



Personal Evangelism Training *Engaging People with the Gospel*

In Todd Gray's 11 years as pastor of Oak Grove's First Baptist Church, the church baptized more than 500 people and received 600 members by transfer of letter or statement of faith. As with any military church, they experienced constant turnover. However, the church, "located outside the gates of Fort Campbell," grew from about 80 people in 2001 to almost 400 by 2012.

With a heart for and experience in evangelism, Todd began work as West Region consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2012. In 2016, he began leading the Evangelism, Church Planting, and Campus Ministry Team. Responsibilities include 50-plus training events each year, developing and providing resources, and helping leaders think evangelistically.

In 2017 Todd introduced **3 Circles training** across Kentucky. More than 450 Kentucky Baptist leaders took part in 27 Train the Trainer events across Kentucky. Participants learned to use the 3 Circles training kit and received kits (partially funded by Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering gifts) for use in their churches. Todd estimates that 2,000-plus people have learned to use 3 Circles to share Jesus with others. Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU, used her training to share with students during 2017 Kentucky Changers events.



David Little, pastor of Dexter Baptist Church, has taught 3 Circles twice at his church since his training. He described it as an "awesome way to turn everyday conversations into gospel conversations." Dexter Baptist averages 68 to 70 on Sunday mornings. However, they baptized 14 people in about a six-week period after their training. They have used this tool in prison and Job Corps ministries as well as community contacts. David explained, "It's not the only way to share the gospel, but it's one people are comfortable with." He added it "only takes about three minutes to share, unless people have a lot of questions." He plans to train the church's new members soon.

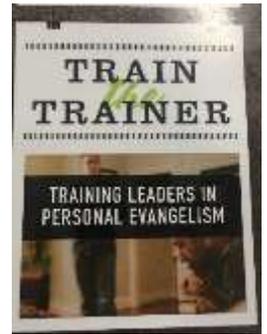
Ken Davis, Pastor of Bethel Church in Berea, told of a man who "struggled with substance abuse issues for years." Although the man rejected previous witnessing attempts, at the end of the 3 Circles presentation, he said, "This makes more sense to me than anything that I have heard about God before." Training in 3 Circles is one of Bethel's 2018 priorities.

Todd said, "Knocking on doors with pastors and watching them experience a renewed desire to engage lost people with the gospel ... is by far the most enjoyable aspect of my ministry. Door knocking is not the only way to share the gospel but in Kentucky it is one of the easiest and most readily available ways to engage lost people with the good news."

"To build on the 3 Circles training offering in 2017, **ReachKY.Today**, was developed to help the large percentage of believers who currently aren't sharing their faith with anyone, to begin having gospel conversations by telling the story of how they were saved. ReachKY.Today is a non-threatening personal evangelism training tool helping people learn how to leverage their salvation story to point far from God people to Jesus. The training includes clear instructions to make an audio or video recording of their story at the website, www.reachky.today. A 4-session training kit is available which provides everything a pastor or leader needs to train their members. Training Kits are available by contacting the KBC Evangelism Team.



ReachKY.Today was introduced through Train the Trainer sessions offered in 24 locations during 2018, with four events in each of the six KBC regions. To aid bivocational leaders, half of the Train the Trainer events were offered in the evenings and half during the day. The Eliza Broadus offering allows Todd and others to provide regional promotion, training on how to use the material, equip people for personal evangelism, and supply a training kit for each church represented. He said, "EBO touches every single thing we do in terms of training, providing resources, and Crossover." The Baptist associations provide meeting space, a light meal, and local promotion.



Anyone interested in becoming involved in **2018-2019 personal evangelism events** can:

- Request the training schedule from Todd's assistant, DeAnna Terry, at deanna.terry@kybaptist.org.
- Volunteer for Crossover 2018. The Saturday before the Pikeville annual meeting will probably include a door knocking campaign, campus outreach at University of Pikeville, a basketball clinic, and a possible medical clinic. A one-night Harvest Crusade is planned for the Sunday night before the annual meeting.
- Encourage pastors and church members to make a gospel conversation pledge through GCCChallenge.com. The KBC Evangelism team would like to see more than 100 KBC churches make the pledge.

Prayer Requests:

- * People to set their smart phone alarms for 10:02 each day to pray for laborers (Luke 10:2)
- * For 2500 fired up, Spirit-filled, soul-winning pastors and church planters to fill the pulpits of the 2500 KBC Churches and Church Plants in KY
- * Kentucky Baptist pastors, planters, DOM's, student leaders, and denominational leaders to lead the way in evangelism
- * High attendance for the 50-plus evangelism equipping events in 2018
- * The long-term goal of 20,000 baptisms in Kentucky in one year (Current baptisms run between 13 and 14,000.)
- * Kentucky Baptists to have a renewed desire to be a soul-winning denomination
- * Kentucky Baptists to have a renewed desire for daily gospel conversations
- * Renewed efforts to help student pastors become more intentionally evangelistic and for Andy McDonald who leads this team effort

Go Further:

- Watch a six minute video that explains the Three Circles evangelistic initiative at namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide.
- Learn more and/or order at namb.net/resources/3-circles-life-conversation-guide-2
- Record your testimony at: ReachKY.today



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