

ALPHA IN PRISONS GLOBAL IMPACT

A highly effective tool for evangelisation

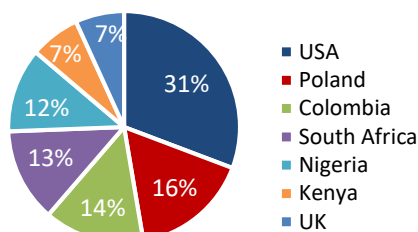
In 2017, we estimate that over 52,000 people globally did Alpha in 907 prisons in 49 countries. To understand the effectiveness of the course, Alpha International conducted a global impact study in 2018. Barna Group, a US-based research company, worked with Alpha International as a research advisor and provided an independent assessment of the results. We gathered feedback from over 500 guests after the course and over 50 Leaders with a diverse range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds represented. The following is a summary of the results for guests and leaders

Impact Scores

What guests said about Alpha in Prison...



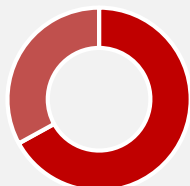
Geographic breakdown of guests from this study



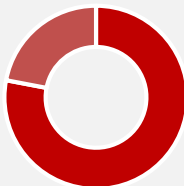
Considering that Alpha guests come from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, Barna grouped the responses into three segments based on how the guests described themselves *before* Alpha: non-Christian (people who self identify with a religion other than Christianity, or no religion), Christian, non-regular church-goer, and Christian, regular church-goer.

Key Highlights

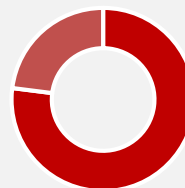
Since doing Alpha...



67% of non-Christians described themselves as followers of Jesus



78% of non-Christians became more committed to sharing their faith in Jesus with others



77% of non-Christians became more committed to regularly attending Christian church service or Mass

Further indicators of Spiritual Transformation...

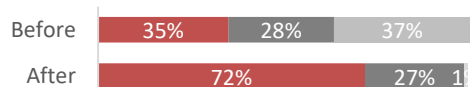
Since 84% of prison staff (chaplains, prison officers) and Alpha team leaders who participated in this study said Alpha is a *very effective tool for evangelisation*, we looked specifically at what change had occurred among non-Christians and Christians non-regular church-goers. The data below suggests that both groups of people had significantly changed their beliefs about Christianity after Alpha, which provides support for the churches' perception of Alpha.

Changes in beliefs after Alpha...

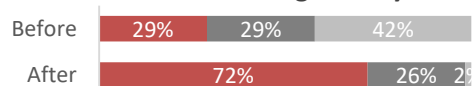
➤ Yes ➤ Not sure ➤ No

Non-Christians

"I believe in the resurrection of Jesus"

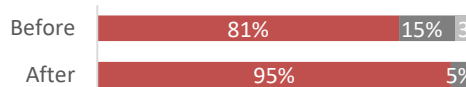


"I believe Jesus has forgiven my sins"

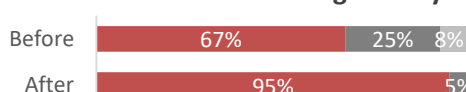


Christian, non regular church-goers

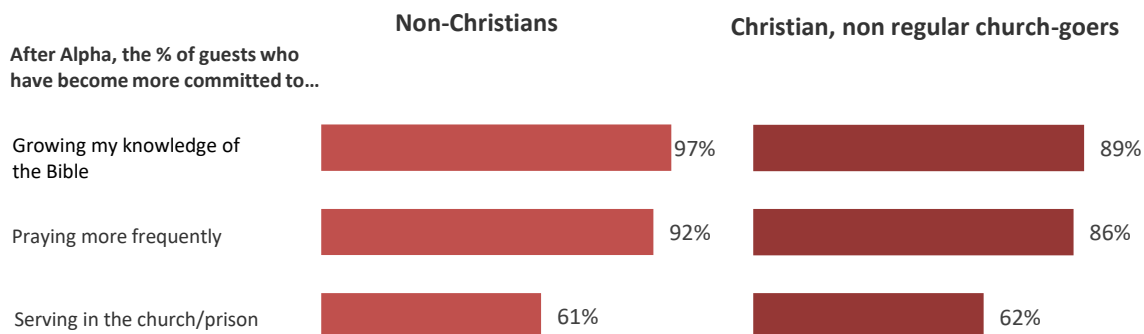
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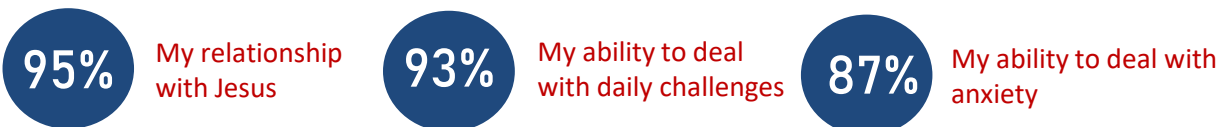


