

CHRISTMAS IN SUMMER

Find out why we are already thinking about Christmas in summer and know that shoes are completely overrated for a Christmas campaign video shoot ;-)



The Swiss Alpha Team proudly presents...

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THE CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

"**24 x Weihnachten NEU erleben**" supports churches in organizing the Advent season, with the goal of helping people (re) discover the original meaning of Christmas. Because we are convinced, the experience can change lives! There is something for every age group and free resources are available to everybody.

770 churches from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Luxembourg took part in the campaign last year. Christmas is full of potential to bring many people into connection with the Christian faith in a special way. The Alphalife team is really excited to be able to bring this campaign to Switzerland this year and has the lead. You can find all information and resources about the campaign on: **24x-weihnachten-neu-erleben.ch** (sorry, German only)

At the same time, we are planning a cross-border Alpha campaign. Hopefully, **IMPACT 22** will inspire many churches and parishes to start with an Alpha course in January 2022. The perfect moment to offer a safe space and community to all the wonderful people who rediscovered Christmas. The invitation on a journey to discover faith.

PS: yes, I was sweating when I was asked to record a scripted text in front of the camera. (retrieved by heart when headlights are pointed at you). I also had to sit down and sit still, oh boy, you know me, haha. It was a great experience. However, I am and will remain the bundle of energy that is at her best when being able to move and shake while speaking unscripted into a camera. I have way more respect for all the TV Moderators now.

We are celebrating the Semi Finalist. Learn more about Verena and her art (page 2) verenadill.ch



ALPHA HIGHLIGHTS IN A NUTSHELL

Some behind Scenes Highlights of the work I get to do through and with you dear Mission Partners.

Aug 3rd 2021

Meeting with a Lead Pastor of a non-denominational church to introduce him to Alpha and sharing how it can completely transform his church culture.

Aug 5th 2021

Kick-off Relationship Management Project. Setting up our CRM system to level up our relationship management with the churches. Free up our resources to actually connect with the church leaders 1:1.

Aug 12th 2021

Alpha Team Briefing/Training for an Alpha joint venture of a reformed and non-denominational church. Such a blessing.



Aug 17th 2021

Joining a Catholic church for the Team briefing on their first Alpha night.

Aug 20th 2021

Visiting a pastor with whom I connected in person back in June the Explo Day Inspiration Day (see June Newsletter). Meeting his staff and having enriching conversations about how Alpha impacted their church in the past before the pandemic and how we can serve him to overcome current challenges.

Sep 2nd 2021

Kick-off meeting IMPACT 22 campaign in cooperation with Alpha Germany and Austria. Stay tuned!

Sept 10th 2021

Co-Hosting an Alpha Inspiration event at a Catholic church. An evening filled with joy, laughter, the Holy Spirit, practical Inputs and foremost a YES for wanting to try Alpha as a congregation.

Sept 20th 2021

Directing an interview with a catholic church leader sharing his Alpha story on camera and how Alpha has transformed his church culture in a way he could never imagine. Remember my second Ministry Newsletter (April 2021)? Crazy how God placed me back in January this year where He needed me to be (as an Alpha guest at this Catholic Church) in order to be able to capture His success story with this congregation today.

*Featuring dear
Mission Partners*



Meet Verena & Peter

We are Verena and Peter and live in Wolfhausen, Switzerland. During the lockdown, I noticed Sandra as a new visitor in our local church. I really wanted to talk to this woman, and suddenly she was gone. A few weeks later she was back with Enrico. The rest his history, we finally approached them and the sympathy was there from the start. The woman with that red hair must be an artist, I thought. And yes, that is true, but not in the general sense. She has mastered the art of being herself. She says what she thinks, but always from the heart. Such people fascinate me and set me free to be myself as well.

I am 72 years old, been married to the best man in the world for 50 years and have a wonderful family (2 sons, 2 daughters-in-law and 4 grandchildren). Since my retirement, I've been living my dream as an artist, spending a lot of time in my painting studio, where mostly abstract pictures are created.

