

Alpha Reaches International University Students

By Arthur Howard, Director of University Campus Ministry, University of British Columbia
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It is always exciting to be a part of what God clearly has His hands upon. God did something new this second term at UBC and He graciously invited us to be a part of it.

In November we met with Chris and Jane Naus at church. Chris is the Head of the Departments of

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Anatomy and Physiology at UBC and both he and his wife Jane have been heavily involved with Alpha Canada.

They encouraged us to pray about how we might use Alpha in University Campus Ministry, and Jane offered to train our students in leading the program, and to help us get started.

A few days later, Bev, the manager of Blue Chip Cookies at UBC, spontaneously offered to provide food if we ever wished to start an Alpha study for students. To make the offer even better, she added “I’ll even be happy to cook the food beforehand if you wish!” She had been praying about offering herself as a cook for Alpha, and approached us without realizing that we were just beginning to consider it.

All that was now missing was a place to host Alpha. While we were praying together about this, Jane remembered meeting a couple at a recent



conference who lived on campus at UBC, Gordon and Doris Harris. The very day Jane called them to ask if we might use their large house, the couple had been praying, asking God for an opportunity to use their home to impact the UBC campus for Him.

God was putting all of us together, like pieces in a puzzle, in an amazing way. By January 30th we were prepared to hold our first Alpha...so we thought. None of us could have been prepared for what God was about to do! Twenty international students representing 12 different countries came to the first Alpha meeting. Now, six weeks later, we have a group of 35 students and leaders that meets each Friday

night. On **“God did something new, Easter Sunday we**

hope to **and He graciously invited us to be a part of it.”** baptize 4 international students in the cold waters of Jericho beach.

We are awed by what God has done and continues to do in UCM. For years we have been praying for our small international group to grow. This year the group exploded! God is bringing the nations of the world to UBC. What a privilege it is to be working alongside Him as He makes Himself known to these students through us.