Commitment



Improvement

Since participating in Alpha in Prison, how have you improved in these areas, if at all?
% of guests who said they became better on the following...



Selective Testimonies

What difference, if any, has Jesus made in your life (through attending Alpha in Prison)?

"I suffer from anxiety and social anxiety disorder and mentoring in Alpha has helped me with speaking to people I don't know, with less worry and anxiety than before". USA

"I have become more susceptible to change... i.e. in that I was in despair, no faith... yet now having completed Alpha... I now have faith... I now believe in something that Jesus is synonymous with God... Jesus God is to my mind as one with my Christianity" UK

"I met peace and I feel that some kind of providence is watching over me. Everything turns out well for me in difficult situations. The misunderstandings and quarrels that we have here are less intense. I feel I've been changed inside and I see it is a gift of the Holy Spirit for me, as well as being saved as a child of God" Poland

"There are many differences Jesus has made in my life through Alpha course, just to mention but few: 1. Alpha has help me to change my thinking about God. 2. Alpha course has made to commit my life to Jesus and also I can feel the love of Jesus in my life. 3. Through Alpha course I have been able to rebuild my faith and life with Jesus. 4. Alpha course has help me to be transformed with the word of God and the experiences in the word". Nigeria

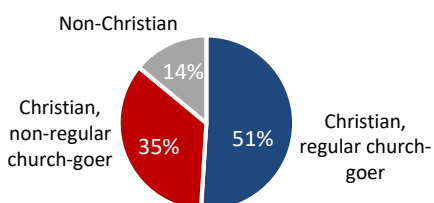
"My life is not like before and there is a lot of improvement in my life. Since I started Alpha I'm stress free. I talk a lot about Alpha and the changes that Alpha did in my life to others inmates. If you have hard time in your life, join Alpha course". South Africa

"Even though serving my sentence I feel and know I'm free". Kenya

I've learned to improve my relationships with others and have a kinder heart to serve God". Colombia

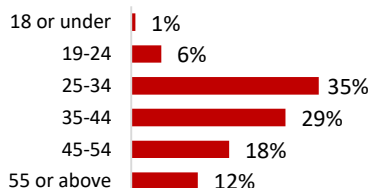
Guest Demographics

Faith background



Age range

Overall, the guests were 85% male, 15% female



LEADER EVALUATION

In addition to the guest study, we gathered feedback from over 50 prison staff (chaplains, prison officers) and Alpha team leaders globally from 38 prisons. In most cases, this includes the respondents from prisons where the guests took part in the study. The objective of the leader's study was to gather their views on the effectiveness and relevance of the course, the impact on guests they have seen, and how we can improve the course for the church or prison and the guests who take the course.

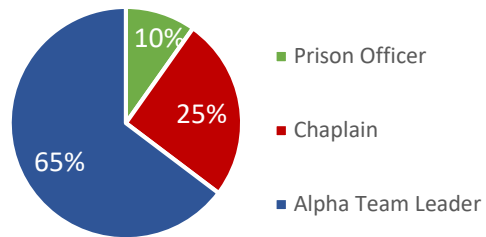
Product Satisfaction

What respondents said about Alpha:

94% Would **definitely recommend** others to run Alpha in Prison

84% It is a **highly effective** tool for evangelisation

Breakdown of Roles of Leaders from this study



Why Chaplains choose Alpha

Why did you or your prison decide to allow Alpha to be run at your prison in the first place?

"I inherited the Alpha Course running as a prisoner group as on my arrival into appointment in 2009. I have had experience of Prison Alpha before and found it to be a valuable contribution to the Chaplaincy outreach and faith teaching with prisoners. From this background combined with what I found in place I kept the current model in place at Bullingdon". UK

"Alpha was approved from the national headquarters of the Nigerian Prison Service in views of the aim and objectives of Alpha as a life changing programme which is in line with the focus of the prison service as a correctional institution". Nigeria

"It's good for setting Christian foundation and faith, hence bringing transformation". Kenya

How is Alpha different from other courses running in prison?