We have supported various mission organizations around the world with our finances. When Sandra told us about her future work at Alpha / Campus für Christus, I took note of it. But suddenly I had the desire to support her with a monthly contribution. My husband and I quickly came to an agreement and followed that input. We love to see more people experiencing a relationship with God.

In the meantime I got to know Sandra. She has become a precious friend to me, even though she could be my daughter. She also encouraged me to take further steps with my painting. New doors have opened, I dared to put my art work out there and God responded, wow. An art piece of mine was selected to be in the semi final of an art show & exhibition. I believe that I can use my art work to share the gospel and touch people's hearts.

One word, how all of the above makes you feel? **Great**

ALPHA CHANGED MY LIFE

Christine shares with us

"Before pursuing my walk with Jesus and going to Alpha, my life felt like a never-ending series of unsatisfying ambitions."

My life transformed in unimaginable ways starting in January 2018 after I jumped all-in to pursue my curiosity of God, started going to Alpha, life group, and church services. I discovered a connection with the real God, and an indescribable love through the new friends I met.

Before pursuing my walk with Jesus and going to Alpha, my life felt like a never-ending series of unsatisfying ambitions. Even after accomplishing things that I thought would make me feel complete and happy (completing my Bachelor's degree, marrying my amazing husband, getting my Masters's degree, landing my dream job, going on vacations), I actually felt even more empty and anxious.

I knew God was out there, but I was hesitant to take a step towards him because I felt too imperfect to be a "Christian". But going to Alpha felt safe. It was open to everyone and anyone, regardless of their beliefs. It felt like just a fun dinner with new friends, including Sunny Sandra. I felt welcomed and accepted. It was for anyone, not just "serious" Christians.



Photo: meet Creative Christine far left

Going to Alpha was the highlight of my week! I grew to love everyone in my group and we are all dear friends to this day, 4 years later. Alpha truly lived up to its acronym: **Anyone is welcome! Learning & Laughing while eating a lot of Pasta! Helping each other grow! Ask anything!**

Hearing other people's questions, as well as doubts, and inspiring stories of their experience with Jesus and the hope and trust they have in him was so inspiring. I learned that I didn't need to feel shame for not being "perfect" and that today was a new day to start my faith journey. And that's okay and great!

It was only through connecting to other passionate people in their faith journey that I understood what it means to have a relationship with Jesus, and that God loves me so much that he literally gave himself for me! God really uses other people, especially Alpha, to bring me into a deeper relationship with Jesus. I love this verse about how we can only understand God's love together with others. Ephesians 3:18 "...may have power, TOGETHER with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ".

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Featuring a dear
Mission Partner



Meet Josh

My name is Josh and I live in Vancouver in beautiful British Columbia. The first time I've met Sandra and Enrico was through an Alpha night hosted by our church.

I grew up in a Christian household all my life but I didn't quite live the "Christian lifestyle" up until a few years ago. In March 2017, I moved out from Winnipeg to work and live in Vancouver – it was my first time moving away from family and friends. I remember I would feel so lonely and isolated especially in the first three months of living in a new city, and I would pray to God everyday for friends, friends that refreshes my soul. It wasn't until a full year of living in Vancouver when I decided to check out Alpha that was hosted by my church at Coastal Church, and that was when I met an amazing group of individuals to whom I can still call my friends – including Sandra and Enrico. Through that first night of Alpha and discussing life and faith with my group, God has touched my heart seeing that He wanted to show His love to me through the people I met at Alpha – and these are the people I can now call my friends that truly refreshes my soul.

I decided to become a Mission Partner with Sandra because I know that God will use this ministry to show His love and to bring His people back to Him – especially to people in Switzerland and eventually in all of Europe. As I was praying into becoming a Mission Partner, I suddenly thought of my brother, who at that time, was residing in Iceland and is now in Finland. I believe that this ministry can not only impact my brother the way that God has impacted my life through Alpha, but also reach multitudes of people in Europe.

One word, how all of the above makes you feel? **Expectant**