

The South Asian Forum (SAF) is a grouping within the Evangelical Alliance, it was set up to provide a place for South Asian Christians in the UK to encourage, support and equip each other for mission, and to represent their concerns to government, media and the wider Church. With the support of both individual members and church members totalling more than 20,000 people, SAF is steadily growing. Visit saf.eauk.org to get involved in supporting this wonderful

ministry by becoming a member of SAF. Once you become a member, you will receive *idea*, the Alliance's bi-monthly magazine, as well as regular newsletters from SAF detailing our progress. If you are already a member of the Evangelical Alliance you can add SAF to your Alliance membership at no extra cost. In this instance please send an email to saf@eauk.org

SAF interviews Surekha Hulugalle, national leader of the Foursquare denomination of Great Britain

What is your background?

I'm Sri Lankan by origin, born into an Anglican family. I've been living in the UK for the past 18 years. I'm married to Chrishani with two boys, Shanendra (19) and Shamindra (12).



How did you come to faith?

I came to faith a week before my 21st birthday while I was on holiday. A distant relative shared about the love of Jesus with me. The more she spoke the more I realised and was convicted by the Holy Spirit that I needed what she had, the reality of knowing Him and an authentic relationship. I'd been searching for many things and even attempted suicide twice as a way out and a method of revenge. I came back home experiencing a powerful encounter as the start of my Christian journey.

What is your current role and what does this entail?

I belong to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. At present I wear a few hats. I'm the senior pastor of my local church, Living Waters in Kenton, Harrow. I'm also the national leader for our denomination within Great Britain. This involves giving leadership and the oversight of our churches and pastors across the nation. My third area of responsibility is being a board member of the European Council for Foursquare Churches. We give leadership and develop Foursquare Churches in European nations and help reach the unreached.

What is your passion?

I don't simply have one passion, but a few.

Firstly, I'm passionate about helping people shine. This is helping individuals to be the best, experience freedom and thereby shine the light of Jesus in the family, church, society and professional sphere. This is mainly through the vehicle of teaching, discipleship and one to one mentoring.

Secondly, I'm passionate to see the UK experience revival through worship and intercession. This would happen as the churches unite and have a desire for their local city and the UK. There is a great need for the Asian churches in the UK to be a part of this move and to be more integrated with what the Lord is setting up in the greater body. We've been brought to this nation to be His Church that brings citywide and national transformation.

Thirdly, I'm passionate about missions and taking teams into various nations and parts of the globe on a regular basis. A common language we speak is the love of Jesus. Often we don't speak the local language, but God's love connects us deeply through relationship as we serve those we have been called to.

Fourthly, I'm passionate to see healthy churches being planted and multiplied. A healthy church will produce healthy leaders and congregations that make a difference in the society they live in. They would then reproduce in a similar manner. Investing, encouraging and educating pastors and the leaders by bringing healthy principles, has a natural flow that impacts the congregation.

Lastly, I'm passionate to see the young generations step up and take their place now. They're not the next generation but the 'now' generation. It's my dream to build a residential discipleship centre to enable young people come and take a season of their lives to have a deeper encounter with God and to be discipled into who God is calling them to be.

Game Changers

Encountering God and Changing the World

SAF interviews Gavin Calver, Director of Mission, Evangelical Alliance

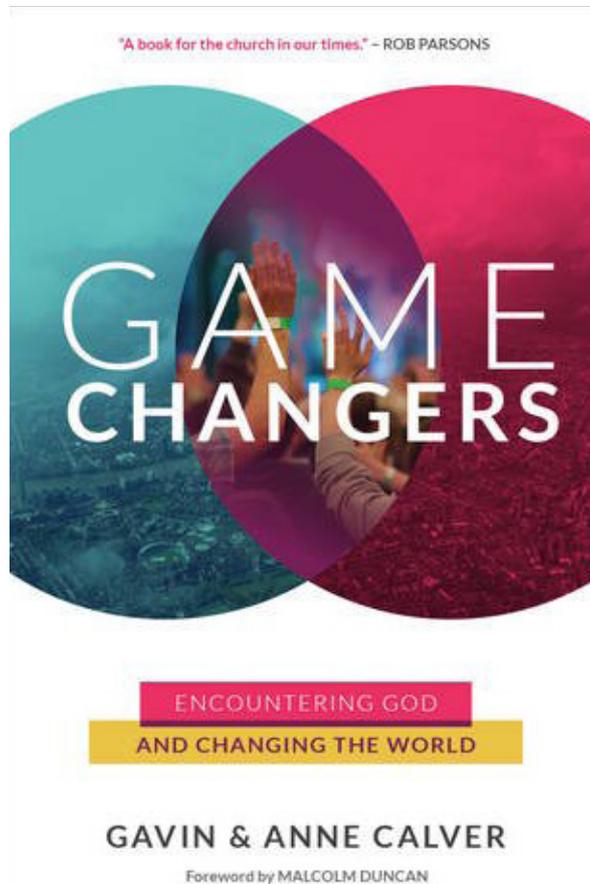
What is challenging you in the areas of mission and evangelism?

