out for Christian volunteers to help with youth and children's ministry in India.

New Generation Church, Delhi, which is linked with the King's Churches in the Aldershot area, are looking for Christian volunteers willing to give a minimum of six months. There are specific needs at such places as:

- Rafa hostel, which is home to pre-teen HIV+ boys;
- the Ujjala Centre, working with boys around 12-18 who live and work on Delhi's streets;
- the Sahaitha street kids school;
- Atulya, a home for girls rescued from prostitution or from the streets;
- a home in the foothills of the Himalayas, for children of leprosy parents;
- the Doon Youth Centre, a drop-in centre for students.

For full details about the opportunities available, those interested should contact Phil Leighton of New Generation Church, Sidcup (e-mail [leighton@clara.net](mailto:leighton@clara.net); tel 0208 302 1373).

**EASTERN PROMISE:**  
Caring for the kids of India



# YOUTH MOVEMENT GROWS IN READING

**READING YOUTH** are celebrating more than just the fact that their local football team has reached The Premiership for the first time in its 135-year history.

Described as the biggest town in the UK, Reading is seeing a new generation of young people growing with 'a greater love for God, each other and those outside the Church'.

LifeSpring, a Pioneer church, has worked with the youth of the town for many years in schools, clubs and missions. Their youth leader of 14 years, Andy Dickens, has been faithful and persevered. Things grew slowly, but Andy knew there must be 'more'.

Four years ago, LifeSpring's team leaders Neville and Jackie Hollands, were invited to visit a growing church in Bogotá, Colombia. They saw the kind of church life they had only previously dreamed of. They saw 'love, passion and unprecedented growth'.

Since that time LifeSpring has begun to apply the principles they saw in action. The church began to ask God to change their lives and to re-order them around his priorities. They said they 'became serious about the gospel'.

They acknowledge that they still have a long way to go, but their youth seem to be catching something new. Within weeks of starting their youth cells, one leader simply invited her school friends to form her cell – and they came. Some have become Christians.

Every month the youth meet for a day of prayer and fasting where they ask God for a greater level of intimacy – as well as pray for their friends to come to know him.

*'They're growing in confidence and anointing and have an increasing excitement for God, wanting to please him and win their friends to Christ,'* said a statement from LifeSpring.

One young person said, *'We need these times to keep focused and fulfil all God has for us'.*

The youth meet in cells during the week and every fortnight meet together to worship. In January 2005 the number of youth that met in cells numbered 80 – by the end of year that was up to 150. Asked what their goal was for 2006, they replied, 400 young people! *'We're believing that one day we will be meeting in the football stadium,'* said one young man.



## Miracles on the box

**BRINGING the dead back to life, walking on water and calming storms with a single word have finally made it onto the small screen.**

The signs and wonders of Christ's ministry have been given a fresh twist by none other than the BBC – in a major new three-part series that was recently shown on British TV.

The programmes revealed that the miracles were seen as subversive signs giving vital clues to Jesus' identity.

*The Miracles Of Jesus* was presented by Rageh Omaar. *'As a Muslim I am fascinated by this man Jesus,'* he said, *'he has changed the lives of millions of people... so let's try and answer the question "Why?"'*

A large number of experts were consulted for the programme, including Tom Wright (New Testament scholar and Bishop of Durham), Colin Brown (Centre for Advanced Theological Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary), and Phil Esler (New Testament Studies, University of St Andrews).

Christian publishers Lion produced the official book of the series, in which author Michael Symmons Roberts examines the meanings of the miracles.

The Bible Society is to make the series available on DVD for churches and schools.

**WILD WONDERS:**  
Scene from the BBC's  
*Miracles of Jesus*  
series





Below: Theo Thompson and Sam Langley at the funfair



# FESTIVA

Can you really celebrate community, reach the  
Well, it happened in Leatherhead

**MARTIAL ARTS, football, food and orchestral music were the key components of a recent two-week festival in Leatherhead.**

Leatherhead LIFE 2006 featured the Lawn Tennis Association, Chelsea Football Club and coaches, a basketball company called *Hoop-2-Hoop*, a 5k 'fun run', Freud on Food by Sir Clement Freud, and War Of The Worlds with a 40-piece orchestra.

