

How It All Began

In 2012, the Kentucky Gideon State Leadership asked The Gideons International for assistance with church relations in Louisville, Kentucky. After working with the International Headquarters Church Ministry Team and utilizing traditional methods, the initial results were disappointing.

In 2013, the International Executive Committee authorized a new two year position, called the Church Ministry Field Officer, and assigned him to Louisville, Kentucky. Through the mighty leadership of the Holy Spirit, a meeting was quickly set up to bring together top leadership of multi-ethnic and multi-denominational churches. Pastors of large churches and Pastors who led Denomination Associations representing over 350 churches from the Louisville area were present in one room. During the opening of the first session a leading pastor of over 100 churches asked to make the following statement. *“Pastors, Louisville is the third most segregated city in the south, and this is the first time in our history that the black and white leadership have ever met together to discuss how we can reach the lost for Christ in our community.”*

The Holy Spirit, speaking through the hearts of these Pastors, brought forth the foundational principles that answered these Pastor’s major concerns of “How do we Take Back Our City for Christ”? The strategy as given by these Senior Pastors focused on four cornerstones:

- Priority on Christ

- Emphasis on Prayer

- Focus on Sharing the Gospel

- Developing Unity of Purpose between Churches and The Gideons International

Initial pilot testing began in small churches and evangelical denominational associations. The results were remarkable, as congregations began to go into their communities sharing God’s Word and inviting their neighbors to worship with them. Churches were reporting salvations and increased visitors in their services. Other churches began to invite the Gideons to come to their church and share this new evangelism training and outreach.

After two years, Take Back Our City for Christ was approved as a State led strategy, and evolved into “Take Back Our Community for Christ.” As Pastors continued to share how God was blessing and the Holy Spirit was leading, other State Associations wanted to choose a city in their state to participate in this new strategy.

Prior to Covid in 2020, several states had adopted this state approved project. The main results were coming from training and engaging the congregation through door-to-door evangelism outreach teams. Covid completely closed this door-to-door opportunity. But when it’s God’s plan, it will not be stopped! In 2019, God revealed a strategy called Sowers of the Seed that focuses on working with a Pastor to train and equip their congregation in a simple personal evangelism outreach.