



Rev. Alex Harris

Presidential Profile

Alex is married to Hannah and they have four young children. Growing up in West Africa, Alex was introduced to Jesus in his early twenties through the consistent lifestyle and courageous words of Christian friends. Alex joined Christians in Sport as an evangelist, before Hannah and Alex were called to China. For four years, Alex served across Asia enabling sports' mission, before serving as Associate Pastor for a large international church in Shanghai.

Called back to the UK in 2009, Alex completed a Masters at Spurgeons College. Since 2012 Alex has served Beacon Church in Stafford. The last 8 years have been a remarkable story of God's grace on a church. The church has grown to 9 congregations across multiple locations, aspiring to live out values of love, courage, Bible saturation and Spirit dependence. Each congregation small enough to love and care, but confident enough to risk and dare. We dare to dream together that God might birth 20 congregations by the end of 2020.



Dear friends and colleagues in our Baptist Together family,

I wanted to express, as openly as possible, what I and our church feel Jesus is saying about serving as Baptists Together President for 2021. We have prayed and fasted in seeking God's timing and purposes in a year set aside as President - to serve local churches across our country in a way that makes a real difference as they seek to make disciples of Jesus. To be asked to stand is an honour I am deeply grateful for.

I long to help our local churches and Christians in those churches grow in courageous attempts to introduce people to Jesus. Burdened on my heart is one of the many Bible certainties: confidence. Not in

ourselves, but in God. A deep, lived out confidence in God being at work.

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline. Therefore we do not need to be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord..." (2 Timothy 1:7-8).

What would that look like?

A passionate belief in prayer - 1000 Baptists to fast for forty days

Launching the presidential year 2021 with a call to 40 days of purposeful prayer as we seek God to move in reaching new people for Jesus. This prayer spearheaded through calling a thousand of us to commit to a 40 day fast - for the lost we long to see saved; for our

local churches and her leaders; and for the lives of the most vulnerable and least loved to be transformed. With a package of resources to enable this unified call at whatever level of engagement.

Simple resources - helping all Christians speak about Jesus

A commitment to provide resources for simple, fun giveaways at key festival times that open up a conversation about Jesus between Christians and their friends, neighbours and colleagues. We have found these extremely fruitful, creating space to talk about Jesus in a way people are interested in and open to.

I am praying to see a 100,000 of these resources enabling a Jesus-directed conversation as they are given away, individual to individual as ordinary Christians tell the story of our wonderful, welcoming God.

Firestarter conversations - growing churches helping to grow churches

One of the great privileges of the last few years has been to lead a team of our fastest growing Baptist churches to host Firestarter conversations. Many of our Baptist churches have been part of these conversations over the last two years. We have seen God produce surprising results in renewed churches, new congregations birthed, and lots and lots of baptisms.

Firestarter conversations are intentionally small, two day forums. Leadership teams gather to listen to the stories of these growing churches, to learn the lessons of how God is at work, and to commit together to action. Part funded by our national body, working in partnership with associations, they are having tangible gospel impact on our local churches. I am praying for 500 church leaders to be impacted by Firestarter conversations through

their local churches seeing twice the number of baptisms in the twelve months following as the five years previously.

We do not want to be left wondering what God might have done if we had trusted more and tried harder. It is his work. He will do what he chooses to do, and we will praise him for it as we play our part serving our local churches to be confident in God.

Please join me as we pray together to discern our 2021 president.

"Not to us, O Lord! Not to us, but to your name be the glory." (Psalm 115:1)

Alex

You can find Alex on Facebook, or contact him via email at alex@thebeaconchurch.com. He will reply to every email but please be patient if there is a few days delay. Beacon Church's website is www.thebeaconchurch.com and Firestarters is www.firestartersuk.com.