In circle: 3 year old Claire Payne on the merry go round at the funfair



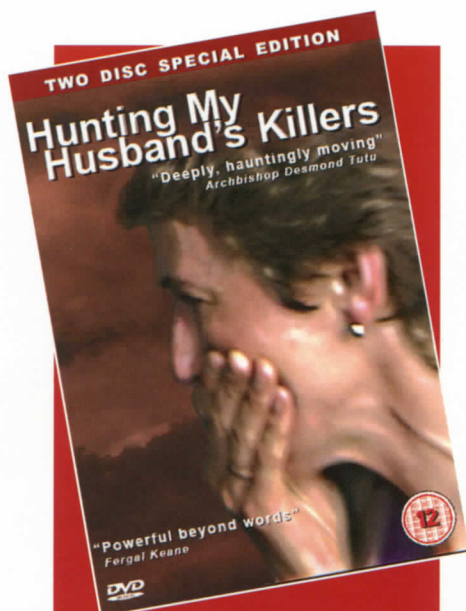
# L FEVER

Unchurched and unite a town all in one go?  
as our special report shows.

The celebration was founded by Gerald Coates and a team drawn from Church In The Theatre/Engage, a number of key players in the town from the fields of business, social action and the local council.

Evangelist J John was a special guest. Hundreds came to hear him from around the area. Dozens were prayed for at the close of the evening. It is expected that another event will take place in 2007.





## FILMING FORGIVENESS

A FILM about a Scottish widow's search for the truth about her husband's death has won Best TV Documentary in the Churches Media Council's Andrew Cross Awards.

Created by GRACE Productions and Purple Flame Media, the real-life documentary *Hunting My Husband's Killers* follows Lesley Bilinda's courageous journey to Rwanda to discover those responsible for killing her husband Charles, a Tutsi church pastor, in the Rwandan genocide.

Strong and sensitive direction from Ray Tostevin – who has been a member of Pioneer's Making Goodness Fashionable network – and Jay Knox, captures moments of extreme grief, love and pain, which draws out the issues of forgiveness and betrayal.

*'A terrific story, sensitively told,'* the judges said of the programme. *'The music was well chosen – it drew you into the story. This was raw and compelling.'*

The production has featured at festivals in Amsterdam, Auckland, Leeds and Guernsey and been broadcast in the Netherlands and Ireland, gaining recommendations from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and BBC Special Correspondent, Fergal Keane OBE ([www.purpleflame.com](http://www.purpleflame.com) & [www.agraceproduction.com](http://www.agraceproduction.com)).

## London churches launch out

**PIONEER CHURCHES** in the Greater London area have been seeing some unusual new breakthroughs in other lands.

Rainbow and Roehampton churches have bought more than 70 acres of land in Nakuru, Kenya, next to a game park. They plan to set up an orphanage, guest house, school, clinic, training centre, and home for street children – as well as a refuge for abused women.

Young people from both churches may well be helping with a youth camp there. Rainbow youth have produced a CD to help pay for the fares and camp costs.

Rainbow have also launched a new website – [www.nlmshop.com](http://www.nlmshop.com) – to sell many of their 'in Tamil' products. It will soon be advertised on TV, as their Paris church produce two half-hour programmes every night of the week, going out on the 'Hot Bird' satellite.

*'The station is called The Lord's Channel and despite the name is a secular channel showing Hindi and Tamil films,'* said Adrian Hawkes of Rainbow. *'On a Saturday Night we have an extra one-hour programme which is live from the studio in central Paris.'*

*'Last time I was on, I was fielding prayer requests and comment continually for the whole hour from Paris, London, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE – to name just a few of the countries calling in.'*

## ROMANIAN RENEWAL

**SIGNS OF a spiritual awakening** have been emerging from a group of young people in Romania.

Thirty of them from Pioneer associate New Generation Church, Campina, recently spent a weekend away together, with adult leaders and a guest speaker from a Christian radio station.

