



THE BRIEFING

An Evangelism Newsletter of the North Jackson church of Christ

In this issue:

- What is The Briefing?
- Evangelist's Toolkit
- LFX: Easy Does It
- 2016 Sit-Rep
- Briefing on Phase I
- Briefing on Phase II
- Briefing on Phase III

What is The Briefing?

We are proud to introduce the newest way to equip the North Jackson church of Christ for evangelism: The Briefing.

The Briefing is an evangelism newsletter that:

1) Reports the evangelistic activities of the North Jackson church of Christ—***specifically those of the 'Special Ops' program.***

- 2) Offers helpful resources, tips and links to extend training for evangelism—from developing contacts, to conducting Bible studies, to effective communication principles in general.
- 3) Provides positive reinforcement and words of encouragement to all members.

"[She] has texted me today and told me how much she enjoyed our study and that she is looking forward to the next one! So all really good signs I feel like!"

-Eric Russell



Here are some of the participants of 'Special Ops' training 2016

“Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name
 of the Father and of the Son and
 of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe
 all things that I have
 commanded you”
 -Jesus Christ

Evangelist’s Toolkit

1. Four identical extra-large print Bibles
2. Eight copies of a Bible study tool (e.g. OBS)
3. Four pens
4. Legal pad / Notepad
5. *Nichol’s Pocket Bible Encyclopedia*
6. *Traditions of Men Vs. The Word of God*
7. Personal calendar
8. Messenger bag

LFX: Easy Does It

‘Live Fire Exercises’ go beyond the classroom. They are a means to practice evangelistic tools without the pressure of doing so with an actual contact. They condition operatives for the kinds of experiences they may face during the real Bible studies. Isn’t it interesting that before Jesus ever issued the Great Commission (Mt. 28), He issued the Limited Commission (Mt. 10)? The earlier

“[Jim and I] got no answer . . . I left her a sticky note on her front door with our phone number, then wrote her another note that we mailed last night.”

helped prepare the apostles for the latter. So too, LFXs provide the experiences to help make the transition from

-Judith Humphreys classroom to dining room.

Want to do LFX? Contact the church office to learn more or make your request known.

2016 Sit-Rep

Trained Operatives	33
Activated Operatives	20
Spiritual Conversations	+100
Bible Studies	75
Contact List	80
Uncontacted	25
Contacted	55
- Conversions	10
- Restorations	1
Memberships	3
- Disinterested	35
- Rejections	5
- Ongoing	4

Briefing on Phase I

February—June 2016

'Special Ops' is being relaunched in three phases. February through May of 2016 the program had 13 Tuesday evening meetings. Participants gathered to be oriented, motivated, and educated on topics related to personal evangelism using the book, *Hearts on Fire*, by Don Humphrey. This class setting featured lecturing, PowerPoint, Q&A, and handouts. This course constituted the "basic training" level. Originally, this is all that was intended for Phase I. However, a survey provided helpful feedback, prompting us to create a transition course lasting 5 more weeks (May—June) that bridged the 13-week classroom course to real life Bible studies with real contacts. The solution was to have groups team up in pairs and practice conducting the Open Bible Study (OBS). Teams met around tables in the fellowship hall. This became known as LFX ('Live Fire Exercises').

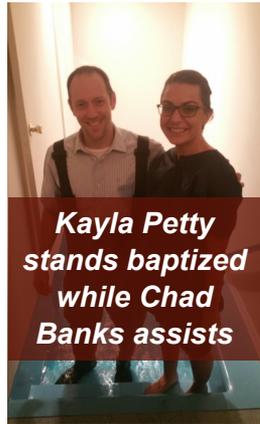
Briefing on Phase II

July—December 2016

During the second half of the year active evangelism in the field replaced

"I thought the information given during the training was very good but I don't feel like it prepared me to go out and lead a Bible study."

-Survey Response



Kayla Petty stands baptized while Chad Banks assists

"I would like to express my appreciation for the time and commitment to the Special Ops ... As the Bible says we plant, water, but God gives the increase"

-Tommy Dinwiddie

scholastic preparation back at the church building. Any that wished to come would arrive at the building every week on Tuesday after work (from the get-go we abandoned our original plan to serve meals). Once everyone arrived we discussed the previous week's studies, contacts, conversations, and any needs that required attention. Then, contact cards were passed out to teams. (Teams were formed with those in attendance). On average, we had 3 teams of two. Teams were given 1-2 contacts. The contact pool was initially based on two groups: (1) recent visitors to North Jackson, and (2) non-member spouses of existing members. However, over time some began studies with colleagues, friends, and family as well. We were moving through our contact list quickly. Participation began to fall off after September. By December we were averaging a team and a half. The reason? Contacts were drying up. This became a

major factor as to why some were not showing up at the meetings. Others began experiencing burnout. In addition to this, it was at this time that we were able to identify our third most critical need beyond the need for more contacts and alleviating burnout. We had newly converted babes in Christ, but no plan in place and no people ready to continue their nourishment through God's word. We knew these brethren needed Bible studies beyond the typical Sunday and Wednesday times, but we didn't anticipate just how urgently we ought to have addressed the matter.

Briefing on Phase III

January—???? 2017

'Special Ops' was originally going to begin phase III in the fall of 2016. However, the new program changes from phase II were still being tested, refined, and cemented among the active participants. Since June, we we've all been marinating in the newness of phase II's launch. In hindsight, it was a very good thing we waited to tweak or add to the program. Now, these phase II additions have become old news and common place to the program. Thus, for 2017, 'Special Ops' aims to move in these new directions:

1. Every Tuesday evening meeting (and contact assignments) are being replaced with a once a month Sunday afternoon meeting (contacts assigned by

email on a weekly basis).

2. Four new support roles are being implemented in January. By God's grace, we will begin accomplishing brand new tasks relevant to successfully expanding our evangelistic outreach, bolstering our program participation, and nurturing our babes in Christ.
3. The structure of 'Special Ops' now features four families managing each of these four new roles. They will coordinate tasks and engage active ops.
4. Rotate ops through all roles.
5. Do an evangelism newsletter.
6. Simplify the debriefing process.
7. Strengthen communication hub.



The Briefing (1) Reports the evangelistic activities of the North Jackson church of Christ, specifically those of the 'Special Ops' program; (2) Offers helpful resources, tips and links to extend training for evangelism; and (3) Provides positive reinforcement and words of encouragement to all members.

