



Everything You Need to Know To Run a Successful
Prayer & Worship Event
for the **Alpha Invitation 2011**

*“Take this most seriously...
When two of you get together
on anything at all on earth
and make a prayer of it,
my Father in heaven goes into action.
And when two or three of you
are together because of me,
you can be sure that...*

...I'll be there.”
(Jesus)

Matt 18:18-20



INTRODUCTION

Every year a thrilling invitation goes out to the nation to come and explore the Meaning of Life on an Alpha Course and thousands encounter Christ as a result. Underpinning this national advertising campaign, is an army of ordinary people organising thousands of local Alpha Courses, booking venues, cooking meals, preparing to lead discussion groups, and inviting their friends.

But the Alpha Invitation isn't just an annual recruiting drive by the church. Behind the humorous talks, the pasta suppers and the cartoon illustrations is a real spiritual battle for hearts and minds. The Apostle Paul reminds us not to rely on advertising and planning alone, since "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world" (Ephesians 6:12)

In 2011 the Alpha Invitation rings out with special urgency to a nation preparing to welcome the world to our shores, while we all face significant spiritual, financial and environmental turbulence. That's why we're making 2012 a year of prayer across the UK, calling all 7000 Alpha churches to unite in passionate and persevering intercession which will fill every minute of every hour of every day of next year with a great corporate heart-cry to God. The year of prayer will be called *Kingdom Come* (KC:UK) and we will be producing great resources to help you pray 24-7 wherever you live and whatever the size of your church.

The Alpha Invitation is really two invitations, not one!

The scriptures depict a surprising scene in heaven. Forget those cliché images of angels strumming harps serenely on cotton-wool clouds. Instead we see the Trinity actively engaged in a passionate prayer meeting. Jesus, we are told, 'lives to intercede' for us (Heb 7.25), the Father longs for every single person you know to hear the gospel (2 Peter 3:9) and 'the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express' (Rom. 8:26). That's why the Alpha

Invitation is really two invitations, not one. As well as the church's annual invitation to the nation to join us on an Alpha Course, there is also God's continual invitation to the church to join Him in heaven's 24-7 prayer meeting for the world. Just as the Alpha invitation goes out to those who don't yet know Jesus, so this call to prayer goes out to those who do know Him - the church.

By running a really great prayer and worship event as part of the Alpha Invitation or the KC:UK Year of Prayer, you will be responding to heaven's invitation.

Have fun!

Pete Greig

24-7 Prayer & Alpha

LIFE IS WORTH EXPLORING

Suggested Plan (Overview):

Opening Worship
Welcome and Introduction
Testimony or Interview Slot <i>(Ideally someone who has come to know Christ through Alpha, or experienced a remarkable answer to prayer.)</i>
Prayer for this Year's Alpha Invitation and autumn Alpha courses <i>Including thanks for previous courses, prayer for the upcoming national invitation and courses</i>
More Worship
Prayer for the Nation <i>Covering prayer for our government, the youth of our nation and the impact of the church nationwide</i>
Prayer for the Church <i>Including prayer for your local Church, other churches that run Alpha and the Persecuted Church worldwide</i>
Closing Worship and Prayer

***Prayer does not equip
us for the greater
work; prayer is the
greater work'***

Oswald Chambers

Possible Detailed Agenda for Alpha Invitation Prayer Meetings 2008

1 hour meeting

Mins approx	Screen / OHP (optional)	Style	
10	Words		OPENING WORSHIP
2	"Welcome!"		WELCOME: Welcome to everyone including any senior leaders and guests
5			INTRODUCTION: We're here to pray for the "re-evangelisation of the nation and the transformation of society" beginning here in [add the name of your community or parish] and for the Alpha Invitation 2011
5			TESTIMONY (please see 'Notes' section, page 4) Possibilities: •A recent Alpha experience • Answered prayer • Other relevant interview
15			PRAYER FOR ALPHA
(3)	Video		<i>If possible show the Alpha Invitation DVD</i>
(5)	Bullet Points	Small Groups of 3/ 4 people	Thank God for 1. His presence on previous Alpha courses and the lives He has changed 2. The 16 Million people who attended the Alpha course worldwide and the 2.6million people in the UK in 2010 3. God's ever growing church worldwide
(4)	Bullet Points	Small Groups of 3/ 4 people	This Autumn's Events 1. For impact of this year's publicity and Invitation for the month of September and beyond 2. For opportunities to invite and tell others 3. For local Alpha Launch Events happening in your area; for increased participation, fun and for God to be present
(4)		Split the group in half 50/50	This Autumn's courses Right Hand Side: Many people to come to know Jesus Left Hand Side: Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
			Flow into..
5	Words		WORSHIP
5			PRAYER FOR THE NATION
	Bullet Points	Small Groups of 3/ 4 people	1. For our national leaders and those in government 2. For a specific issue/ need in your area 3. That God would use His church to impact and build communities in our nation 4. For the young people and youth of our nation
10			PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH
(2)	Bullet points	100%	Encourage people to raise their voices as one to pray for your own & local churches • Unity • More power & love • Growth & Life
(3)	Bullet points	Small Groups of 3/ 4 people	1. Pray for Group leaders: <i>wisdom, strength, courage, boldness.</i> 2. That we would see the needs of our community and serve those around us 3. That we would spend time and build relationships with those in our communities
(5)		100% or Silent Prayer 100%	Church around the world Pray for Alpha in other countries (157 countries) and The Persecuted Church (see opendoorsuk.org.uk) Courage and Boldness (Acts 4:29-30)
3			Closing Worship followed by closing prayer
60			
Following the official close of the meeting		A chance to sign up for further intercession/ prayer-emails/ prayer-chain / KC:UK 24-7 prayer room throughout the coming Alpha course	

