

About...

Unfailing Love

...how and why it was written

I wrote this intentionally as a congregational worship song to express God's heart of love for the poor, and to express a prayer that we might catch it.

But there were two specific incidents which inspired particular images and concepts within it.

The first was something David Ruis spoke about during a seminar at New Wine two or three years ago – this was the idea that mercy is perhaps what we should be speaking about more than justice. and that mercy is all the more difficult to deal with because it means reaching out to those who are the perpetrators as well as the victims – it means loving Mugabe as well as Zimbabwe... this inspired the lines, 'Unfailing Love, your grace is never done – reaching out to the broken and the breaker' – no one is outside of needing God.

The second was a beautiful wedding I led challenging bi-lingual worship at for a French colleague from Christian Aid, Sev. Her and her husband Dave had both been working in development, principally with Christian organisations, for a number of years and both of them were, and are, passionate about making a difference. A couple months after the wedding they were due to go out to the Sudan. The wedding was at my old university church, St Aldates in oxford, and Charlie Cleverly was speaking... he expressed his admiration for the couple and prayed over them... he also prayed that they would be a prophetic statement of more and more people from their generation who would lay down their lives for the poor... this got me thinking about the idea of how a generation who would walk with the poor could transform the world.

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

This is a congregational song which expresses both declarational content about God's heart of love for us all in our brokenness, and a desire to become 'a generation that counts it as blessing to share our lives with the poor'.

It might be particularly effective as a commitment song after a preach about reaching out, or at a commissioning service, but is equally appropriate in the context of the standard worship repertoire.

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

This song simply expresses the heart of the matter. There is an unfailing love and his name is Jesus. His grace is constantly reaching out – transforming, redeeming and blessing – those who seem to deserve it, and those who seem not to – in fact such a love is beyond deserving – it is also unfailing grace.

Following him means following this incarnational love to live lives of service and availability to the people around us, and especially to those in desperate need – whether that is in the Sudan, or in the suburbs of UK cities.