

Prayer Training as On-Ramp to Ev Training in CBB Contexts

In contexts where there is a same or near-culture CBB presence, one of the most valuable things movement workers can do is to cast vision and train receptive CBBs to begin operating from a movement mindset in terms of prayer and outreach. As anyone who has done this will tell you, it is not a simple thing to move a traditional CBB \ church to a movement mindset, and this alone is a matter for much prayer.

Our experience working in a M*sl1m majority nation in Asia with a CBB minority has taught us, however, that jumping right into ev training for a CBB audience is not typically helpful. You may find that 1-2 people out of 50 understand and actually want to do what you're suggesting, but our limited experience (and drawing from the experience of others who have done much more training among CBBs in our context) indicates that a longer on-ramp is needed before broaching the subject of how to share one's faith with a person from another religious background.

Beyond that fact (which may or may not be true in other contexts), research has shown that the most effective movement trainings are not the "one and done" type that are common (because they are quick and require minimal time and relational investment), but rather a series of trainings (commonly referred to as 3-touch trainings among NPL practitioners in the US) spread out over a number of weeks.

In our context, we realized that many CBBs lacked a basic understanding of some underlying principles that are crucial to "getting" movements, including God's heart for the lost, God's glory, the importance of obedience to God's commands, etc. So we structured our training over 6 weeks, and included the following topics which were explored via DBS with the CBBs in the training. After each lesson, the participants were given homework to do (a passage to read and an obedience point) which moved them along the path toward understanding movements (we hope). The basic outline was as follows:

Week 1: Vision

What is God's End Vision? And What's Our Part in that Vision?
Rev 7 & Matt 28

Week 2: Active Prayer - Prayer Outside \ Inside-Out Prayer

communities of practice
Abiding as the Root of all else - John 15
Intentionally praying for the lost
prayer walking our communities

Week 3: Prayer and the Authority of Every Believer

Authority of every believer as the foundation for effective outward prayer
praying with those far from God
praying for the sick
house of peace search

Week 4: Ev - Sharing your Story

personal testimony in 3 minutes

Week 5: Ev - Sharing God's Story

Any 3
engaging cousins in a non-confrontational way, in love

Week 6: A Bigger Vision - Potential for Next Steps

What do you do after someone says "yes"?
casting vision for movements in our context
communities of practice
evaluation - stop, continue with some or all

The point of the above is simply to grow an awareness in the participants of God's heart for those far from Him, and to engage them in simple ways that they can begin to engage with people from other

religious backgrounds in an attempt to both build relationship, but also to put the CBB in a position to share. As you can see, the beginning stages of this process are all based in prayer - which we knew was a non-threatening entry point and something already familiar in theory to all the participants - we just turned prayer into a means for outreach as a non-threatening lead in to ev training.

One caveat - we were just trying this out when a movement began here, so we've not had the opportunity since those early attempts to go back and refine the above, or to see how effective the outcomes would be compared to one-day ev trainings. The point of all the above is not to trumpet this method as THE way to do trainings among CBBs, but just to help others think through how they may approach trainings in a more gradual way that builds more relationship with the CBB participants and leaders, starting with prayer but eventually moving toward whatever methodology of sharing \ outreach your team uses. The hope is that structuring training in this way would both build in the DNA of outwardly focused prayer in the lives of the CBBs (and thus any MBBs that they led to the Lord), but would also allow us to form the participants into groups (communities of practice) over the course of the training who would continue to meet together both during and after the training to encourage one another, pray for one another, and sharpen one another in their ongoing outreach efforts.

Our goals, as stated when we first formulated the above, were:

- 1) **Blessing & equipping local churches & leaders** (even if it means we disguise it as a "program") through obedience-based discipleship leading to growth
- 2) Each participant **forming a community of practice** from others within or outside the host church, even from the first week, in which they can share what they're learning, practice, pray for each other, encourage one another, and train others to do what they are being trained to do.
- 3) use the trainings **as a means to search for 4th soil people and potential partners** (working toward goal of training 500 in a year, and focusing on the 10% that are obedient, and the 2% overall that could become trainers in their own right). **Training harvesters and looking for generals as a means to move toward movement in our context.**
- 4) To **increase the amount of prayer** happening in and from the local church
- 5) to **increase the amount of Mouth to Ear (M2E) Ev** happening from the local church
- 6) to help us **raise up pray-ers and harvesters in whichever area of the city we choose to focus** - provides a body of trained believers who will provide another layer of prayer and ev in areas where we are focusing
- 7) potentially **build bridges between churches** and church leaders through prayer and help (bringing trained members of one church to help those learning from another church)