

Born to Reproduce

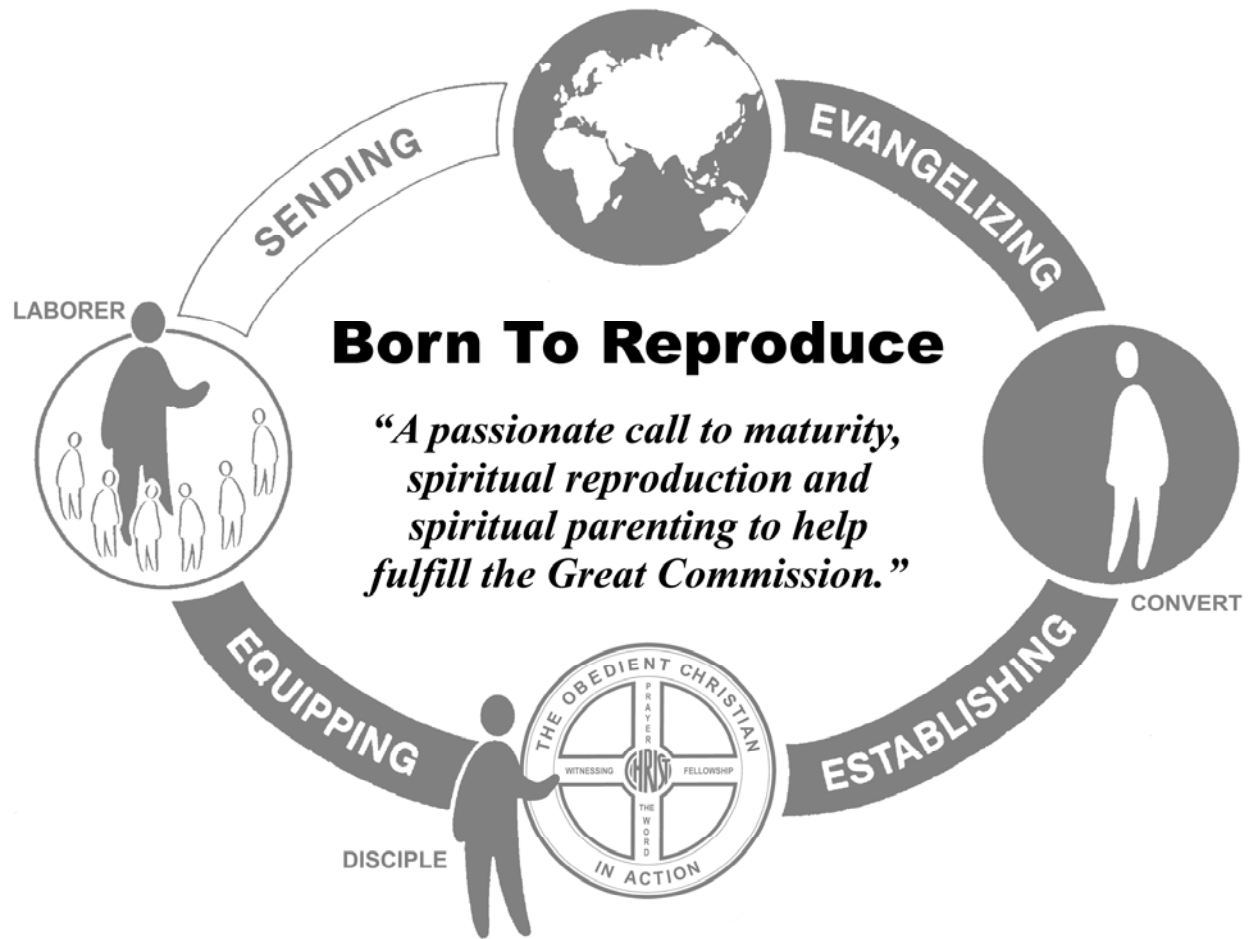
Lawson Trotman



*“A Passionate Call to Maturity, Spiritual Reproduction and Spiritual Parenting
to Help Fulfill The Great Commission”*

A Navigator Seminar
Prepared by Jim Downing





A message given by Dawson Trotman in 1955

Introduction

Hundreds of thousands have been challenged and many lives changed by hearing the audio and reading the printed versions of *Born to Reproduce*. I believe every Christian on earth should experience the impact of this message from the heart of God. Following is a suggested format for a half-day training seminar using *Born to Reproduce*:

- **Listening Session** (47 min) - Individuals or groups [listen](#) to the recorded message.
- *Break* (15 min)
- **Reading Session** (30 min) - Read the following edited transcript of *Born to Reproduce*.
- *Break* (15 min)
- **Application Session** (60 min) - Write down and discuss answers to questions provided.