I'm hugely challenged, and equally encouraged, by some recent research we at the Evangelical Alliance were involved with – alongside Hope and the Church of England – from the Barna group that showed that 66 per cent of UK Christians have shared their faith in the last month. This is amazing and far higher than I would have guessed. However, disappointingly 42 per cent of those shared with felt glad that they didn't share the Christians faith and a further 42 per cent felt indifferent as a result. I'm desperate that we would keep sharing as prolifically, but that the impact would be immensely more positive than this. I'm challenged to try and help Christians share their faith more effectively – find out more about the research at www.talkingjesus.org.

What would you like to say to the churches within SAF?

The Church is doing so much good within society. The growth of numerous mission initiatives is having a profound impact and we should never underestimate this. However, is there ever a danger that we might be drifting towards presenting a largely social Gospel? Might it be possible that our actions are having a great impact and yet our mouths have become gagged? It seems to me that in many ways the UK Church has been lacking confidence in the Gospel for too long. We need to be clear about whose we are and make all of our ministry entirely Christ focussed. This doesn't mean that we're preaching at people all the time but simply that we are not being used as purely a

social benefit to people when the greatest thing they need is Christ. We're not called as the Church to build Prime Minister David Cameron's 'Big Society', but instead to build Christ's 'Big Kingdom'. There will be many sociological benefits along the way, but our chief goal must remain the fulfilment of the Great Commission above all else.



What are some of the pitfalls that churches face when pushing out in mission?

We can't expect people to come to faith by osmosis, sometimes we need to make the invitation. We need to pray for the self-assurance to step out knowing that whatever the outcome the Lord is with us. I wonder if at times we are simply not seeing as much fruit as we would like because we are not asking the question enough. That to me is the greatest pitfall in our mission. We are doing loads of

amazing things which is brilliant but are we giving people an opportunity to meet Jesus enough? Let's be people who give the invitation regularly.

What would you like to say to those within SAF as individuals?

We are all involved and it can never just be the role of the evangelist to lead people to Jesus. All Christians should have non-Christian friends. Who can you share with, and show Jesus, to? Let's all be in relationships with others where we are seeking to lead them towards Jesus. I wholeheartedly believe that the best days for the UK Church are yet to come, but for this to be true we all need to be involved. Step out of your comfort zone, pray fervently and believe the Lord will move.

Game Changers by Gavin and Anne Calver is available here: www.eauk.org/gamechangers

Naujavan – Releasing a Movement

In 1998, in the quiet streets of Southampton in the UK, a vision to see young South Asian leaders inspired, developed and equipped was born. Not what you might expect! But I've come to realise that God rarely does what we expect. This was an opportunity to see a generation of Moses-



like leaders that were uniquely made and placed to reach those that no one else could. The 16-30-year-old South Asians were largely an unreached people group and who better than Christians of the same age and background to reach them? The need to invest into an emerging generation was obvious but the way forward was unknown. With events, courses and resources being developed many young South Asians came to be part of the Naujavan movement, but early on it was clear that finding the right young leaders wasn't going to be easy.

Fast forward nearly 18 years and right now, it feels like we're just about to get started. Over the past two years we've been considering two words God had given to me during a season of prayer: 'Give Naujavan away' and 'Invest in the few to reach the many'. We wondered what this might be about and at our annual Weekend Away in 2015 it was as if the Holy Spirit flooded my mind and connected the dots. I saw many of the young people we'd been friends with for many years in front of me and felt like God said "here are the leaders".

Interestingly as we reflected back, we realised in fact that the journey to 'give Naujavan away' had already begun earlier in 2015 as the vision was caught by our friend Sonia Thomas, who carried it back to Toronto, Canada. Excitingly a small Naujavan Toronto team developed and began hosting events and gatherings locally there. At the same time we had continued to become more closely involved with young South Asian leaders here in the UK that were desperate for support as

they were rising to the challenge of leadership in the local setting. Over the past few years we've found ourselves spending much time one-to-one mentoring and guiding some incredibly gifted and passionate young leaders. God, it seems, has been setting the scene for a transitional shift, for some time and we didn't even know it!

In 2016, we want to be obedient to what we feel the Holy Spirit has been revealing to us. Instead of a small team running around all over the country trying to reach everyone (not a very sustainable model), we're gearing up to release Naujavan into the hands of regional teams across different parts of the UK and other parts of the world. That means that centrally we're on a short 'pause' from our standard events but in the coming months we should have more leaders, more opportunities to connect and more impact than we've ever had before.

