

Dear friend,

September 2015

Jennifer Gibson left the Church in her 20s, hurt and disillusioned.
Can we together work to make sure such stories are a thing of the past?

When I first heard Jennifer’s story, I was disappointed and sad. I want to share something of her experience with you – my hope and prayer is that you will be moved to act and stand with us as we work to stop this happening again.

I’m 31 and I stopped going to church two years ago.

I grew up as a Christian and was confirmed in my early twenties when I got stuck into a fantastic local church. It was full of wonderful people, serious about God.

Yet, as one of the few “young people” at the church, I gradually felt like there were more and more differences between me and the other church members. I had doubts and questions, yet everyone else had a seemingly secure faith. The church no longer seemed very welcoming. I felt like I was “doing faith” wrong and was being pushed to the fringes.

Lots of the younger people started to taper and leave, and I was the youngest left. I felt judged and like people expected me to have it all together. So in the end I stopped going.

Sadly, I have no doubt that Jennifer’s story resonates with many of you – that many of your children, grandchildren or friends have had similar experiences. Perhaps you have yourself.

That’s why I’m writing to you today. We want to do all we can to stop the tide of 20s and 30s leaving the Church. But to do this, we need your help.

The figures are stark. Only three in every 100 people in their 20s attend church.

In just two decades, the number of 20-somethings attending church has halved. Just imagine the statistics in another 20 years if we don’t act now. Will you give a gift to help change this?

With your help, the Evangelical Alliance’s *threads* initiative can make Jesus known among this generation. You could help young men and women challenge, explore and celebrate the relationship between faith and everyday life, through daily articles on threadsUK.com. You could equip them with online discussion and community. Your support could help build face-to-face friendships among 20s and 30s in the same city or town at monthly *threads* events.



Jennifer Gibson

Please give

£20 to challenge and encourage three young adults with peer-to-peer community at a *threads* event

£50 to train and resource one church leader to engage young adults in their community

£110 to reach hundreds more young adults with new articles on threadsUK.com that will support them in their faith

Continued over... ➔

Yes, I want to help reach thousands of young adults

You can also call 0207 520 3848 or visit eauk.org/autumnappeal to make your gift

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ £110 other

To support: ☐ *threads* ☐ Wherever the need is greatest

Please tick one box only.

I understand that this gift is over and above an annual membership donation.

☐ I wish to give by cheque/charity voucher payable to Evangelical Alliance.

If *threads* is fully funded in the current financial year, please be assured your gift will be used where it is most needed. If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid this donation, please fill out the form overleaf. ➔

☐ I wish to give by Mastercard/Visa/Debit/Charity Card (delete as appropriate)

Card number

Issue date / Expiry date /

Issue no. (if req.) Security code

Name as it appears on Card

Signature:

Thank you!

Your support today could reach thousands of young adults and stop the threads of their faith from unravelling.

And you've already begun to do this. Thanks to your longstanding support of the Alliance, *threads* is making a difference to many young people's lives, including Jennifer's. Here's what she shared with us about her *threads* experience:

threads has been such a help and support in my faith. I came across the website on social media and was immediately encouraged by the articles I read. It's nice to hear from people my own age who are unembarrassed and serious about their faith but who haven't "got it all together" and aren't judgmental about others. It affirms to me that you can be a committed Christian whilst asking the unasked questions.

I miss the community and support of church and to be honest it's meant I don't "practise" my faith or pray as much. Thanks to the threads community, however, I now have a peer group of Christians who can walk alongside me on this journey.

Your past generosity has helped *threads* strengthen and support Jennifer in her faith – thank you.

Yet peer-to-peer community and honest, Christ-centred discussion shouldn't be a luxury for young adults, it should be the norm.

So we need your help all the more to launch phase two of *threads*. With your support, we want to bring together 50 church leaders at two pilot training events this year, and equip them with a pack of resources to help them engage young adults in their communities. Your support could help put a stop to the tide of 20s and 30s leaving the Church, so that stories like Jennifer's are the last of their kind.

For these training days and resource packs we need £2,500. That's a gift of £50 per church leader, to train and equip them to engage the missing generation. And that's just the beginning. We need to raise a total of £59,715 for *threads* in 2015-16 in order to carry out these exciting plans.

Our prayer is that, through *threads*, thousands of young adults will rekindle a vibrant faith and take their place in the life of the Church again. Will you help us do this?

- With your support, we want to:
- provide peer-to-peer community for 500 young adults this year at 10 *threads* events
 - equip 50 church leaders with the knowledge, skills and resources to engage with 20s and 30s in their congregations and communities
 - reach thousands more young adults at five large conferences, to draw them back to faith and to church.

If we don't act now, we risk losing this generation of young adults completely. God cares deeply for every one of His children, and I'm sure you do too. So there's no time to lose.

Please pray and please give a gift to help us reach out to young adults and draw them back into church. Thank you so much for your passion, prayers and provision for this work.

With every blessing,



Steve Clifford
General Director

PS If you've been moved by Jennifer's story, would you please consider responding with a gift to support *threads* and help make sure stories like hers are a thing of the past?

Gift Aid Declaration for past, present & future donations

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we are able to claim an extra 25 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future

(Please tick all boxes you wish to apply)

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given since 6 April 2011 or will give in the future (depending on the boxes ticked).



Signature:

Date

Please tear off the completed form and return in the PREPAID envelope provided. Alternatively, you may send the form to:

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