Half a century has passed since the Lord took Dawson Trotman to be with Himself. The millions impacted by the Navigators of the past and present are living and lasting monuments to his life and ministry.

A 5,700 Word, 47 Minute Summary of the Issues Which Burned Deeply in Trotman's Soul

Of the many words he spoke and wrote, the 5700 word, 47 minute message he gave to a Conference sponsored by Back to the Bible during the closing months of his life is most widely known, read, heard, and quoted. The message contains the subjects Dawson Trotman felt most strongly about.

As George Washington's Farewell Address and Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address summarize the philosophy and convictions by which they were driven, Skip Gray, LeRoy Eims, and others who heard the original delivery, agree it was his finest verbal packaging of the principles for which he lived and labored.

It was not typical of Dawson to give a title to his message but the hearer was left without any doubt as to the subject matter presented. The publishers of the transcribed recording entitled it: *Born to Reproduce*, and edited out some names and illustrations.

The paragraph headings in the published edition have helped many understand the content but in my judgment do not adequately highlight the points Trotman was making.

In the message he used the words *produce*, *reproduce*, and *reproducing* 11 times and *multiply* 7 times. *Maturity* is mentioned 6 times and *immaturity* 3 times. He used the words *spiritual parent* twice and *spiritual parenting* once.

Follow-up is mentioned only twice although the concept makes up one a fifth of his message. This term came into widespread use in the Christian vocabulary with the Billy Graham era. Dawson seemed more comfortable with the more intimate family terms he had been using for twenty years like nurture, and parenting, spiritual children etc.

Surprisingly he did not use the words EVANGELIZE or DISCIPLE¹ nor did he refer to II TIMOTHY 2:2. He did not use the words GENERATION or GENERATIONS but illustrated the concept very

¹ In the late 1950s Lorne Sanny coined the word "disciplemaker." It was soon to become a standard word in the Christian workers vocabulary and the use of the word disciple was accelerated. Lorne reasoned if disciples were to be **made** there, of necessity, had to be **disciple makers**.

forcibly. He seemed to be more inclined to the familial concept of parents, grandparents, and great grandparents rather than the teacher-pupil relationship of II Timothy 2:2 or the non-spiritual family member term, disciple.

Approximately 20 percent of his message dealt with FOLLOW-UP, 18 percent on why Christians do not reproduce, 12 percent on the parallel between physical and spiritual reproduction and multiplication, 12 percent on the devotional life, and 10 percent on Scripture Memory.

The key to the title he might have given the message are the points he argued most forcibly:

1. "Remember, nothing under heaven except *sin, immaturity, and lack of communion* will put you in a position where you cannot reproduce."
2. "But when all things are right between you and the Lord, regardless of how much or how little you know intellectually, from the standpoint of the world, *you can be a spiritual parent* And that incidentally, may be when you are very young in the Lord."
3. "The Gospel spread to the known world during the first century without radio, television, or the printing press, because these produced men who were reproducing."

Anyone can listen to, or download, this message at DiscipleshipLibrary.com. One would only be fully impacted by the message if they heard it in person or on video tape and could see his body language as well as hear the emotional fire and conviction with which he delivered it. The printed version cannot duplicate both the sight and sound effect accompanying his delivery of the message to the emotions, but can be the more important eye gate as a channel to funnel these truths into the intellect and will.

In his book, *The Navigator*, author Robert Foster said, "One of the men closest to Dawson throughout his entire adult life was Jim Downing."²

I did know him very well and, although I received many more exhortations from him than I gave, he was always open to suggestions which would make any production nearer his standard of excellence.

If Dawson had asked me to edit the printed version of this message given at the Back to the Bible Conference, I would have suggested the following title:

***"A Passionate Call to Maturity, Spiritual Reproduction and
Spiritual Parenting to Help Fulfill The Great Commission"***

Without leaving out any of his words in the transcribed version, I would have suggested he group his topics under 12 main headings and 19 sub headings, add some definitions, and make a list of questions for discussion.

