

Navigator History

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I. Introduction.

II. History of the Navigators.

A. 1962- Leadership felt that the Navigators needed to reestablish the foundation of the promises of God and set reasonable expectations of growth based on the past.

B. 1950s- Overseas work during this period was often done in conjunction with other ministries and staff was spread very thin over different countries.

1. 1955- First mid-level coordinator appointed in Europe.

2. Overseas work became structured before the U.S. work did.

3. 1961- Navigators decide to become their own presence in overseas work rather than going in with other ministries. They also narrowed and clarified what the objective of the Navigators was.

C. 1961-1968- This was an era of clarifying the objective of the Navigators, which emphasized establishing a strategic plan of growth, defining the mission and objectives of the Navigators, evaluating the results of Navigator policies and strategies, and developing guidelines for training staffing. (Leadership Conferences in 1961, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968)

D. Dawson and Loren had very different styles of leadership which impacted the Navigators' organization, foundation, style, and development. Dawson laid the foundation and Loren is building the house. (1 Corinthians 3)

Application questions:

1. Jerry discusses at length the pros and cons of Loren and Dawson's different leadership styles. How does leadership style affect the culture of an organization? What are the most important characteristics of Christian leadership?

2. Is it important for Christian ministries to have stated objectives? What are some of the benefits and challenges of defining a ministry's "mission"?

3. Why is knowing the history of a ministry important?
