

SWISS MOUNTAINS

Fresh mountain air, surrounded by breathtaking sceneries and simplicity, this is how we as an Alpha team bonded, prayed, created, listened, and planned great things for 2022.



Grosser Mythen, 1900m, the climb is spectacular, the 360 view breathtaking and you know you are in Switzerland, when you reach the peak and there is a hut where you always get spoilt with simple home made food including mandatory summit drink.

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ALPHA TEAM PLANNING DAYS



Meet Florina, she is seriously the most radiant, glowing, passionate, positive energy soul that you ever will come across in your life. She is definitely "the creative" in our team, she is a talented musician, she is on fire telling the world about Jesus, is super active in her church, runs Alpha's online, offline, and where ever she goes. She is our Alpha Communication Pro (Newsletter, Websites, Social Media) and recently caught fire to take on Alpha Youth.

Meet Philipp, he is one of the reasons why I said yes to becoming a part of Alpha Switzerland. He is our leader. His heart is huge, his passion and deep conviction for our vision & mission contagious. He leads with joy, excitement gentleness, clarity, and purpose. Strategizing with him is fruitful and his heart is with Jesus, with the church and the people. He seriously can juggle it all, the more he has on his plate the more he is in his element.

And then there is me, in my role as Alpha Relationship Manager I get to connect with church leaders all over Switzerland. I get to serve the local churches by sharing our passion for the Alpha course and how the Alpha Culture can help the local churches build a vibrant & active community that loves Jesus and loves to share the good news with others.

We all are on fire and honored to play an active part in equipping the church in its global mission to help people discover Jesus. alpha.org / alphalife.ch

HIGHLIGHTS/FUTURE EVENTS

Typically Sandra. Greetings, Meets, and sometimes puts her foot in it. Find out with whom I had a vivid conversation.

Alpha Basic Training

In June we hosted our first IN PERSON **Alpha Basic Training** Event after covid. 13 church leaders from different denominations traveled to central Switzerland and joined us on a nice summer evening. They were eager to find out more about running Alpha and saying yes to integrating an amazing Alpha Culture. We hosted this training in Florina's former home church in Luzern, they generously offered us their facilities. For our next Basic Training in September, we partnered up with the Family Life Ministry of Campus für Christus. We will then be able to use synergies training on the NEW Marriage course and Alpha course. This time we will be back in our own facilities in Zürich. It was my first Alpha training, but it seriously felt like me doing this since forever. The harmony between us as a team was like we had been doing this not the first time together.

Inspiration Day for the upcoming Explo Days (International Event)

On a Friday in June, I was attending & representing Alpha at an Inspiration Day for the upcoming **Explo Days** and was able to meet and connect with Church leaders (by personal invite only) including the press, an influential Chief Editor of a Christian paper (which I, of course, found out days later, you know me I talk to everyone, haha). Anyway, he of course knew all about Alpha and shared from back in the days and how he was worn out, so I shared a few transformational Alpha stories with him including my excitement and the benefits about the newer video inputs, which then surprisingly made him curious again and smirking. I now pray that he will give Alpha another try and will write about his experience.

The Explo Days are happening end of November (Nov 27th/ 28th 2021) in central Switzerland hosted by Campus für Christus. A journey to create space for reflection and rethinking. Two days of inspiration to trace the powerful dimension of a holistic gospel. A place of encouragement to find new lightness and joy to carry the Gospel into the world. With the Explo Days, we invite you on a journey to discover the good of the good news together and with a new perspective – through inputs from various speakers, art contributions, and interactive reflection times. A Highlight for me and our Alpha team will be for sure that the Alpha National Director from Canada, Shaila Visser, will be joining us as Guest Speaker. We are excited to connect with her in person. explodays.com

Corporate Worship is good for one's soul

At God's house just does a soul good. Enrico and I needed this! Moving, shaking, clapping, singing, praising, lifting those hands high and me crying tears of joy worshipping again in a bigger crowd. Covid restrictions lifted in June!