"More structure and set period of time and local churches also involved". UK

"Alpha did not come fanatically as a religious organisation at first and this makes it possible and easy for everybody to believe. It did not also come as a denomination which makes it possible for everybody to feel at home and have a sense of belonging in the programme during which people meet with Christ during the period of the course". Nigeria

"Alpha focuses on non-Christian so that they can be converted to Christianity". South Africa

"Teaches the foundations of Christian Faith". South Africa

Impact on Guest's Life

% of respondents who say they have seen guests, through their participation of Alpha in Prison...

90% Improved their behaviour towards others around them

83% Improved their ability to deal with daily challenges

Respondents who said they have seen the following changes on guests...

"Even some that were Christians before were able to learn more about the personality of Christ, the power that is available in the resurrected Christ. This course brings salvation to many, both non Christians and even careless Christians all alike". Prison Officer, Nigeria

"Develop a sense of care and support towards other prisoners on their wing and encourage them to come along to meetings". Chaplain, UK

"I have seen a huge impact in the realm of asking for forgiveness and also giving it". Team Leader, US

"One person was baptised during Alpha". Team Leader, Poland

Lives transformed

Selective staff prison and Alpha leader team testimonies

Q&A: Can you share with us an example(s) of how someone who has experienced life transformation as a result of doing Alpha in prison, and how he/she continued to live a transformed life once he/she has left prison?

US

*"Yes - Inmate came to Christ, was baptised, went to prison, became deeply involved in a church upon release. Now teaches Alpha for his church in a downtown secular location". **Chaplain***

*"I had an inmate who was a non-believer and did not communicate hardly at all during the entire session. But she kept coming and listening. The Holy Spirit was working in her as at the last session she came to me in tears wanting to accept Christ as her saviour but did not know what to do, she said "I want what you all have". **Team Leader***

*"Serving 40-year sentence, was released after 22 years. His faith in prayer and God opened up miraculous support from volunteers, family, friends and the church to provide him a halfway house as a sex offender. Amazingly, last Dec he located 5 miles from his sister, who he was estranged from, for 21 years. He volunteered at a local church, received a full-time job within weeks doing what he did in prison shops and what he loved to do. He has reconciled with all his brothers and sisters over the past 3 months. His sister purchased a truck for him and he is off the monitor. All he can do is praise God and deliver uplifting messages to his friends still in prison. He told me his transformation all began with Alpha. He helped me run 5 Alpha courses in Ramsey prison from 2015-2017". **Team Leader***

Kenya

*"During my work as chaplain in prison, I have met after finishing their forms and you can see a difference. They testify about their change in prison". **Chaplain***

Colombia

*"She did Alpha and was released. Today she has a new live walking with God. She used to be a homeless, do drugs and commit crimes. Today she a woman of God". **Team Leader***

South Africa

*"He was drug addicted when he comes to prison but when he left correctional his behaviour was changed as well as his attitude was changed. Even outside he is a member of a particular church. All this is because of programmes such is Alpha that plays a vital role which role is about the knowledge about God". **Prison Officer***

*"One individual attended our last course and walked in as a sceptic. He was very hesitant in the beginning, but by the end of the course, he had completely committed his life to the Lord. Now he is serving on the next course and is a delight to have in a small group and testify how his life has changed". **Team Leader***

*"I have not had contact with many guys that I met through Alpha in Pollsmoor but had an experience recently when at a Christian meeting in Cape Town a beaming young man came bounding up to me. Surprisingly he recognized me and even remembered my name. He had made a commitment about 5 years previously and had also taken our advice to use the remaining time in prison to further his education. He completed his schooling and had qualified as a boilermaker. I hardly recognized the impressive looking young man. He went on to thank me for the changes that had been brought about in his life as a result of his interactions with Alpha. He is now in the process of completing his internship up country". **Team Leader***

UK

*We have had a number of prisoners who have grown in their faith through taking part in the Alpha Course and this has lead to baptism and then us linking them to churches for release support". **Chaplain***

*"M recommitted his life to Jesus at Alpha. He has beaten his spice habit, confessed to police other crimes and completed the sentence for them. Been released, reconnected with parents, working in a cleaning job, attending church". **Team Leader***