

Christmas

NEWSLETTER 2015



Last Christmas, you gave abundantly to support our Gather initiative – local gatherings of churches and Christian leaders in towns and cities across the country, working together to bless those in need and reach the lost in their communities. Since then, Gather has grown immensely. We are so grateful.

Your gifts have resulted in:

- ★ 260 people in the north of England inspired and equipped to unite in evangelism and social action for the good of their communities, through our Gather North conference.

- ★ approximately 4,200 churches supported in their united efforts through a new website, www.gather.global, which makes available resources, information on upcoming events and workshops, and shares stories of movements across the country.

Yet there are many towns and cities where local movements aren't happening, where churches and Christian leaders are segregated and working in isolation. We've got exciting plans coming up, but for these we need your support. So please give generously to help unite churches to stand in the gap where there's a need in their community, and do more together than they could ever do apart.

Your gifts will help:

- ★ encourage, support and enable 120 Christians in local movements across the south of England at a second regional conference, Gather South, on 26 November. With your help, we will share stories of town and city transformation that has been made possible through relational unity and sustained prayer.
- ★ bring transformation to the cultural spheres of business, education, politics, media and the arts, as we hold workshops for Christian leaders keen to see God bring renewal to their areas of influence.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF £25 COULD TRAIN ONE CHURCH LEADER AT A CONFERENCE OF 20 GATHERED TO KICK-START LOCAL MISSION.



Over the summer, you gave generously to help us give voice to God's good news people: the Church. Thanks to your gifts, it has been possible to:

- ★ represent Christians in the media with stories of the Church at work doing good. Esther Kuku recently joined the team as our new media relations manager.

- ★ equip and resource the Christian community to be the good news people we know we are, with the publication of three research studies into the evangelical population's views on politics, poverty and British values.

- ★ ensure the Church's voice is heard when key decisions are being made in the corridors of power. Thanks to your support, our general election work appeared in the media 94 times in the run up to May 2015.

Yet, with an ever-growing need to combat threats to our freedom of speech and action, we need your support now more than ever to ensure Christians are heard in politics, the media and public life.

Please consider a gift to:

- ★ equip the Church with in-depth research into the beliefs and habits of evangelical Christians when it comes to ethical consumerism.
- ★ give voice to the Church's concerns in national and local politics. With your support, we can be ready to respond to the issue of the day and ensure the Church is heard, valued and understood, by working alongside politicians and speaking into the media.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF £60 COULD EQUIP 30 MORE CHURCHES WITH THIS UNIQUE RESEARCH INTO THE 21ST CENTURY EVANGELICAL POPULATION.



Public Leadership

Earlier this year we brought before you the need for funds to raise up Christian leaders in the UK, to return integrity and faith to our leaders and our institutions. Your response was astounding – thank you so much.

Since then, thanks to your support:

- ★ 27 young people, including Emma, were equipped at the first young public leaders conference in July 2015.

- ★ 33 Christian business leaders and future leaders were inspired and supported in September at the first sector-specific Public Leadership breakfast. They were given greater confidence to be Christians publicly in their workplaces.
- ★ a culture of public leadership has begun to take shape in the Church through speaking engagements at churches and conferences.

But the truth is that these stories of the impact we're making with your help have only just begun to meet needs. There is a desperate need for more Christians in leadership, and for a culture shift in churches to encourage and support aspiring leaders to take their Christian values into the public sphere.

Your support can help:

- ★ train more young public leaders in their 20s at three further weekend conferences in Staffordshire, Northern Ireland, and Sussex.
- ★ grow a network of Christian business leaders who can support one another and pass on their experience to upcoming leaders, with a second business-focused breakfast in February.
- ★ Christians understand how they might be able to serve and lead in their spheres of influence, by enabling us to produce a small group course for churches, setting out the biblical basis for leadership in public life.
- ★ catalyse Public Leadership networks in towns and cities, by enabling us to work with local churches and groups of churches.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF £80 COULD EQUIP AND SUPPORT ONE YOUNG PUBLIC LEADER AT A TRAINING WEEKEND.



threads

Your appeal gifts to support *threads* as recently as this autumn have made a huge difference – we've seen it ourselves and we've heard stories of young adults who had all but given up on God until they came across *threads*. We've seen too the difference your support is making to churches who are desperate to understand the exodus of 20s and 30s from their congregations and draw them back in.

Since we wrote to you, your support for *threads* has enabled:

- ★ 40 church leaders to be equipped and encouraged to reach out to the missing generation at our first *threads* training day, piloted earlier this month.
- ★ 40 church resource packs to be put into the hands of church leaders across the UK to share stories, best practice and advice on engaging young adults in their communities.

- ★ 70 young people to be inspired to respond to God's heart for the parentless, through a series of four seminars held by *threads* and Home for Good in October on fostering and adoption.

But these milestones are just a start. They barely make a dent on the critical need across the nation's churches for help in renewing and strengthening the faith of the millennial generation. We know you understand the need – many of you have seen it for yourselves.

So will you consider a gift to:

- ★ train and resource a further 40 church leaders at a second pilot training day in February 2016? Amazingly, bookings have already run out for this, so we need your support to make it possible and the best it could be.
- ★ enable thousands more young adults to challenge, analyse and celebrate the relationship between faith and everyday life through online articles, discussion and community?
- ★ resource hundreds more church leaders with literature that will encourage and equip them to understand and reach out to the millennial generation?

A CHRISTMAS GIFT OF £150 COULD TRAIN AND RESOURCE THREE CHURCH LEADERS TO ENGAGE YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