Prayer meetings kept going until 2am. Three young people asked to be baptised immediately. With the outside temperature well below zero, the baptisms had to take place in the bath!

Two weeks later, the whole of the New Generation Church celebrated, as they held their first meeting in a flat provided for them by The Community Church, Surbiton.

Six more members are to be baptised soon – and the church is expecting even greater growth.



**REVIVAL TOWN:** Just one of the people baptised recently in Campina, and a group on the youth weekend away

## A new spirit for an old pub

**A RUNDOWN PUB in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire – that allegedly used to be a magnet for mayhem – is about to bring benefit to the community surrounding it.**

That's because New Life Church are moving in. The church was originally established on the Hemmingwell estate about 20 years ago as part of the Wesleyan Reform Union. They left the area when the leadership and the WRU did not agree on a new direction in relation to a 'move of the Holy Spirit' in 1986.

When the members of the WRU left to form New Life Church, this sounded the death knell for the local estate-based church which eventually closed down in 2000. Unaware of this history, New Life Church leader Simon Trundle felt that the church needed to be based on the Hemmingwell estate and begin its work of connecting with the community by setting up a Pioneer New Life Church youth club.

When Simon approached the local WRU for use of their building, the history was brought up. But the WRU had received a prophetic word only weeks before, foretelling that a new work would begin on the estate and in partnership with the 'last people in the world that you think you could partner with'.

In time, New Life Church purchased the WRU building. The work has grown to include a youth club, community family support centre, Hope Week festival and a pre-school for about 30 children aged 2-5.

New Life Church are planning to convert the estate pub into a community cafe, pre-school and back-to-work skills centre. The local pub reportedly had a degree of notoriety on the estate.

The church leadership that God is leading them to reclaim this broken down pub and turn it into something that can bless the local community. The project is likely to cost in excess of £200k to purchase and restore the building (for more information, contact Simon Trundle on 01933 664224).

## First for Fusion church

**A FLEDGLING student church has just celebrated its first ever baptisms.**

The Journey was planted out from River Church in Maidenhead/Marlow, into the student community of Royal Holloway University a little over a year ago.

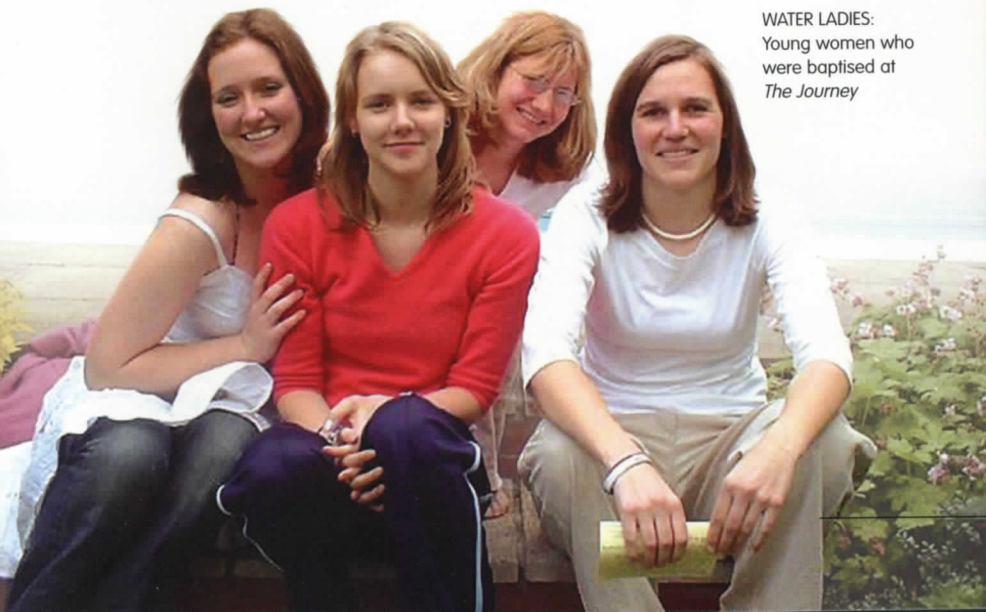
Sixty guests joined the congregation of 20 when four members of the congregation were baptised, and told their stories of what God had done in their lives.

