

# Interview with John Squires

## *Jim Downing*

### I. Introduction.

- A. When God gets ready to bless a man through a principle, He selects a man and works that principle out in him and then later uses him to become a blessing to others.
- B. This was worked out in Dawson Trotman, the founder of the Navigators.
- C. John Squires of the Minute Men.

### II. Testimony.

- A. He was born in 1912.
- B. He knew of his need for the gospel at an early age. He went to a gospel choir and was convinced that what he needed was the Person of Jesus Christ. He went forward where he met Dawson Trotman and another man who were associated with the Minute Men.
- C. The development of the Minute Men.
  - 1. It birthed out of a meeting of men who were part of a Bible Institute and a group called the International Fishing Club.
  - 2. Trotman left the International Fishing Club since he felt like they were not accomplishing their goals and formed the Minute Men.
- D. The character of the Minute Men - a rigid program.
  - 1. Sometimes there would be all night prayer meetings.
  - 2. Men would conduct services in churches throughout Southern California.
  - 3. What the Navigators do now is not that far from what the Minute Men did. They would study the wheel. They would read Hudson Taylor's biography. They would witness. They would memorize Scripture. Trotman invested in individual men.
  - 4. Trotman was an intimidating man to work with, but life became extraordinary when walking alone side of this man.
- E. The end of the Minute Men.
  - 1. The group ultimately disintegrated.
  - 2. During this time, contacts were being made with men in the Navy.
  - 3. Trotman's impact was extensive.

4. The group broke up because many felt led to go to school elsewhere.
5. If you were not with Trotman - you were not with him. This is a testimony to his diligence and commitment to Christ with the people around him.

F. What John has done since the dissolve of the Minute Men.

1. He attended college.
2. A division took place in his denomination - the Brethren.
3. He attended seminary.
4. Some tragic things happened in his life that made ministry not an option for him. Friends departed from him, but one Christian man was faithful in walking with him.
5. A man approached him to be professor of studies over churches a group was visiting.

Applications questions.

1. What are two things that struck you about John's testimony and the Minute Men?

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2. How did the founder of the Navigator's shape men in the Minute Men program?

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3. What principles can you take away from this testimony to apply personally?

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