

College students share Jesus on campus two by two

By Tanner Cade

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"We are sifting our campus trying to find where God is working."

Josh Richards, Associate Director at the University of Southern Mississippi Baptist Student Union, spoke these words minutes before a team of college students took to the campus of over 13,000.

The initiative is promoted as "Two by Two." Twice a week, BSU students set foot on campus in groups of two to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ across one of Mississippi's largest collegiate campuses.

Based on the verse in Luke 10, Two by Two is an important piece to the weekly rhythms of ministry at USM BSU.

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go." Luke 10:1

"We're trying to find who God is at work in by simply going up to them, asking them if they're willing to have a spiritual conversation with us," said Richards. "I think a lot of times we come back and we're surprised at how easy it is that people are not as confrontational as we thought when it comes to having a spiritual conversation."

Before students depart two by two, the whole group gathers for a brief chat and prayer to prepare them for the next hour. Given the time restraints between class schedules and lunch for students around campus, most groups try to have one or two

extended conversations during the focused time of sharing.



University of Southern Mississippi students share the Gospel during one of the Baptist Student Union's Two by Two initiatives. (Photo credit: Tanner Cade)

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"I was out with somebody that day and we had gotten rejected a couple of times and everything, but the last person we talked to was open to me asking her about her spiritual beliefs and stuff," said Walden. "She said that she was Catholic and that it was kind of just something that she almost inherited from her parents."

Walden continued to share how this student was not interested at first but open to meeting again another day.

"The next Monday we met and I got to share the Gospel again and go more in depth. She ended up praying to receive Christ and saying that she wanted to start that relationship with God!"

“A lot of people have different methods that they enjoy doing,” explained Samuel Borland, USM BSU student. “Sometimes it’s just asking if there’s any way you can pray for them, because regardless of what their spiritual beliefs are, most people enjoy having someone think about them and care for them and listen to their problems.”

God is allowing the students at USM BSU to grow in their burden to see classmates and fellow students come to have a relationship with Jesus.

“The BSU challenges students to know Christ and make Him known. That’s the slogan,” said Walden. “But it has been such a vital part of my own walk. I’ve grown in getting to know people and caring about them because Christ cares for me.”

Both Josh Richards and Kris Walters, Director at the USM BSU, desire each student to know how to share their faith before graduating into their careers. Beyond anything else in ministry, they are making evangelism the most important piece of their ministry strategy.

“I think the more you do it, the easier it is to recognize when the Holy Spirit is really working on somebody,” stated Richards. “I think that’s the reason we do it, is so we can become more in tune with how He’s working.

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