The Loughborough student strategy (relating to Pioneer's Open Heaven) included the planting of 14 Fusion cells. As a result, 14 students have made first-time commitments to Christ – and many more have come back to God.

*'I have all the time in the world for positive groups like yourselves as I think it makes a welcome change from the usual clubs and ideas put to me generally based around alcohol and stupidity,'* one student hall chairperson said of a Fusion cell.

*'Good luck for the future. I hope I can perhaps help in some way to make next year for you as successful as this year sounds to have been.'*

WATER LADIES:  
Young women who  
were baptised at  
The Journey



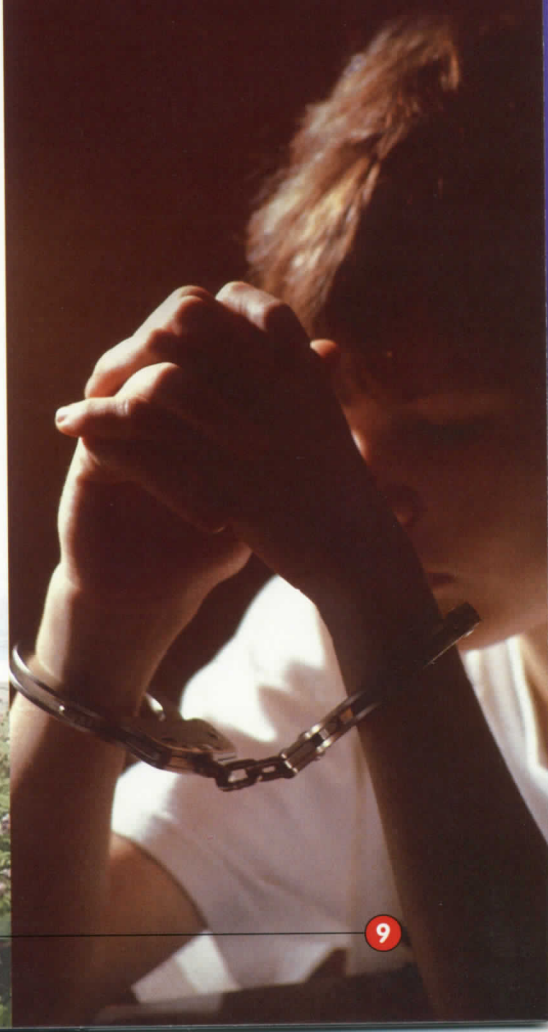
## Prisons open to Alpha

**MOST OF Britain's prisons – that's a staggering 80 per cent – are now registered as running Alpha, with more than 40,000 inmates having completed the course.**

To strengthen and follow up this growing work, a Caring for Ex-Offenders Conference – *Breaking the Cycle of Crime* – is to take place from 5-6 October.

Speakers are to include Sandy Millar and Nicky Gumbel. For further information, phone 0207 052 0440 or e-mail [htbconferences@htb.org.uk](mailto:htbconferences@htb.org.uk).

On the wider scene across the UK, more than two million people have now completed an Alpha course, according to leading statisticians Christian Research.



## MEDIA MESSIAH

TV WRITER and producer Stephen Skelton knows who Superman really is. 'And it's better than *Clark Kent*,' he says in an intriguing new book.

In *The Gospel According To The World's Greatest Superhero*, Skelton actually shows that the last son of Krypton is based on the first Son of Heaven.