In His Grace,

Jim Downing

² The Navigator, Robert Foster, Page 148.

BORN TO REPRODUCE

Lawson Trotman

The Parallel Between Physical and Spiritual Reproduction and Multiplication

A few years ago, while visiting Edinburgh, Scotland, I stood on High street just down from the castle. As I stood there, I saw a father and mother coming toward me pushing a baby carriage. They looked very happy, were well dressed and apparently were well-to-do. I tried to catch a glimpse of the baby as they passed and, seeing my interest, they stopped to let me look at the little, pink-cheeked member of their family. I watched them for a little while as they walked on and thought how beautiful it is that God permits a man to choose one woman who seems the most beautiful and lovely to him, and she chooses him out of all the men whom she has ever known. Then they separate themselves to one another, and God in His plan gives them the means of reproduction! It is a wonderful thing that a little child should be born into their family, having some of the father's characteristics and some of the mother's, some of his looks and some of hers. Each sees in that baby a reflection of the one whom he or she loves.

Seeing that little one made me feel homesick for my own children whom I dearly love and whose faces I had not seen for some time. As I continued to stand there I saw another baby carriage or perambulator as they call it over there. Coming in my direction, it was a secondhand affair and very wobbly. Obviously the father and mother were poor. Both were dressed poorly and plainly, but when I indicated my interest in seeing their baby, they stopped and with the same pride as the other parents let me view their little, pink-cheeked, beautiful-eyed child.

I thought as these went on their way, 'God gave this little baby whose parents are poor everything that He gave the other. It has five little fingers on each hand, a little mouth and two eyes. Properly cared for, those little hands may someday be the hands of an artist or a musician. Then this other thought came to me. "Isn't it wonderful that God did not select the wealthy and the educated and say, 'You can have children,' and to the poor and the uneducated say, you cannot." Everyone on earth has that privilege.

The first order ever given to man was that he "be fruitful and multiply." In other words, he was to reproduce after his own kind. God did not tell Adam and Eve, our first parents, to be spiritual. They were already in His image. Sin had not yet come in. He just said, 'Multiply. I want more just like you, more in my own image.

Of course, the image was marred. But Adam and Eve had children. They began to multiply. There came a time, however, when God had to destroy most of the flesh that had been born. He started over with eight people. The more than two billion people who are on the earth today came from the eight who were in the ark because they were fruitful and multiplied.

In the physical realm when your children have children, you become a grandparent. Your parents are then great-grandparents, and theirs are great-great- grandparents. ***And so it should be in the spiritual.***

A person is born again when he receives Jesus Christ. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12,13) - the new birth. It is God's plan that these new babes in Christ grow. All provision is made for their growth into maturity, and then they are to multiply - not only the rich or the educated, but all alike. ***Every person who is born into God's family is to multiply.***

Sole winners are not soulwinners, because of what they know, but because of the Person they know, how well they know Him, and how much they long for others to know Him.

Only a few things will ever keep human beings from multiplying themselves in the physical realm. One is that they never marry. If they are not united, they will not reproduce. This is a truth which Christians need to grasp with

reference to spiritual reproduction. When a person becomes a child of God, he should realize that he is to live in union with Jesus Christ if he is going to win others to the Saviour.

One other thing that can keep people from having children is immaturity. God in His wisdom saw to it that little children cannot have babies. A little boy must first grow to sufficient maturity to be able to earn a living, and a little girl must be old enough to care for a baby.

The Damascus Road-Like Experience Which Revealed That Follow Up Of A New Christian Is Mandatory, Not Optional

One day years ago. I was driving along in my little Model-T Ford and saw a young man walking down the Street. I stopped and picked him up. As he got into the car, he swore and said, 'it's sure tough to get a ride.'

I never hear a man take my Saviour's name in vain but what my heart aches. I reached into my pocket for a tract and said, "Lad, read this."

He looked up at me and said. "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?"

I looked at him closely. He looked like someone I should know. We figured out that we had met the year before on the same road. He was on his way to a golf course to caddy when I picked him up. He had gotten into my car and had started out the same way with the name "Jesus Christ. I had taken exception to his use of that name and had opened up the New Testament and shown him the way of salvation. He had accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. In parting I had given him Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." God bless you, son. Read this," I said, and sped on my merry way.

