



## Webinar 1: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

13:00 (1pm) to 14:15 (2.15pm)

***Church, mission & nations:  
in our interconnected world, how do we see church & mission impacted?***

### Contributors

Jo Frost		Roger Sutton		Asmelash Berhane	
	Director of Communications <b>Evangelical Alliance UK</b> <a href="http://eauk.org">eauk.org</a>		Director <b>Movement Day UK</b> <a href="http://movementday.co.uk">movementday.co.uk</a>		Director <b>Release Eritrea</b> <a href="http://eritrehub.org">eritrehub.org</a>

### **Overarching theme**

Reimagining church & mission

COVID-19 catalyses change – what does this mean for church & mission?

### **Webinar 1 specific focus**

Church & mission impacts noticed nationally & shared global learning

What can we learn now? Have we simply moved our services and mission online? This virtual public square has certainly increased exposure and access, with amazing sharing of resources and information. People can pick and choose who they listen to and when they link in. Technology is rapidly opening doors and improving access. Alongside this alarm bells ring, will there be great competition, what impact will the virtual engagement have and how does this affect mission?

### **Hoped-for outcomes**

This first webinar will seek to capture learning under four broad headings that we hope will create foundational learning about the impact we are seeing, enabling us to consider and explore responses, for example:



What are we learning?	What do we see happening?	What challenges are arising?	What should our response be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our own mortality, frailty, fragility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New fringe groups arising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation, fellowship, human touch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local neighbourhood matters</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What really matters in life, our priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compassion and help bringing out the best in society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear, loneliness, mental health concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalysing and building on desire to help</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shining a light on inequalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key workers sustaining all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontline staff at risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting initiatives for vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biblical literacy and understanding tested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing hunger for spiritual input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of being present.</li> </ul>

Considering the above examples how do we see church and mission being:

- 1) challenged?
- 2) impacted and transformed?

Contributors will be asked to address these two questions within their expertise:

- 1) **Jo Frost:** with specific focus on how churches and missions are interacting with each other to address the concerns, or is there simply greater competition as everyone moves online?

Jo joined the Evangelical Alliance in September 2017, having previously worked with a number of Christian charities, including Share Jesus, Release International and The Bible Society. Jo completed her Masters in Public Communications at Westminster before joining an international campaigns consultancy specialising in human rights and environment issues. She then went on to set up her own business as a communications consultant and brand specialist. Jo teaches and preaches regularly on communications, conflict, whole-life discipleship, mission and leadership.

- 2) **Roger Sutton:** with specific focus on how to love our city, movement day initiatives are responding to the pandemic. What are churches and pastors learning and saying?

Roger is director of Movement Day UK and leads the GATHER movement. He also co-chairs the Trafford Local Strategic Partnership and chairs the Stronger Communities Board for Trafford Council in Manchester. He has an itinerant speaking ministry around themes of unity and city transformation. Roger is an ordained Baptist Minister and previously led Altrincham Baptist Church for 22 years and was the chair of the Reaching the Unchurched Network.

- 3) **Asmelash Berhane:** with specific focus on how we can learn important lessons and principles from churches which have been in lockdown for decades. What are the top priorities for us to consider as we listen to those who have experienced so much over the years?



Dr Berhane spent eleven months in prison because of his Christian work, and saw friends and fellow prisoners led away to execution. He was working in a hospital as a health worker in Eritrea when security authorities came to the hospital and arrested him. Dr Berhane now lives in London with his family as a Minister at the Unified Benefice of Plumstead Common Church of England, and is Director of Release Eritrea, an organisation that supports Eritrean Christians (including those exiled in other countries) and campaigns on their behalf.

## Discussion

After each contributor has given their thoughts and inputs there will be some time for questions followed by a time of open discussion in which we invite our contributors to talk with one another around the topic.

Coupled to this, there will be panel members who will ask additional questions and give comments.

For those who have sent in questions prior to the webinar, we will be collating and sharing with our contributors and participants.

The session will be recorded and made available through the All Nations web site [allnations.ac.uk](http://allnations.ac.uk) as well as on partners' resource pages.