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Featuring dear Mission Partners



Meet Kimberly & Jay

My name is Kimberley, Jay and I live in Phoenix, AZ, USA. I met Sandra in 1990 when she came to visit the US and stayed with my mom one summer long. Jay and I have been in real estate for over 35 years! We have two children ages 19 & 17. We lost everything in 2008 when the real estate market crashed! God completely changed our hearts and now we serve Him only. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33. Sandra's passion is similar and we wanted to support her mission and now this also happened - we literally just got accepted by Cru International to be an affiliate team for the Family life ministry. We started an online marriage ministry called Relentless Love. We believe in Jesus and want to help preach the Gospel around the world.

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

***Coming together is a beginning,
staying together is progress,
and working together is success.***

- Henry Ford

3 STORIES FOR HIS GLORY

How a staff Online Alpha impacts a catholic Church

It was a warm summer evening in June when a catholic church so generously invited me for a Potluck gathering to their first Alpha reunion. In total 18 staff members including a few dedicated volunteers decided to give Alpha Online a try beginning of this year. Many of them have been serving the Lord passionately for years and the leadership team decided to be open for an opportunity that can turn a consuming church congregation into a contributing one while finding out more about how the Alpha course has impacted thousands of lives and churches around the Globe. Here are three stories:

Meet G, born and raised in Austria, her heart beats for God and the catholic church for years. She told me that night absolutely excited that she had read the book "the purpose-driven life" in the meantime as the pastor and I have recommended doing so. "This, plus Alpha Online and our Alpha fellowship inspired me to finally start reading the Bible. I am ashamed to confess, that in all these decades of following the Lord, I haven't read the bible. Now, I am hungry for it and the more I read the more I believe and see clearly." Her Pastor told me that night too, that her shift is an absolute blessing, she has been taking on the church choir now.

Meet D, 21 years young and an altar server. His eagerness to learn and grow in faith is contagious and his wisdom at that age absolutely inspiring. He was by far the youngest joining and God had a plan all along. He will host (lead) a group of young adults and has already invited friends to the upcoming Alpha course.

Meet A, a part of this catholic church for a long time, joined the staff Online Alpha out of curiosity. "I wanted to find out if God also uses "regular" people, not only high priests,hahah" he said. I know a lot and my faith is unshakable, something I get sick and tired of all the formal holy hierarchy." He revealed to me that a catholic annual event was canceled and so he and his wife decided to go anyway. As a result, he had a whole group joining them and he took on the lead by sharing his knowledge and passion at each historical site. Alpha gave him the answer. WE all are the church.

In August is the official Alpha kickoff in this congregation and it makes me so happy to witness what God is doing there. I am honoured to get to do their Team training.



*Featuring a dear
Mission Partner*



Meet Martina

My name is Martina, I live in Greifensee, Switzerland. My husband and I met Sandra and Enrico while participating in a birth preparation course in 2000. We instantly clicked, laughed a lot and this was the beginning of a wonderful long-lasting friendship. And I became a proud godmother of their son Cedric. I grew up with two disabled brothers, which hasn't been easy to this day. Every Sunday we went to church and we always had a lot of fun, as I loved playing with other kids after the service. To this day I am connected to this church. Faith in God has carried me through a life that is not always easy. At the age of 20 (30 years ago), I met my husband René and he moved to me from Graubünden so that I could stay close to my family. We have a wonderful 20-year-old daughter. I work part-time in a law firm, have supported other families as a childminder for many years, and am always happy to be there for my family, parents, brothers, and friends. For two decades now I have been Sandra's friend through ups and downs, watched her becoming and I firmly believe that she has arrived, she found her purpose. With her wonderful work, she puts a lot of energy into people, which I am happy to support.

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

***"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."***
- Helen Keller

*With love,
Sandra*