A year later, there was no more evidence of the new birth and the new creature in this boy than if he had never heard of Jesus Christ.

I had a great passion to win souls and that was my great passion. But after I met this boy the second time on the way to the golf course, I began to go back and find some of my "converts." I want to tell you, I was sick at heart. It seemed that Philippians 1:6 was not working.

This emphasis on finding and helping some of the converts went on for a couple or three years before the Navigator work started. By that time our work included fewer converts but more time spent with the converts. Soon I could say as Paul said to the Philippians, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). He followed up his converts with daily prayer and fellowship. Then he could say, ' Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:6). In keeping with this the 7th verse reads: "Even as it is meet (or proper) for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart."

Before I had forgotten to follow up the people God had reached through me. But from then on I began to spend time helping them. That is why sometime later when that first sailor came to me, I saw the value of spending three months with him. I saw an Isaac in him. Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob had the twelve, and all the rest of the nation came through them.

Follow Up Is More Than Committing The New Christian To The Lord

An Armenian boy came into my office one day and told me about all the souls he had won. He said that they were all Armenians and had the list to prove it.

I said, "Well, what is this one doing'?"

He said, "That one isn't doing so good. He is backslidden."

"What about this one?" We went all down the list and there was not one living a victorious life.

I said, "Give me your Bible." I turned to Philippians and put a cardboard right under the 6th verse, took a razor blade out of my pocket and started to come down on the page. He grabbed my hand and asked, "What are you going to do?"

"I'm going to cut this verse out," I said. "It isn't working." Do you know what was wrong? I had been taking the 6th verse away from its context, verses 28 3 through 7. Paul was not just saying, "All right, the Lord has started something, He will finish it." But you know, that is what some people tell me when they win a soul. They say, "Well, I just committed him to God."

Suppose I meet someone who has a large family and say to him, "Who is taking care of your children?" "My family? Oh, I left them with the Lord."

Right away I would say to that one, "I have a verse for you, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he ... is worse than an infidel" (I Timothy 5:8)

Paul aid to the elders of the church at Ephesus: "Take heed ... to all the flock, over the which the Lord has made overseers ..." (Acts 20:28).

You cannot make God the overseer. He makes you the overseer.

Because He Was Majoring In Helping New Christians Grow, Billy Graham Provided An Opportunity To Help Tens Of Thousands Worldwide

Five years ago Billy Graham came to me and said, 'Daws, we would like you to help with our follow-up. I've been studying the great evangelists and the great revivals and I fail to see that there was much of a follow-up program. We need it. We are having an average of 6,000 people come forward to decide for Christ in a month's campaign. I feel that with the work you have done you could come in and help us.'

I said, "Billy, I can't follow up 6,000 people. My work is always with individuals and small groups.

"Look, Daws," he answered, 'everywhere I go I meet Navigators. I met them in school in Wheaton. They are in my school right now. (He was president of Northwestern Schools at that time.) There must be something to this.'

"I just don't have the time," I said.

He tackled me again. The third time he pled with me and said, "Daws, I am not able to sleep nights for thinking of what happens to the converts after a crusade is over."

At that time I was on my way to Formosa and I said, "While I am there I will pray about it, Billy." On the sands of a Formosan beach I paced up and down two or three hours a day praying, "Lord, how can I do this? I am not even getting the work done You have given me to do. How can I take six months of the year to give to Billy?"

But God laid the burden upon my heart.

Why should Billy have asked me to do it? I had said to him that day before I left for Formosa, "Billy, you will have to get somebody else."

He took me by the shoulders and said, "*Who else? Who is majoring in this?*"

I had been majoring in it.

Biblical Emphasis On Follow Up

When a soul is born, give it the care that Paul gave new believers. Paul believed in follow-up work. He was a busy evangelist, but he took time for follow-up. The New Testament is largely made up of the letters of Paul which were follow-up letters to the converts.

James believed in it. "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only," he said in James 1:22. Peter believed in it. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Peter 2:2). John believed in it, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (Ill John 4). All the writings of Peter, Paul, James and most of John's are food for the new Christian.