'Superman is not Jesus Christ,' the author writes. 'But he is a Christ figure, a figure resembling Christ – as we all should be.'

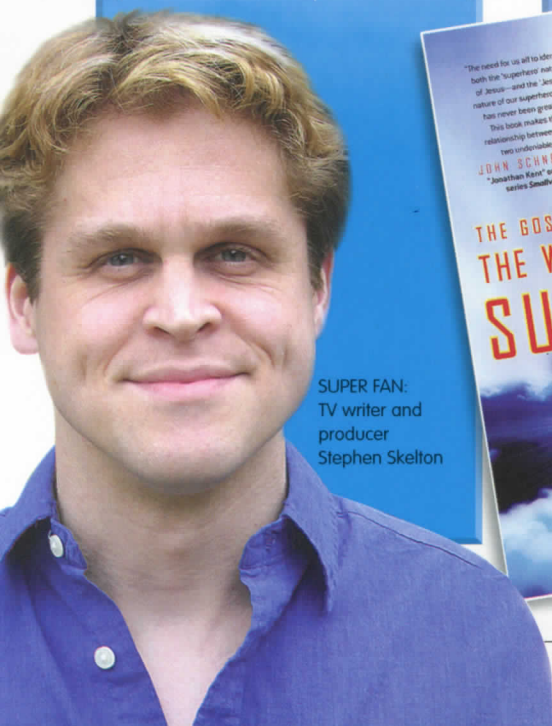
Published by the US-based Harvest House, Skelton's analysis uncovers a number of parallels between the Gospel and the Superman story:

- some of the Superman storytellers admit that they modelled their hero on Christ;
- Superman and his Kryptonian father share the name 'El', which is Hebrew for God;
- Superman's enemy is the villain Lex Luthor, which is like Lucifer.

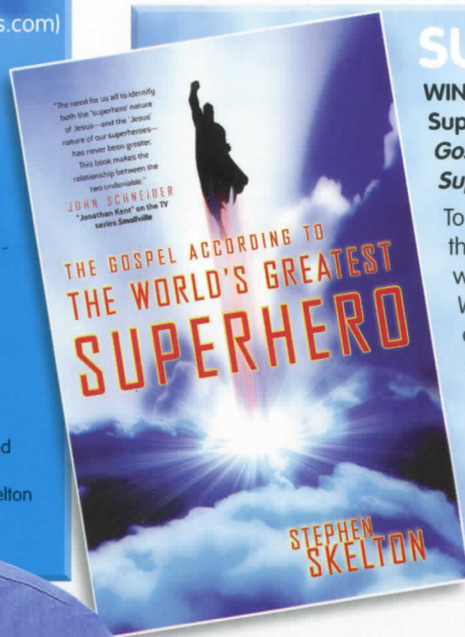
Hot on the heels of the blockbuster movie *Superman Returns*, the book is endorsed by some significant figures – Mark Millar, bestselling writer of Superman, X-Men and Spiderman comic books; and actor John Schneider, who plays Jonathan Kent in the hit TV series *Smallville*.

Skelton quotes Bryan Singer, director of the new Superman film: 'Superman is the Jesus Christ of superheroes. So it's sort of the American dream combined with a little bit of the myth, the concept of Messiah.'

([www.harvesthousepublishers.com](http://www.harvesthousepublishers.com))



SUPER FAN:  
TV writer and  
producer  
Stephen Skelton



## Calling all leaders

PIONEER'S next symposium is expected to be even bigger than the first. Letters of invitation are being sent to churches and influencers/travelling ministries for the 2007 event.

The symposium – which drew 160 leaders earlier this year – will return to the Letchworth Conference Centre next spring from 2-3 March (Friday evening to all day Saturday).

The likes of Jeff Lucas, Gerald Coates, Christine Noble, Patrick Dixon, Pete Gilbert and John Noble took part in the event earlier this year.

The main teaching/preaching sessions from the symposium are available on the Pioneer website and can be downloaded from there.