In March we're spending several days with this group of emerging leaders at our first ever Naujavan Leaders Gathering. The aim is to grow in our friendship, learn about healthy leadership and get practical about taking all that God has been doing through Naujavan up to the next level. It's taken 18 years to get to this point, but we're convinced God is about to do something very special here.

On **Saturday 19th March** we're hosting a special evening in Southampton for those who have supported the work of Naujavan. This night is called 'Naujavan – Releasing a Movement' and will feature this new fleet of young leaders including some of our Toronto team that are joining us for it. If you're someone who has prayed, given financially or promoted the vision then we'd love to invite you to join us on this night as well. It starts at **6.30pm** and is hosted at **Lighthouse, St Mary's Road, Southampton, SO14 0BB**. We do require you to confirm your attendance ahead of time by dropping us an email at: **bookings@naujavan.com**

Naujavan is a movement of young South Asians, uniquely made and placed, united as family through the unstoppable love of Jesus.

Sanjay Rajo

My Journey to Christ



I was born into an Iranian, Muslim family and had a happy childhood until the 1979 Iranian Revolution turned my world upside down. Along with my brothers, I was actively involved in the coup against the rule of the Shah (King). Sadly, having achieved our aim, our dreams of a democratic government were dashed and I now became active against the rule of Ayatollah Khomeini and his Islamic State.

In 1981 I had a serious accident. I was in Tehran for a family wedding while I was having a shower at the public baths I blacked out and turned the water onto its maximum temperature. While I was unconscious I was badly scalded by the water. I was rushed to hospital, but the doctors didn't expect that I would live and left me in a ward with others who were expected to die. While unconscious, I heard a voice repeatedly telling me to get up. I argued saying: "Leave me alone, I'm going to die, I can't get up," but the voice persisted, and I eventually opened my eyes.

Beside my bed were two men in bright clothes who I took to be angels. I said to them: "But I'm dying." They replied: "No, you are not going to die. You are going to live for the glory of God." They took hold of my hands and helped me to get out of bed and to take a few steps. They then said they would see me again and I was going to be used in the service of Almighty God. At that moment a nurse came in, and seeing me standing by the bed exclaimed loudly and ran for a doctor. The angels disappeared. From that time I made a slow and painful recovery.

As my strength returned I thought I had no future in my beloved country. For five years I heard a voice telling me the time had come to leave Iran, and so I resolved to come to England where my older sister was already living. It took several years, and a lot of money, but in January 1986 I arrived in the UK.

One Sunday I was feeling homesick and went for a walk thinking I would kill myself, but I found

myself at Speakers Corner where I was approached by an Iranian Christian called Jaleh. Despite my rudeness, she persisted in telling me about Jesus. I kept in touch with her and was very impressed with the kindness she showed me. One day she invited me to go to her church and I agreed, but when I got there I was angry as it was a small hall and not the grand building I imagined.

I attended the church for three months and gradually understood who Jesus was, why he died on the cross, and how much God loved me. One Sunday I prayed and demanded that God reveal himself to me. God was very gracious to this stubborn woman and immediately the Holy Spirit touched me. The meeting stopped at that point, but that was when my life in Christ started.

Another miracle happened in my life and that was when God said – audibly – that I must give my address to a man in a Bible study. Against my wishes, and my culture, I obeyed. That man was Nigel, my husband. We've been married for 28 years and have two sons.

It's almost 30 years since I met Jesus, and there have been many hardships along the way, but I praise God for his Grace and that day when I became a child of God.

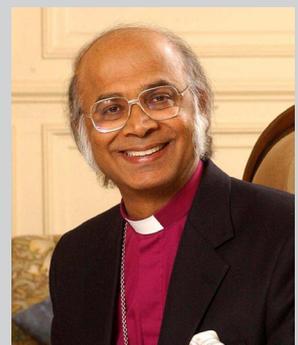
Mrs Parvaneh Nicholson

Co-leader of Mosaic – Multi Ethnic Diversity

"Facing Challenges Together"

1st October 2016, 9:30am - 5:00pm, Birmingham

A one-day conference with Bishop Michael Nazir Ali on Building Churches amongst Muslims in Britain. Sponsored by The Right Way, this year's annual conference will include seminars on:



- Safe Houses for MBBs
- MBB Asylum seekers
- Pakistani MBBs and the House Church Model
- Persecution and ostracism of MBBs in Britain
- The right to convert from Islam in Britain
- Joining the Family — local church and small groups
- Social and cultural issues affecting MBB women
- Discipling MBBs through suffering and persecution
- MBBs and Human rights in Britain
- The Mirpuri community and their issues in Britain

To receive further details and a booking form please contact Amjad Mahand at amjadmahand@aol.com