The Potential Of An Unbroken Chain Of Reproducing Christians

"Oh, I find time to serve the Lord. I am preaching here and there." But down behind all of this he has the one desire to be a spiritual father. He is praying that God will give him a man to teach. It may take six months. It need not take that long, but maybe it takes him six months to get him.

So this first man at the end of six months has another man. Each man starts teaching another in the following six months. At the end of the year, there are just four of them. Perhaps each one teaches a Bible class or helps in a street meeting, but at the same time his main interest is in his man and how he is doing. So at the end of the years the four of them get together and have a prayer meeting and determine, "Now, let's not allow anything to sidetrack us. Let's give the Gospel out to a lot of people, but let's check up on at least one man and see him through."

So the four of them in the next six months each get a man. That makes eight at the end of a year and a half. They all go out after another and at the end of two years there are 16 men. At the end of three years there are 64; the 16 have doubled twice. At the end of five years there are 1,024. At the end of fifteen and a half years there are approximately 2,147,500,000. That is the present population of the world of persons over three years of age.

But wait a minute! Suppose that after the first man, A, helps B and B is ready to get his man while A starts helping another, B is sidetracked, washes out and does not produce his first man. Fifteen and one-half years later you can cut your 2,147,500,000 down to 1,073,750,000 because the devil caused B to be sterile.

A young lady works at the telephone desk in our office in Colorado Springs. A year and a half ago she was associated with the young Communist league in Great Britain. She heard Billy Graham and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. Soon she and a couple other girls in her art and drama school were used of the Lord to win some girls to Christ. We taught Pat and some of the other girls and they too are training their friends. Patricia is a great grandmother already, though she is only about a year and four months old in the Lord.

We see this all the time. I know a sailor who, when he was only four months old in the Lord, was a great-grandfather. He had led some sailors to the Lord who in turn led other sailors to the Lord, and these last led still other sailors to the Lord—yet he was only four months old.

How was this done? God used the pure channel of these young Christians' lives in their exuberance and first love for Christ, and out of their hearts the incorruptible seed of the Word of God was sown in the hearts of other people. It took hold. Faith came by the hearing of the Word. They were born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They observed those Christians who led them to Christ and shared in the joy, the peace and the thrill of it all. And in their joy, they wanted someone else to know.

Follow Up For A New Or Dormant Christian Requires A Spiritual Parent

Furthermore, there is not anything under heaven that can keep a newly born again one from going on with the Lord *if he has a spiritual parent* to take care of him and give him the spiritual food God has provided for his normal growth.

But when all things are right between you and the Lord, regardless of how much or how little you may know intellectually from the standpoint of the world, *you can be a spiritual parent*. And that, incidentally, may be when you are very young in the Lord.

An Example Of Spiritual Parenting

Twenty-three years ago we took a born-again sailor and spent some time with him, showing him how to reproduce spiritually after his kind. It took time, lots of time. It was not a hurried, 30-minute challenge in a church service and a hasty good-bye with an invitation to come back next week. We spent time together. We took care of his problems and taught him not only to hear God's Word and to read it, but also how to study it. We taught him how to fill the quiver of his heart with the arrows of God's Word, so that the Spirit of God could lift an arrow from his heart and place it to the bow of his lips and pierce a heart for Christ.

He found a number of boys on his ship, but none of them would go all out for the Lord. They would go to church, but when it came right down to doing something, they were "also rans." He came to me after a month of this and said, "Dawson, I can't get any of these guys on the ship to get down to business."

I said to him, "Listen, you ask God to give you one. You can't have two until you have one. Ask God to give you a man after your own heart."

He began to pray. One day he came to me and said, "I think I've found him." Later he brought the young fellow over. Three months from the time that I started to work with him, he had found a man of like heart. This first sailor was not the kind of man you had to push and give prizes to before he would do something. He loved the Lord and was willing to pay a price to produce. He worked with this new babe in Christ, and those two fellows began to grow and spiritually reproduce. On that ship 125 men found the Saviour before it was sunk at Pearl Harbor. Men off that first battleship are in four continents of the world as missionaries today. It was necessary to make a start, however. The devil's great trick is to stop anything like this if he can before it gets started. He will stop you, too, if you let him.