There are two talks from Gary Clarke (Hillsong), one by Jeff Lucas and another by Gerald Coates. The site is receiving nearly 30,000 hits a month.

Gerald received an e-mail from a friend in Pittsburgh to say he had listened to his talk *The Moment Or The Movement?*

That amazed Gerald because he didn't even know that the talks were on the website!  
([www.libraryoflives.org](http://www.libraryoflives.org))



## SUPER COMPETITION

WIN – your personal guide to the spiritual story of Superman! Library Of Lives has six copies of *The Gospel According To The World's Greatest Superhero* to give away!

To enter, all you have to do is invent a superhero that could rise up from the ranks of Pioneer. What would they be called? What would they look like? What powers would they have? Write a brief description or sketch a picture, add your name, address, e-mail and church – and send it to the Pioneer office.

Deadline is Tuesday 31st October. Six winning entries will be chosen for their creativity and entertainment value. No correspondence will be entered into. The editor's decision is final. Up, up and away!

# DAVID ROCKS

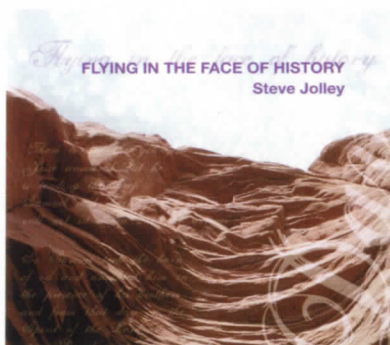
**THE STORY** of an Old Testament hero has been set to music in an ambitious new recording project from a talented member of The Pioneer Community Church, Burton-on-Trent.

Steve Jolley's *Flying In The Face Of History* is a 12-track 'concept album' that explores the life of David through his relationships with his God, his wife Bathsheba and his best friend Jonathan.

Musical styles range from meaty rock to sensitive ballad – so there's plenty for everyone's tastes on one recording – and the production has a professional quality.

'David was and is a hero,' Steve says in the sleeve notes, 'but a hero who was also human, who stumbled and fell like the rest of us.'

'His life teaches us that whatever our circumstances, God is always to be praised... whenever his life was in ruins David ran to his God, not away from him' ([www.thedavidproject.co.uk](http://www.thedavidproject.co.uk)).



## PAUL GOT A GONG

**SOCIAL ACTIVIST** Paul Sanderson – formerly of the Pioneer Community Church, Surbiton and now at Arun Community Church, Littlehampton – was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list earlier this year.

He earned the honour for services to youth through the WIRE project.

'It's a great encouragement to me, my family and the project,' said Paul, 'and I have been making contact with people from the past who have helped me become who I am.'



# They bowed in Berlin

**THE EXUBERANT CROWD** were hushed, some bowed, others prayed and some knelt. They were responding to the song *Holy Ground*, sung by Dave Bilbrough.

Dave had written the piece after his own experiences at the Marsham Street revival meetings in 1996-97. But now he was singing it with 25,000 people in Berlin.

It was one moment during the recent *Calling All Nations* at the Olympic Stadium in the German capital. The event hit the headlines of Germany's national press and featured in numerous TV reports.

It was broadcast 'live' to a potential 100 million homes across Europe – and other parts of the world. It is expected to be broadcast across the USA later in the year. The day featured worship, prayer and a focus on mission. Worship was facilitated by ethnic groups from Africa and the North American Indian community.

Lead worshippers from other countries took part – including David Ruis (USA), Tim Hughes (UK), Noel Richards (UK), Rueben Morgan (Australia), Kees Kraayenoord (Netherlands), Lothar Kosse (Germany)

and Delirious? (UK). A particular surprise was Assiria – the Brazilian singer married to legendary footballer Pele.

Pioneer leader Gerald Coates was among the main speakers. 'But it was the people who began to own the

event themselves,' he said, 'with Mexican waves, time after time after time! The weather was absolutely ideal – and was sandwiched between some of the hottest temperatures for years and torrential downpours.'

