

Equipping Missional Communities to Reach the World at Our Doorstep with The Alpha Course and Multicultural Alpha:

Alpha is practical introduction to the Christian faith that provides people outside the church an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed non threatening environment. Over 16 million people worldwide have attended an Alpha course in tens of thousands of churches of all denominations. The course has been used successfully around the world. There are now more than 35,200 Alpha courses running in 169 countries.

It is estimated that there are over 43 million foreign-born citizens now living within the United States (13.5 % of the US population.) Whether you are seeking to mobilize your church to reach out to the new people groups emerging in your neighborhood or you are transitioning into a multi-ethnic faith community and/or planting a missional community, Alpha and Multicultural Alpha can provide you with several highly effective tools designed to empower your outreach strategies.

Becoming a Multicultural Church



Grace Chapel located in Lexington, MA:

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bryan Wilkerson

“While our journey toward becoming a multicultural church has truly been a work of God’s Spirit, there have been several



intentional steps we’ve taken that have accelerated that journey. Offering Alpha for ESOL was one of those steps. It has not only opened a door for speakers of other languages to come to faith and church, it has been another declaration of our commitment to the value of multiculturalism. Alpha for ESOL is enabling us to more effectively serve and reach the many immigrant and international communities in greater Boston.”

Alpha for ESOL, an Effective Outreach Tool

Grace Chapel’s Pastor of Outreach, Rev. Richard Rhodes:



“Alpha ESOL is a tremendous tool that God is using here at Grace Chapel to bring many seekers from diverse ethnic backgrounds into a relationship with Jesus Christ and then into the church. I believe it provides the perfect bridge to reach internationals who are often eager to explore spiritual things. Alpha ESOL gives these guests the opportunity to hear the Gospel in a format and environment that is clear and compelling. Guests feel valued and loved in the process. I highly recommend Alpha ESOL to any church which is seeking to become multicultural or more ethnically diverse.” [Grace Chapel](#) is a non-denominational church located in Lexington, Massachusetts. Nearly 4,000 people from more than 200 towns, representing many different cultures and church traditions, attend Sunday services, events and activities.

Reverend Sandra G. Whitley, Senior Pastor, People's A.M.E. Church, Chelsea MA.



A few years ago I was appointed the Senior Pastor of People's A.M.E. Church in Chelsea, MA. I grasped the vision for Alpha and began to put into motion plans to launch our first course in 2011. Several Alpha churches and teams located in our region came alongside us to help us train and prepare. We made concrete plans to publicize our upcoming ALPHA Dinner.

Our Alpha team prayed and prepared to go out into our neighborhood, and for the next two weeks, we knocked on doors and personally invited people to join us. God revealed treasures behind the doors of those houses; our neighbors, it seemed, represented peoples from many nations. We had almost missed one home in particular, because we had run out of flyers, but our team refused to let cold temperatures and an impending snow storm deter our plans to invite guests to come to Alpha. We went back to that house and after ringing the bell; a man answered the door and identified himself as the landlord. He introduced us to a refugee family who had just moved into the building. They had just arrived from Congo, Africa the night before. A mother and her four children had only the clothes on their backs, no food, nor any belongings.

A team from our congregation later returned to shower the family with lots of coats, clothing and, shoes, others brought a refrigerator and food. The family had fled for their lives in the Congo and had come to America to be safe and begin again. We all reveled in the awesomeness of "God's Amazing Grace". By the evening of our

Alpha Introductory Dinner, we had successfully passed out roughly 214+ English & Spanish Alpha invitations. Our team also extended personal invitations by word of mouth, made phone calls, and sent emails to family, friends, co-workers, students, pastors, and multiethnic community groups in our area. On February 15th, the atmosphere was set with excitement and anticipation in the air and the fellowship hall was warmly filled with the spirit of God's loving presence for the arrival of our guests. We rejoice in the Lord in praise of the various nations other than African Americans, who showed up in Spanish, African, Caucasian, and Haitian guests.



May the Lord be praised for answering our prayers and for the 23 guests now attending our Alpha Course. God is truly amazing and we thank Him for our new

Alpha Church family. We are so very encouraged and truly fired up about God's work through the ministry of Alpha at our church, and also this diverse community's response to our invitations. If it had not been for ALPHA we would not have found the treasures hidden behind the doors we knocked on, or been empowered to step outside our comfort zone and invite all who would listen. We have are experiencing a renewed sense of mission and unity among the church's Alpha team. We thank the Lord for not our will being done but His will that brings glory and honor to His Name alone. In Jesus precious love and joy, AMEN!

Alpha in Other Languages

Is God calling you to reach a particular people group? Perhaps you are seeing different language groups emerging within your faith community. Alpha course resources are available in 81 different translations.

Alpha for Cantonese and Mandarin Speakers The Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, Rev. Barry Lam



“By the grace of God a group of brothers and sisters started the first Chinese Alpha course at the Newton Campus this September. It had been a year since God put the burden of organizing an Alpha course on our hearts. We spent a lot of time in prayer, gathered

information, attended training events, and began planning the course. God continuously provided us with a lot of help and confirmation, which greatly increased our faith and courage to start this new ministry.

We thank God for bringing about 70 brothers and sisters and new friends to the Alpha introductory dinner. About half of the attendees were non-believers and a few of them were Mandarin speakers. We divided our guests into 3 groups. Since we had a few guests who were Mandarin speakers, we formed a group in which the discussion was conducted in both Cantonese and Mandarin.

During the Alpha course, we deeply experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, especially in changing people’s hearts. We witnessed

how the Holy Spirit could totally change a person from against or very doubtful about Christianity to understanding and accepting the love of Jesus Christ in a matter of weeks. Things that are impossible to men are totally possible with God. We are very thankful for the



opportunity to partner with God in the Alpha course. This allowed us to experience the power of prayer in a new dimension,

especially during the time we felt a lot of attack from Satan. In just ten short weeks, seven of our guests accepted Jesus as their personal savior and a few of them will soon be baptized! We rejoice with the Angels in heaven as these souls who were lost are now found. We pray that God will continue to use the Alpha course in mighty ways. Glory to God.”

The Boston Chinese Evangelical Church is a Bible-believing, non-denominational, local body of believers We are one church composed of 6 congregations ministering in 3 different languages, Cantonese, English , and Mandarin, over 2 campuses, located in Chinatown and Newton, MA. The BCEC Serves roughly 3000.

Why not get started? Information and training are available in your region. Alpha USA’s Multicultural Team is waiting to serve you.