God promised Abraham ". . . "in Isaac shall thy seed be called" (Genesis 21:12), so Abraham waited a long, long time for that son. God's promise to make Abraham the father of many nations were all wrapped up in that one son, Isaac. If Hitler had been present and had caused Isaac's death when Abraham had his knife poised over him on Mount Moriah, Hitler could have killed every Jew in that one stroke.

You can lead a soul to Christ in from 20 minutes to a couple of hours. But it takes from 20 weeks to a couple of years to get him on the road to maturity, victorious over the sins and the recurring problems that come along. He must learn how to make right decisions. He must be warned of the various "isms" that are likely to reach out with their octopus arms and pull him in and sidetrack him. But when you get yourself a man, you have doubled your ministry—in fact, you have more than doubled your ministry. Do you know why? When you teach your man, he sees how it is done and he imitates you.

A Personal Regular Devotional Life Is Essential To A Victorious And Fruitful Life

Some time ago I talked to 29 missionary candidates. They were graduates of universities or Bible Schools or Seminaries. As a member of the board I interviewed each one over a period of five days, giving each candidate from half an hour to an hour.

Among the questions I asked were two which are very important. The first one had to do with their devotional life. "How is your devotional life?" I asked them. "How is the time you spend with the Lord? Do you feel that your devotional life is what the Lord would have it to be?"

Out of this particular group of 29 only one person said, "I believe my devotional life is what it ought to be." To the others my question then was, "Why is your devotional life not what it should be?"

“Well, you see, I am here at this summer institute,” was a common reply. “We have a concentrated course. We do a year’s work in only ten weeks. We are so busy.”

I said, “All right. Let’s back up to when you were in college. Did you have victory in your devotional life then?”

“Well, not exactly.”

The other question I asked them was. “You are going out to the foreign field. You hope to be used by the Lord in winning men and women to Christ. Is that right?”

“Yes.”

‘You want them to go on and live the victorious life, don’t you? You don’t want them just to make a decision and then go back into the world, do you?’”

Then may I ask you something more? How many persons do you know by name today who were won to Christ by you and are living for Him?”

The majority had to admit that they were ready to cross an ocean and learn a foreign language. but they had not won their first soul who was going on with Jesus Christ. A number of them said that they got many people to go to church; others said they had persuaded some to go forward when the invitation was given.

I asked, ‘Are they living for Christ now?’”

Their eyes dropped. I then continued, “How do you expect that by crossing an ocean and speaking in a foreign language with people who are suspicious of you, whose way of life is unfamiliar, you will be able to do there what you have not yet done here?”

We traced back and found that never since they came to know the Saviour had they had a period of victory in their devotional lives. That was one of the reasons for their sterility—lack of communion with Christ.

These questions do not apply to missionaries and prospective missionaries only. They apply to all of God’s people. Every one of His children ought to be a reproducer.

Scripture Memory Is An Essential Resource For Growth And Outreach

“Load your heart with this precious Seed. You will find that God will direct you to those whom you can lead to Christ. There are many hearts ready for the Gospel now”.

Until several years after we were married, my wife’s father did not know the Lord. Here again God used children to reach a hungry heart. When Ruthie was three and Bruce was five, they went to visit Grandpa and Grandma. Grandpa tried to get them to repeat nursery rhymes. He said, “Mary had a little lamb” and “Little Boy Blue,” but the children just looked at him and asked, “Who is Little Boy Blue?” He thought they did not know very much.

Their mother said, “They know some things. Quote Romans 3:23, Bruce.” This Bruce did. Then he asked, “Shall I quote another one, Grandpa?”

“Sure,” said Grandpa.

Bruce began to quote verses of Scripture, some 15 in all, and Ruth quoted some in between. This delighted Grandpa. He took them over to the neighbors and to the aunts and uncles, showing them how well these children knew the Scriptures. In the meantime the Word of God was doing its work. It was not long before the Holy Spirit, through the voices of babes, planted the seed in his heart. ‘Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength (Psalm 8:2).

It used to be the plan of the Navigators in the early days that whenever the sailors were with us for supper each fellow was asked at the end of the meal to quote a verse.

I would say it this way, "Quote a verse you have learned in the last 48 hours if you have one.

Otherwise just give us a verse. One evening as we quoted verses around the table, my little three year old daughters turn came. There was a new sailor next to her who did not think about her quoting Scripture, so without giving her an opportunity, he began She looked up at him as much as to say, I am a human being, then she quoted John 3:16 in her own way, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only forgotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. She put the emphasis on "whosoever" because when she was first taught the verse she could not pronounce that word.

