

# INDIE GOSPEL

By Marcia Dixon

Ex-LCGC lead vocalist turned Pastor David Daniels is finding release in his new music

Pastor David Daniels and the Peoples Christian Fellowship Choir are the latest in a long line of UK gospel artists who have given up waiting for a record deal and gone ahead and released music they want the public to hear.

Praise Come First is the debut album from this church-based outfit and it is already receiving praise for its musicality, vocal intensity and the live worship experience it conveys.

The album's brainchild, Pastor Dave Daniels, hopes people will enjoy it. He says: "This album is an opportunity to plant a seed of hope, revelation, and encouragement in people's lives. The end result: a healthier relationship with the Lord."

The crème de la crème of UK gospel talent, both known and unknown, were involved in Praise Comes First, which was recorded live two years ago.

Rev Daniels explains: "Marcus Johnson, producer of Seven for P2, who is also my brother-in-law, oversaw the production. I brought in two young men - Wesley and Nathaniel - to co-produce."

"This was their first major project. Tony Momrell sang on the album, so did Priscilla Jones Campbell, Lawrence Johnson, Peter Francis, Hildia Campbell and our very own Pat Knight Scott. They are all good family and friends who I have known for ages."

There are numerous memorable performances on the album, but three stand out for Daniels: "Once For All, a 21st century hymn which reminds me about the atonement - without the cross, we have nothing. Holy is the Lord, the ministry of Miss Ruth Lynch, always takes me to the burning bush, face to face with the Holy one."

"And Let the Praises Go First, written for us by Mark Beswick : this song epitomises everything we wanted to say on this album."

Daniels is no stranger to the spotlight. During the 1980s and 90s, he was a lead vocalist in the world famous London Community Gospel Choir. After he left the choir, he studied theology at Bible College, was ordained as a minister in 1997 and now serves as assistant pastor at The Peoples Christian Fellowship in Tottenham, North London, alongside his father.

## SPOTLIGHT

Although it appeared he had disappeared from the gospel music scene after leaving LCGC, Daniels was still heavily involved. He did solo gigs in Holland, Norway and the UK, toured

with Graham Kendricks, sang on many praise and worship recordings, gave singing lessons and worked with his church choir.

PCF is a church with a family atmosphere and Daniels admits he loves being a pastor. "I was ordained in 1997, and have been working full time for the majority of those seven years. The building holds 250 people and we get close to that mark most Sundays."

"The greatest challenge I face is the one the apostles faced - getting believers to attain a level of maturity. This is what gets me up every morning, a fervent desire to see believers develop in their relationship with God. |

He believes church leaders should utilise the musical talents that exist within the church: | I would love to see churches investing in the excellent songwriters, worship leaders and musicians that we have.

"Pastors could sit with songwriters and set out the theological theme for each month or sermon series in music together. I strongly endorse this."

Now that Rev Daniels is back in the musical spotlight, there is no stopping him. He declares: "I intend to be involved in many more recordings, and hope to mentor the praise leaders of tomorrow. This CD is only the beginning, a seed, an opportunity to encourage hope we have been working towards this for the past 14 years. The future is exciting as God's doing a new thing now."

Praise Comes First is out now. The official launch is at The Dominion Centre, 9 The Broadway, Wood Green High Road, London N22 on July 17

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