Notes

Visuals

A powerpoint presentation to accompany this prayer meeting is available from: www.alphafriends.org/prayer or from Alpha UK on 020 7052 0495.

Flexibility

This is a very detailed agenda as a number of people have requested that we give them as much detail as possible so as to get them started. Please feel free to tailor it to suit your local situation.

The songs and styles of prayer given are only suggestions but we do encourage you to include participatory worship and variety at your meeting.

Please change the agenda as you see fit especially taking into consideration any local issues or recent items in the news.

'Style' Key

- 50/50 – half the people worshipping whilst the other half pray aloud together then the sides are swapped around
- RHS – right hand side
- LHS – left hand side
- 100% – everyone praying aloud together
- Small Groups – a group of 3 or 4 people, praying one at a time

For more detailed information please see 'The Alpha Prayer Guide' which can be downloaded from www.alphafrineds.org/prayer

Testimony Slot

Should you be conducting a live interview (which is always best!), it's important to meet with the interviewee(s) beforehand. Some of the most reluctant candidates give the most wonderful testimonies and, for this reason, always be encouraging and reassuring. You might like to brief them as follows:

- Everyone will be 'on your side' and will love to hear your story – however simple.
- Imagine one of your non-Christian friends is in the audience, and they're sitting at the back, so as to avoid religious jargon.
- If you've had a bad experience in another denomination, please don't name the church as that can appear very negative and offend people. We suggest that you simply say, 'I had a religious upbringing.'
- When describing the difference Jesus has made, try and give concrete examples (eg "when a driver cut me off yesterday, I didn't lose my temper!") and avoid sweeping generalisations.
- Please don't worry about having nothing to say – I can easily prompt you with another question if you need it. I'm responsible for the interview – you simply need to answer the questions.

During the Meeting:

Testimony interviews

- "I would like to introduce you to one or two people who have done Alpha before... Firstly, I would like to introduce you to [name]" Launch into the testimonies.

Suggested questions for someone converted through Alpha:

- Xxx time ago, would you have described yourself as a Christian or a churchgoer?
- How did you come to be on Alpha?
- What happened?
- What difference has Jesus made to your life?

24-7 Prayer

For more information about how you can be part of KC:UK and create a prayer room for continual prayer over a weekend or even a week, go to www.alphafriends.org/prayer.

Possible Songs

Song	Author	Publisher
Amazing Grace	John Newton	
Blessed Be Your Name	Matt Redman	2002 Thankyou Music
Can a Nation Be Changed	Matt Redman	1996 Kingsway's Thankyou Music
Consuming Fire (There Must Be More Than This)	Tim Hughes	2002 Thankyou Music
Even Though I Walk Through the Valley (You Never Let Go)	Matt Redman & Beth Redman	2005 Thankyou Music
Everlasting God	Chris Tomlin	
God of Justice	Tim Hughes	2005 Thankyou Music
Great is your faithfulness	Chris Tomlin	2002 worshiptogether.com songs
God of this City	Bluetree	
History Maker	Martin Smith	
Everlasting God (Strength will rise)	Brenton Brown	2005 Thankyou Music
I See the King of Glory (Hosanna)	Brooke Fraser	2006 Brooke Fraser/Hillsong Publishing/kingswaysongs.com
In my life	Hillsong United	
Lead Me Lord	SS Wesley	
Light Of The World	Tim Hughes	2000 Kingsway's Thankyou Music
O Lord my God	Stuart Hine	1941, 1953, 1955 Stuart K. Hine, Renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc
Open The Eyes Of My Heart (V*2 + Ch*1 for each side then all together for 2*Bridge and 2*Chorus) 50/50	Paul Baloche	Integrity's Hosanna! Music
Our God reigns	Delirious?	2005 Curious? Music UK
Prayers of the Saints	Matt Redman	
Show your power	Kevin Prosch	
Teach Us How To Pray	Tim Hughes	
The Splendour Of A King (How Great Is Our God)	Chris Tomlin	2004 Worship Together EMI
The stand	Hillsong United	
We exalt thee	Pete Sanchez	
We stand and lift up our hands	Chris Tomlin	2003 EMI
We won't stay silent		2008 GloWorks Limited for CompassionArt (Registered with the UK Charity Commission number 1124708)
What a Friend We Have Jesus	Joseph Scriven	

Revivals, as far as man's agency is concerned, always come in one way – by prayer.