Days later that sailor came over and said to me, "You know I was going to quote that verse of Scripture. It was the only one I knew. But I didn't really know it, not until little Ruthie quoted it. When she said whosoever, I thought, that means me. Back on the ship I accepted the Lord. Today that young man is a missionary in South America.

Every one of us, no matter what age we are, should get busy memorizing Scripture. In one Sunday school class a woman 72 years of age and another who was 78 finished The Navigators Topical Memory System. They then had something to give.

Five Reasons Christians Do Not Reproduce

(1) Sin: Overt - Covert – Un-confessed - Another factor that can hinder reproduction is disease or impairment to some part of the body that is needed for reproductive purposes. In the spiritual realm sin is the disease that can keep one from winning the lost.

Are you producing? If not, why not? Is it because of a lack of communion with Christ your Lord? Remember, "Nothing under heaven except sin, immaturity and lack of communion will put you in a position where you cannot reproduce.

Wherever you find a Christian who is not leading men and women to Christ, something is wrong. He may still be a babe. I do not mean that he does not know a lot of doctrine and is not well informed through hearing good preaching. I know many people who can argue the Pre-, the post- and the Ah-millennial position and who know much about dispensations, but who are still immature. Paul said of some such in Corinth, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual (or mature), but as unto carnal, even as unto babes (I Corinthians 3:1).

Are you producing? If not, why not? Is it because of a lack of communion with Christ, your Lord, that closeness of fellowship which is part of the great plan? Or is it some sin in your life, an unconfessed something, that has stopped the flow? Or is it that you are still a babe? "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teaches you again." (Hebrews 5:12).

Because they were babes, they were immature, incapable of spiritual reproduction. In other words, they could not help other people to be born again. Paul continued, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it . . . ye are yet carnal (or babes): for . . . there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions (I Corinthians 3:2, 3).

I know a lot of church members, Sunday school teachers and members of the women's missionary society who will say to each other, "Have you heard about so and so?" and pass along some gossip. Such have done an abominable thing in the sight of God. How horrible it is when a Christian hears something and spreads the story!

The Book says, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him . . . a lying tongue . . ." (Proverbs 6:16,17). Oh, the Christians I know, both men and women, who let lying, come in! "... he that soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19) is another. This is walking as a babe, and I believe that it is one of the basic reasons why some Christians do not have people born again into God's family through them. They are sick

spiritually. There is something wrong. There is a spiritual disease in their lives. They are immature. There is not that union with Christ.

(2) Fear Of Man - “Oh, but I am afraid.” someone says. Remember, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25).

(3) Lack Of A Spiritual Purpose In Life - There are Christians whose lives run in circles who, nevertheless, have the desire to be spiritual parents. Take a typical example. You meet him in the morning as he goes to work and say to him:

“Why are you going to work?”

“Well, I have to earn money.

“What are you earning money for?” you ask.

“Well,” he replies. “I have to buy food.”

“What do you want food for?”

“I have to eat so as to have strength to go to work and earn some more money.

“What do you want more money for?”

“I have to buy clothes so that I can be dressed to go to work and earn some more money.

“What do you want more money for?”

“I have to buy a house or pay the rent so I will have a place to rest up, so I will be fit to work and earn some more money.”

And so it goes. There are many Christians like that who are going in big circles. **But you continue your questioning and ask, “What else do you do?”**

(4) Busyness - I believe that is why Satan puts all his efforts into getting the Christian busy, busy, busy, but not producing.

There is a story in I Kings, chapter 20 about a man who gave a prisoner to a servant and instructed the servant to guard the prisoner well. But as the servant was busy here and there the prisoner made his escape.

The curse of today is that we are too busy. I am not talking about being busy earning money to buy food. I am talking about being busy doing Christian things. We have spiritual activity with little productivity. And productivity comes as a result of what we call “follow-up.”

(5) Christians Do Important Jobs But Not The Most Important - In every Christian audience, I am sure there are men and women who have been Christians for five, ten or twenty years but who do not know of one person who is living for Jesus Christ today because of them. I am not talking now about merely working for Christ, but about producing for Christ. Someone may say, I gave out a hundred thousand tracts.” That is good, but how many sheep did you bring in?

