



FINDING MENTOR/S WHO CAN PROVIDE USEFUL FEEDBACK ON POTENTIAL CONGREGATIONAL SONGS THAT ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

The person (or persons) we're looking for is someone who:

- has a heart for praise and worship
- can cope with listening to a “rough” recording of a song without getting too distracted by the quality of the recording (it's not like a song on the radio!)
- finds it easy to form a clear opinion on something (a comment like “I don't know – what do you think?” will not be much help!)
- is not afraid to state their opinion.
- is able to articulate (put into words) their opinion.
- understands the difference between constructive and destructive criticism (only constructive criticism is needed!).

What we're looking to try out (preferably in person rather than by email etc):

- Get the person to listen to a recording of the song once (or twice at most)
- Based on this first impression, get the person's opinion on the following:
 - which parts* of the song are stronger?
 - which parts* of the song are weaker?
 - are there any words that don't make sense/seem odd? (not theologically, as the theology of the song is checked by a different process)
 - any other constructive comment they want to say about the song

*[*Song parts (not exhaustive list and not all appear in every song): verse, pre-chorus/build, chorus, bridge/middle eight, coda/ending]*

What we're not looking for:

- a detailed musical critique.
- a co-write - the song remains with the songwriters and it's up to us what we do (or not) as a result of any comments made.
- An expansion of our existing songwriting collaboration (although collaborative principles certainly apply to this process!)

This document is inspired by a description of how Grace Vineyard Church in Christchurch has been developing a songwriting culture which was given by Sam Harvey at a New Wine “Plugged In” worship training day at The Street City Church, Wellington on 25th July 2015.