

THE PIONEER COLLECTIVE



A five year initiative with the vision to identify, release and resource 400 new Baptist pioneers: **'GOING** to where the church isn't, **DOING** what Jesus does, and **SEEING** what happens'.

Our society is changing fast, and in a post-Christendom culture 93% of the UK population do not regularly go to church. Many of these struggle to connect with established forms of church, but thankfully God is raising up pioneers who are taking on this missional challenge and imaginatively sharing the good news of Jesus. As a result new expressions of Christian community are emerging and existing congregations are experiencing renewal.

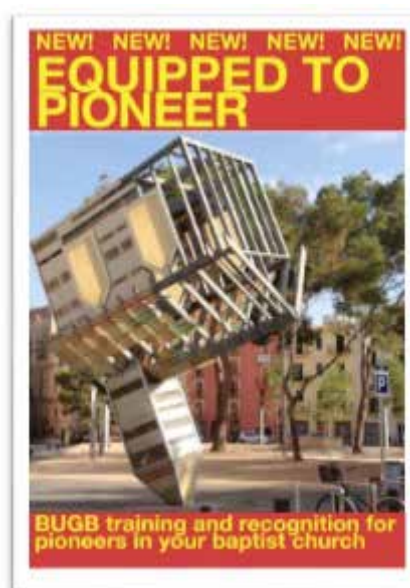
The partners involved in helping to fulfil the Pioneer Collective vision include:

- » Baptist Union of Great Britain
- » Regional Associations
- » BMS World Mission
- » Light Project
- » Urban Expression
- » Incarnate Network
- » Fresh Streams

Since January 2014 we have been working with the Associations to identify some of these new pioneers. We have been gathering their stories on the website as an inspiration to others, and have been finding more-established

pioneers to be a 'coach' for them on their pioneering journeys. These new pioneers include accredited ministers sensing a call to do something different and church members being prompted to go and begin something new.

What they have in common, however, is the willingness to take risks and to be sent beyond the fringe of the church to advance the Kingdom in new and creative ways. They seek to follow the



incarnational example of Jesus, and some of them have even 'moved into the neighbourhood' (see John 1:14 in *The Message* paraphrase). They have sowed seeds of the gospel by being willing to lovingly give time and energy to the people that they meet; and they nurture Christian communities that are relevant to the people whose lives are being transformed by the living God.

The Pioneer Collective is providing opportunities for pioneers to gather together for mutual support, for example at the recent Fresh Streams conference. We are also finding placements for those wanting to test the call and experience a pioneering context first hand and helping pioneers to access appropriate training opportunities. One of these is the *Equipped to Pioneer* course which leads to national recognition as a Baptist pioneer and is made up of modules provided by Crucible and the Baptist Colleges.

Find out more about how Home Mission is enabling Baptist churches to make Jesus known in their communities, see www.baptist.org.uk/hmstories

Make a gift to Home Mission through your Church Treasurer, or online at www.justgiving.com/baptistuniongb



The Pioneer Collective has also facilitated a partnership with Fresh Expressions to deliver the successful Mission Shaped Ministry course in an online format. This is designed for groups in churches who want to explore together how to begin something pioneering in their own context. The aim is for it to feel a bit like a small group study, but instead of using a DVD the training is delivered live and interactive over the internet. It is hoped a pilot course will start in September 2015, and more details about MSM Online can be found on our website.

This has all been made possible by Home Mission who made a grant, alongside BMS, to support the contribution to the Pioneer Collective being made by Chris Duffett from the Light Project. The Eastern Baptist Association, also funded by Home Mission, has generously allowed Simon Goddard, one of their regional ministers, to co-ordinate the work of the Pioneer Collective.

Chris Duffett



Simon Goddard

Maybe you have recently begun to pioneer, or perhaps you are sensing a call to serve God in this way? Whatever stage you are at in the pioneering journey we invite you to contact us and share your story.

Simon Goddard
Coordinator,
Eastern Baptist Association

The Pioneer Collective
www.pioneercollective.org.uk
www.facebook.com/pioneercollective
www.twitter.com/baptistpioneers
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Please pray:

- » Give thanks for the funding which has enabled the launch of this exciting initiative
- » That people in our Union who may be sensing a call to serve God in this way will have the courage to test this calling
- » For Simon, Chris and other experienced pioneers as they support, encourage and equip each other
- » Give thanks for the new expressions of Christian community which are emerging and the renewal being found in existing congregations

“We need an explosion of new pioneers”

Lynn Green

General Secretary, Baptist Union of Great Britain