But today we have a lot of pew-sitters- —people think that if they are faithful in church attendance, put good-sized gifts into the offering plate and get people to come, they have done their part.

If I were the minister of a church and had deacons or elders to pass the plate and choir members to sing, I would say, ‘thank God for your help. We need you. Praise the Lord for these extra things that you do,’ but I would keep pressing home the big job—” Be fruitful and multiply.” All these other things are incidental to the supreme task of winning a man or woman to Jesus Christ and then helping him or her to go on.

Summary

Everyone should be born again. That is God's desire. God never intended that man should merely live and die and be a walking corpse to be laid in the ground. The vast majority of people know that there is something beyond the grave, *and so each one who is born into God's family should seek others to be born again.*

Exhortations

- Effects obey their causes by irresistible laws. When you sow the seed of God's Word you will get results. Not every heart will receive the Word but some will and the new birth will take place.
- Men, where is your man? Women, where is your woman? Where is the one whom you led to Christ and who is now going on with Him.
- Where is your man? Where is your woman? Do you have one? You can ask God for one. Search your hearts. Ask the Lord, "Am I spiritually sterile? If I am, why am I?"
- Where is your man? Where is your woman? Where is your boy? Where is your girl?
- What will it take to jar us out of our complacency and send us home to pray, "God, give me a girl or man whom I can win to Christ, or let me take one who is already won, an infant in Christ, and try to train that one so that he or she will reproduce!"

Post Script - *Powerful Statements Which Challenge And Pierce The Heart*

- How thrilled we are to see the masses fill up the seats! But where is your man? I would rather have one 'Isaac' alive than a hundred dead, or sterile, or immature.
- The reason that we are not getting this Gospel to the ends of the earth is not because it is not potent enough.
- Soul winners are not sole winners, because of what they know, but because of the Person they know, how well they know Him, and how much they long for others to know Him.
- Load your heart with this precious Seed. You will find that God will direct you to those whom you can lead to Christ. There are many hearts ready for the Gospel now.
- Remember, nothing under heaven except sin, immaturity, and lack of communion will put you in a position where you cannot reproduce.
- You cannot make God the overseer. He makes you the overseer.

- Furthermore, there is nothing under heaven that can keep a newly born again one from going on with the Lord if he has a *spiritual parent* to take care of him and give him the spiritual food God has provided for his normal growth.
- But when all things are right between you and the Lord,, regardless of how much or how little you know intellectually, from the stand point of the world, *you can be a spiritual parent*. And that, incidentally, may be when you are very young in the Lord.
- The Gospel spread to the known world during the first century without radio, television or the printing press, because these produced men who were *reproducing*.

Definitions

Producing - Spiritual work done in leading another to Christ or following up a new or needy Christian.

Reproduce - Reproduce yourself spiritually by leading another to Christ.

Reproducer - One who has led another to Christ.

Multiply³ - This occurs when someone's spiritual child leads another to Christ.

Spiritual parenting - Taking care of a new or needy Christian and giving him/her the spiritual food God has provided for normal growth.⁴

Generations - This is synonymous with having spiritual children, grandchildren, great, grand children and great, great, grandchildren etc.

³ The difference between multiply and reproduce is barely distinguishable.

⁴ On pages 4 and 5 of the transcribed message, Trotman tells some of the things he did in parenting Lester Spencer.

Born to Reproduce

Discussion Questions

Application Session - Write down and discuss answers to the following questions:

1. How did Trotman illustrate the comparison between physical and spiritual reproduction and multiplication?

2. What experience convinced him that follow up of a new Christian is essential?

3. What was Trotman illustrating in recounting his conversation with the Armenian boy?

4. Why did Billy Graham choose Dawson Trotman to help him with following up new converts?

5. What does the New Testament teach about Follow Up?

6. What is the potential of an unbroken chain of reproducers?

7. What is a spiritual parent, and what does he/she do?

8. How did Trotman present the case for a strong devotional life?

9. What did he have to say about Scripture Memory?

10. What are five reasons Christians do not reproduce?

11. What specific sins did he mention?

12. What kind of questions did Trotman most often ask?

14. Write down four of what you think were the most powerful statements in the message.

15. What changes could you, and should you, make in your life as the result of this challenging message?
