

History and Future of the Navigators

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

- A. The subject is—you.
- B. God does not love organizations or movements. He loves people.

II. Truths, observations and principles.

- A. Truth: God loves the world. (John 3:16)
- B. Truth: Christ has the whole world on His heart. (John 17)
 - 1. Christ mentions the world nineteen times here.
 - 2. The Lord has always had the whole world on His heart.
- C. Truth: Christ ended His time on earth in great triumph. (John 17:4)
 - 1. Christ finished the work that the world may know and believe.
 - 2. As a result of what Jesus did it is possible for the whole world to believe.
- D. Truth: Christ's plan was a fantastic success. (Colossians 1:6, 23)
 - 1. The gospel has been preached to all the world.
 - 2. The gospel has been preached to every creature.
- E. Truth: Christianity spread fantastically.
 - 1. Tertullian claimed that a lessening of foes for the Roman Empire was due to the spread of Christianity.
 - 2. In 197 AD nearly all the citizens of the Roman cities were Christians.
- F. Truth: The heart of the plan—Christ took some men and concentrated on them in order to produce this result.
 - 1. More than 90% of Christ's time during his last time is unaccounted for.
 - 2. Christ concentrated on twelve people full time to get them ready to do what they were to do.
 - 3. He gave them knowledge, skill, relationships with Himself and each other, and character.

4. Christ prayed for everyone that would come to Him through the disciples. (John 17:20)

5. James the Greater, Philipp, Matthew, James the Lesser, Matthias, Andrew, Mark, Peter, Jude, Bartholomew, and Thomas all died violent deaths because of their faith. John was the only one who did not.

6. The disciples were plan A, and there was no plan B.

G. Observation: When God is getting ready to make a contribution to the world, He takes a man and works out in his life the things He wants worked out in the multitudes of people.

1. God put in the heart of Dawson Trotman a burden and love for the whole world and he wanted everyone to have a heart for Jesus Christ that was inexchangeable.

2. Some of the early Navigators were convicted that they were doing something right in investing in men. When Trotman invested in a man, he suggested to that man that he teach another man and become a reproducer.

3. Trotman was convicted that God was speaking to him out of Isaiah 58:12—that he would be the foundation of many spiritual generations.

H. Principle: Spiritual reproduction should be the normal experience of every maturing Christian.

1. Whenever you find a person not reproducing, they are not married, diseased or not mature.

2. A man does not have to be a Christian very long before he can influence somebody.

I. Principle: In most cases, the degree of maturity is directly related to the amount of personal individual time that is given to the individual Christian.

1. Paul's disciples were dealt with one by one—like a parent and his child. (1 Thessalonians 2:11)

2. Every disciple has a different need than the next.

3. You can judge the importance of a task by the amount of attention that goes into it. It takes a considerable amount of personal consideration going into the task of discipleship.

4. God is interested in you, and there is a parallel between the work that Jesus Christ did in raising up disciples and the work that Dawson Trotman did.

J. Truth: The Navigators have assigned a point system and a priority status, and the hope is to have a representative in every country.

K. Observation: The Navigator movement is more important than the organization.

III. Suggestions.

1. Get involved.

2. Make a list of twenty people, Christian and nonChristian. As the door opens share your life with them and concentrate on a few.

a. The only way to catch up with physical multiplication is with spiritual multiplication. If the idea works and the solution is simple, do it.

b. The two reasons Christians are not doing it is because of a feeling of inferiority (but you know more about Christ than most) and because of a feeling that you have to be a pace-setter in every area.

3. Keep in touch with someone that can help you with your growth and need.

IV. Conclusion.

1. Pick out a man and invest your life personally with that person.

2. It is not books and literature that change lives.

3. Start a chain of spiritual reproduction.

Application questions.

1. Summarize the speaker's argument. What is the main point that he is trying to get across?

2. Do you agree that reproduction is essential to the Christian life? What arguments did the speaker use to support this?

3. What suggestions did the speaker list for getting involved in the lives of others? How will you begin practicing this in your own personal walk with Christ.
