

February 2017

## Let's together make Jesus known

God saves people in the most remarkable ways – and the most simple; in the miraculous and the everyday. Watching men, women and children of all backgrounds, ages, and lifestyles give their lives to Jesus is a large part of what inspired me to go into full-time church leadership many years ago – and it's what is inspiring my letter to you today.

Because watching others come to faith, or hearing their stories, can fan into flame within us a greater passion for making Jesus known. **And I'd like to ask you to help us fan this flame – and provide the tools to equip too – so that together we can make Jesus known.**

Let me explain by telling you about a woman called Balbinder, a former Sikh and now a follower of Jesus:

Balbinder was a Sikh for over 50 years. Her mum brought her up to know the Sikh scriptures, follow the 10 gurus, and to live according to Sikh teaching. But even as a Sikh, she would look anywhere and everywhere else for help and hope when she had problems – she never knew peace.

*"I started exploring Christianity by accident really – it was on a phone call to a friend. I was in despair and crying about my oldest son. I didn't know what to do. She confessed to me that she had accepted Jesus recently. And she said: 'Balbinder, if you really want help, only one person can help you and that's Jesus.' She said: 'When you put the phone down, with all your heart and with faith, pray to Him and He will help you.' So I put the phone down, and before I went to bed, I prayed to the Lord."*

Balbinder put her faith in Jesus. And three days later she received a Bible from her friend. **"The Holy Spirit, through the Bible, was talking to me – I was in awe and amazement that this was real and God was talking to me. I finally knew that peace I had been looking for."**



What an amazing testimony – something as simple as a phone call, and God used it to give new life! You can watch Balbinder share her full story at [greatcommission.co.uk/balbinders-story](http://greatcommission.co.uk/balbinders-story)

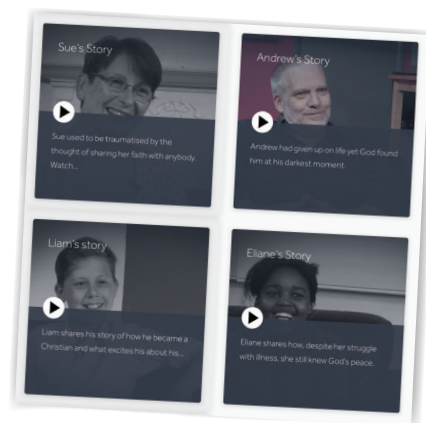
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My passion is to see the Church buzzing with many hundreds, even thousands, of stories like Balbinder's, of men and women finding new life and peace in Jesus because someone – a friend, sister, colleague – dared to share their faith with them. Of course Balbinder's story is spectacular, but isn't it just as awe-inspiring to hear the more everyday testimonies of God giving new life?

**That's why, with your help, we've just launched the Great Commission website – [www.greatcommission.co.uk](http://www.greatcommission.co.uk) – to help Christians talk about Jesus.**

It's a huge – and growing – collection of videos, stories, reflections and resources, designed to inspire, equip and empower every Christian and every church to reach out to their friends and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ.

School chaplains and church leaders, heads of denominations and individuals have all been telling us of their excitement and plans for using the range of videos, reflections and resources they're finding on the site. They're already growing in confidence and passion to speak of Jesus, and can now find the practical tools to enable them to do so.



Ellen Lockwood, a trainee minister in Loughborough, shared: “Last weekend we showed Balbinder's testimony to a mixed crowd at the monthly alternative service I head up. We knew that we had at least one lady there who doesn't follow Jesus, and her feedback at the end of the night was: 'It's the first church meeting I've been to that's made me really think'.”

“I also met with a friend of mine recently who isn't a Christian but is open-minded and asking questions. She dropped into the conversation that she liked hearing different people's stories, so I've left the Great Commission website open on her laptop to look at when she's got time. So it's helping me not only with church meetings but also with my personal evangelism, and I'm really grateful. It's what I've been hoping and looking for.”

**But that's not all the Alliance is doing to make Jesus known this year. If we want to see thousands come to faith, we need to think big. And we need to act now to build upon what has just begun. So we'd like your support today to enable us to:**

- equip Christians to speak to people – of every age, stage and style of life – about Jesus, by catalysing and creating new resources and tools for evangelism, filling the gaps and meeting needs that aren't currently being met.
- inspire churches and communities that God is at work to save lives, by producing and widely promoting a new video story and article every week, to change the narrative and show that God is giving new life.
- empower Christians across the UK with all the tools they need to share the good news of Jesus, by going on a Great Commission roadshow of events and speaking engagements, showcasing and releasing this resource for all to use.
- liberate Christians with the knowledge of their legal freedoms to speak of their faith in work and other contexts, by distributing the *Speak Up* booklet, produced by the Alliance in partnership with the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship.
- unite churches in evangelism across ethnic divides and geographical boundaries, through the work of the One People Commission, which regularly brings together key ethnically-diverse church leaders.

As an Evangelical Alliance, we've even changed our logo's strapline from “Better Together” to “Together making Jesus known” to reflect our renewed commitment to evangelism.

**So will you join us today in making Jesus known? Could you consider making a gift that will inspire and equip Christians to share their faith and talk about Jesus?**

Balbinder's story doesn't end with her own commitment to Jesus. When Balbinder's daughter found out she had turned to Christ, she retaliated and started going to the Gurdwara – the Sikh place of worship – which she had never done before, to make her mother angry.

*"But I continued to pray for her. And secretly she was reading the Bible on her phone. The verse that came to her was about Nicodemus talking to Jesus and Jesus saying he had to be born again. She said it just wouldn't leave her mind and it spoke to her. And she was ready, and gave her life to Jesus."*

Every church needs to hear stories like Balbinder's; every Christian needs to be reminded and encouraged, ignited with the fire of faith, confident that God is still at work to save. Please hear me when I say: God is at work.

**So please consider giving a gift today. Your donation will inspire, equip and empower Christians to make Jesus known, and so see many come to faith.**

And above all else, will you pray? Pray for Balbinder and her daughter as they share their new-found faith with others. Pray for the millions of men, women and children in the UK who don't know Jesus. And pray for the Church as together we make Jesus known.

I've enclosed a leaflet with amazing stories like Balbinder's so you can give it to someone you think will be encouraged and inspired by them.

Thank you for all you are doing to support and enable this ministry, in prayer and gifts.

With every blessing,

*Steve*

**Steve Clifford**  
General Director,  
Evangelical Alliance



*DS Balbinder's story reminds me that there is no one too far from God that He cannot save them. She inspires me to step out in faith, to pray and to act so that Jesus is made known wherever I am. Will you give a gift today to help us inspire, equip and empower the Church to make Jesus known this year?*

## Yes, I'd like to give a gift to help make Jesus known

Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ Other £

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

If our mission initiatives are fully funded in the current financial year, please be assured your gift will be used where the need is greatest.

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 cheque/charity voucher payable to Evangelical Alliance.

OR

☐ 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 on card

Signature:

OR

You can also call **0207 520 3830** or visit **eauk.org/springappeal** to make your gift

## Thank you!

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

**Freepost RTHK-ECJZ-HZYK, Evangelical Alliance,  
176 Copenhagen Street, London, N1 0ST**

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- ☐ in the past 4 years
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