

Evangelistic Coffee

Paul Stanley

Introduction:

A. Who are The Navigators?

1. They are located in Colorado Springs.
2. They are spread all over the world.
3. They are over 40 years old.

B. What the Navigators do is another story.

I. They asked me to share of my pilgrimage.

A. Freedom has characterized my pilgrimage and means many things to many people.

1. Freedom is the ability to do what I want.
2. Freedom might mean the ability to do what others want.
3. Freedom might be the ability to be left alone.

B. In the American Revolution many people died to gain freedom.

1. In Russia many died in lack of freedom.
2. People seek freedom everywhere.
3. A president of a country felt he lost freedom because of the media coverage he had to endure.
4. Some prisoners declare freedom when they discover freedom from sin in Jesus Christ.

C. In my life freedom came to me early.

1. My family was Christian but I needed to discover Christ for myself.
2. I knew about Christ but at age 16 I came to a conference where I gave a testimony and while writing it I realized I did not have true freedom.
3. I had guilt because I had not lived up to Christ's standards.
 - a. While at the conference I met Don, an all American athlete who also gave a testimony.

- b. He spoke very openly about his failures and the freedom he found in trusting Christ.
 - c. That night I asked Christ to free me from my own failures and sin.
 - d. I had tried to change my own life but these changes never worked.
 - e. As I continued to grow in my relationship with Christ I ended up at West Point.
 - f. West Point gave me a new suit of clothes and they called me Mr. Stanley.
 - g. They changed many things about my behavior, teaching me again basic skills.
 - h. I thought there were no Christians there and thought I'd go underground about my convictions.
 - i. One day I was playing football with the freshman team when an upperclassman came to us asking to speak with Paul Stanley.
 - j. He invited me to his Bible study and later to join him for morning prayer.
 - k. We met for quiet time every day.
 - l. I didn't even tell my roommates until they asked me why I woke so early.
 - m. Soon changes began to happen.
 - n. For example, the freshman tasks I had dreaded, like gathering morning newspapers for upperclassmen at 4:00 a.m., became more tolerable for me.
 - o. I even began helping others in their dreaded tasks.
 - p. This type of behavior led to genuine freedom as I saw my life in Christ.
 - q. I became free to encourage others and help them on the football field.
 - r. I didn't care if I was first string or not, because my identity was found in Christ. I was free to love others.
4. Now I was beginning to live up to the standards of Christ.
- a. I even began sharing Christ with my roommates and others.
 - b. As we grow in freedom we begin to help others grow in freedom.