

About...

## Simply surrendered

### **...how and why it was written**

This is essentially a song of quiet wonderment and celebration of what God did in my life. And the acceptance of an important lesson about surrendering control and timing. It is a song from the journey – a kind of pause on route – which reflects the end of one season (of struggle) and the start of another season (of freedom and stepping out).

It was written during a personal worship time when I was giving thanks for how God had led and guided me to this point. I experienced him lifting me literally out of one place into another with the most incredibly perfect timing, and providing for me financially in quite an extraordinary way as I stepped out to follow the vision of The Sanctuary that he had given. It reflects a desire, having seen and learnt what He can do, to surrender to his timing and provision.

The phrase about 'You have levelled out my valleys into plains' is particularly significant for me – as it is the declaration that a promise I was given had been fulfilled.

### **...how, where and when it could be used**

This is quite a personal song of worship, which expresses quite specific things in my context, but others have been touched by it too, as it resonates with all our journeys towards trust and surrender.

It can be used for private devotion, or sung corporately in a time of worship – changing the language to plural pronouns (eg. you have given us a hope a vision, orchestrated our provision) could also widen the focus of the song to enable a congregation to celebrate breakthrough in their corporate journey too.

### **...the dedication**

Anne Garside is someone who has made a huge difference to my journey over the last few years. We were members of the same church in St Albans, and I first got to know her as her son was in my worship team.

As I was stepping out more, and trying to hear from God the specifics of what he was calling me to in worship, she was always there – praying, believing, listening, hearing, chatting and providing very many cups of tea.

She walked, and continues to walk, with us through what seem like long periods of waiting and trusting and has truly shared the early journey of The Sanctuary. Her support has helped make the difference on a number of occasions.

When I experienced this change of seasons, and sense of breakthrough, and that spilt out into a song, it seemed only natural that it should somehow be her song. Anne, thank you for your faith in God, and in his people.

## **...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet**

In many ways this song is about the literal journey, more than the ideological journey – expressing availability to God’s call, thanks to him for all he has done so far, and trust in him for the future stepping out required to see his vision begin to be fulfilled.

But there is something deeper going on to. This song is one of probably seven or eight written in the first half of 2010 which wrestle with the personal application of my desire to see intimacy and intercession more intertwined in our worship.

To believe God can transform the lives of the poor, we have to experience our own transformation. Knowing him as faithful, raises our faith. It isn’t either an intimate personal walk or a life lived out for others. It is *both and* these things.

This song is about saying to God, ‘as I follow your call yes there will be sacrifices, and I will surrender to your timing and your way of doing things – but I can give testimony to your provision, your envisioning and your blessing in my life; and I will declare this to my soul in the coming months and years to raise my faith of what you will continue to do for me, for those around me, and for the nations.