R.A. Torrey

Countries around the world where Alpha is currently running

**LIFE
IS WORTH
EXPLORING**

Albania	Dominica	Kuwait	Montenegro
Andorra	Dominican	Kyrgyzstan	Seychelles
Angola	Republic	Latvia	Sierra Leone
Anguilla	Ecuador	Lebanon	Singapore
Antigua & Barbuda	Egypt	Liberia	Slovakia
Argentina	El Salvador	Libya	Slovenia
Armenia	Equatorial Guinea	Lithuania	Solomon Islands
Australia	Estonia	Luxembourg	South Africa
Austria	Ethiopia	Macedonia	South Korea
Bahamas	Falkland Islands	Madagascar	Spain
Bangladesh	Faroe Islands	Malawi	Sri Lanka
Barbados	Fiji	Malaysia	St Lucia
Belgium	Finland	Mali	St Vincent & The Grenadines
Belize	France	Malta	Sudan
Benin	Gambia	Mauritius	Swaziland
Bermuda	Germany	Mexico	Sweden
Bolivia	Ghana	Moldova	Switzerland
Bosnia	Gibraltar	Mozambique	Syria
Botswana	Greece	Myanmar	Taiwan
Brazil	Greenland	Namibia	Tajikistan
Brunei	Grenada	Nepal	Tanzania
Darussalam	Guatemala	Netherland Antilles	Thailand
Bulgaria	Guinea	Netherlands	Togo
Burkina Faso	Guyana	New Zealand	Trinidad & Tobago
Burundi	Haiti	Nigeria	Turkey
Cambodia	Honduras	Norway	Uganda
Cameroon	Hong Kong	Oman	UK
Canada	Hungary	Pakistan	Ukraine
Cayman Islands	Iceland	Panama	United Arab Emirates
Central African Republic	India	Papua New Guinea	Uruguay
Chile	Indonesia	Paraguay	USA
China	Iran	Peru	Uzbekistan
Colombia	Iraq	Philippines	Venezuela
Costa Rica	Ireland	Poland	Vietnam
Cote d'Ivoire	Israel	Portugal	Zambia
Croatia	Italy	Puerto Rico	Zimbabwe
Cuba	Jamaica	Romania	
Cyprus	Japan	Russia	
Czech Republic	Jordan	Rwanda	
Dem Rep Congo	Kazakhstan	Senegal	
Denmark	Kenya	Serbia &	
	Kosovo		

***"The evangelisation of
the world depends
first upon a revival of
prayer"***

Robert Speers

The Persecuted Church

The following is a list of 50 countries compiled by Open Doors. For more information on countries in the World Watch List please visit

www.opendoorsuk.org/profiles



Afghanistan	Laos
Algeria	Libya
Azerbaijan	Maldives
Bahrain	Mauritania
Bangladesh	Morocco
Belarus	Myanmar (Burma)
Bhutan	Nigeria (North)
Brunei	Oman
Chechnya	Pakistan
China	Palestinian Territories
Colombia (Conflict Areas)	Qatar
Comoros	Saudi Arabia
Cuba	Somalia
Djibouti	Sri Lanka
Egypt	Sudan (North)
Eritrea	Syria
Ethiopia	Tajikistan
India	Tunisia
Indonesia	Turkey
Iran	Turkmenistan
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
Jordan	Uzbekistan
Kenya (North East)	Vietnam
Korea, North	Yemen
Kuwait	Zanzibar Islands

“God does not act the same way whether we pray or not. Prayer exerts an influence upon God’s action, even upon His existence.”

(Karl Barth – theologian)



Recommended Prayer Resources

Motivation to Pray:

City Changing Prayer by Debra and Frank Green (Survivor)

God on Mute: Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer

Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference by Philip Yancey (Hodder)

Red Moon Rising: The Adventure of Faith and the Power of Prayer by Pete Greig & Dave Roberts (Survivor)

Rees Howells Intercessor by Norman Grubb (Lutterworth Press)

Practical Advice:

The 24-7 Prayer Manual: Creating & Sustaining Sacred Space in the Real World (Survivor)

The Church On Its Knees: Dynamic Prayer in the Local Church by Jeremy Jennings (Alpha)

Prayer Resources:

Writing on the Wall: Prayers Psalms and Laments from Prayer Rooms Around the World Ed. Brian Heasley (Survivor)

Operation World: The Ultimate Prayer Guide to Every Nation on Earth by Patrick Johnstone Jason Mandryk

Websites

www.opendoorsuk.org

www.tearfund.org

www.worshipcentral.com

www.24-7prayer.com



Alpha ministries and related ministries to pray for

Alpha Ministries

Alpha for Forces
Alpha for Prisons
Alpha in a Roman Catholic context
Senior Alpha
Student Alpha
Alpha in the Workplace
Youth Alpha

Related Ministries

Social Transformation including Caring for Ex-Offenders & Besom
Dynamic Prayer in the Local Church
The Marriage Course & The Marriage Preparation Course
St. Paul's Theological Centre
Worship Central
God at Work

For more information on the above ministries, please visit www.htb.org.uk