An offering was taken for suffering children in various parts of the world – particularly Brazil – and another to help cover costs for the day. More than £15,000 is to be sent to charities working with children after all the bills for the event are paid.

'There was much opposition to the event from conservative evangelicals,' said Gerald. 'Various articles were written against Noel Richards and the leadership team – and parts of the media were less than positive.'

'Despite that, almost 25,000 people gathered. That was fewer than expected – but more than sufficient to make the day a strong reminder that the Church of Jesus Christ has never been larger around the world, and has never grown faster.'

Noel Richards said, 'It was remarkable to see so many people sustaining praise, worship and response throughout the day'.



# Fathers for good

Dads need all the help they can get. And the Community Church, Surbiton, is lending a hand. Neil Beckett explains how

**THEY LOOKED like a bunch of extras from a Clint Eastwood movie. Dads and their kids were dressed as Mexican bandits – complete with moustaches, ponchos and sombreros made from 'vomit bowls'.**

It was a most unusual feature for a most unusual ministry. The 'Mexican' themed party was just one of a number of Saturday morning get-togethers under the banner of *'Who Let The Dads Out?'*. It attracted more than 20 fathers and 45 children to Surbiton Children's Centre.

## Quality time

It is part of *'Dads Lads n Lasses'*, an initiative run by the Community Church in Surbiton. What began in 1991 as an annual camping weekend for fathers to spend 'quality time' with their children has now boomed.

The annual weekend away is still the main event – drawing an average of 30 dads and 60 children. But the number of fathers contacted and the variety of activities offered has expanded. Events in the last year have included:

- ropes course;
- farm trip;
- roller skating party;
- 'What Do Dads Want?' fathering forum;
- text messaging service;
- father friendly fortnight.

We also keep dads informed through a website ([www.DadsLadsLasses.com](http://www.DadsLadsLasses.com)). Some funding and facilities are provided by our local council, and we are seeking to develop this and form links with other organisations.

*This one event helped to almost double our 'dad database'*

*Dads Lads n Lasses* is open to the whole community and targets dads living in Kingston Upon Thames. Where a father is absent, we encourage a 'significant male role model' to bring children they care for, eg uncle, grandfather etc.

In May 2005 we invited Phil Wall to come and speak to local dads about fathering. More than 60 fathers attended a great evening at Surbiton YMCA. It was very informal and relaxing – with beer, crisps, peanuts and time to chat.

But it proved to be revolutionary for us.

We listened to Phil Wall and watched video clips he had put together from great sports personalities such as Nigel Ben, Stuart Pearce and Jonathan Edwards. They all offered thought-provoking challenges and ideas on fathering.

Phil is a gifted speaker. He's done everything – from setting up a charity for AIDS orphans to running an executive team-building exercise in the North Pole.

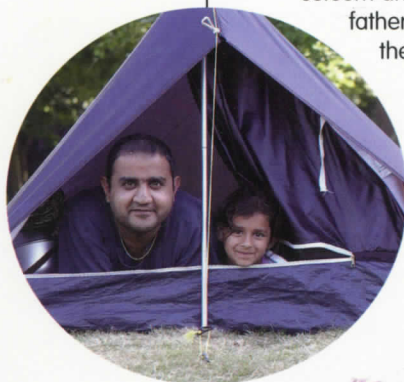
This one event helped to almost double our 'dad database'.

## Role model

It's early days. We hope to build further partnership links across the borough to help others engage with dads. We hope through friendships and relationships dads can continue to encourage and support each other.

I believe if a child has a key male positive role model – ideally a father – they are more likely to develop better self-esteem and have a future. I also have a passion to see fathers who are confident and equipped to fulfil their responsibility.

I know many fathers. And we are all different. But what seems to be common among us all is that we want to be the best fathers possible, and be better fathers than our own.



**Neil Beckett** is Youth and Community Worker at the Community Church, Surbiton, where he runs the *Dads Lads n Lasses* initiative.

