

History of the Navigators - Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Review.

B. Trotman had a ministry of exhortation.

1. He was tough on people, but his ministry was geared that way.
2. Many factors go into proper admonition - how close the person is to you, whether the action has been repeated or not, etc.
3. A word of caution on discipline and instruction: it must come out of a sincere heart of love and it must come out of prayer.

II. The struggle (1946-48).

A. It looked like the Navigator work would collapse after the war because not enough men were left from the armed forces afterward.

B. However, a civilian work began to come to life.

C. Trotman found that it was quality and not quantity that was producing results.

1. The original work emphasized group work.
2. During this period man-to-man became more emphasized and became the heart of the movement. (2 Timothy 2:2)

D. Other developments that were beginning.

1. Tent making was needed during this time also, which influenced the movement as largely a lay movement.
2. The movement began becoming larger.
3. Work was being done with other organizations.
4. Research was being done into overseas missions but originally not so the Navigators could become a mission organization.

E. There was a squeezing down after the wars and extremes in regimentations such as using a syllabus in man-to-man and spending an hour a week with men.

III. Push (1949-59).

A. Trotman's 1948 world trip.

1. It grew out of a prayer meeting.

2. After Trotman's visit to Europe he began to see the need there for things like Scripture memory, so he began to consider the principles of the organization as a whole and how it might benefit the world. A shift in the Navigators began to occur here.

B. Roy Robertson was sent out overseas to China.

1. He maintained the following priorities: a strong devotional life, ministry to people and thirdly language study.

2. These principles feed into each other. Methods are secondary to the heart of the business.

C. The Navigators began to do conferences in search of some good men to recruit to the movement.

D. The Billy Graham movement was looking for someone to develop a follow up program so he asked Dawson Trotman to head it up.

1. Up until this point Trotman was disappointed in mass evangelism.

2. However, eventually he responded at the opportunity to develop a follow up program for one of these mass movements.

3. Results of the association with the Billy Graham Crusade.

- a. It brought them Glen Eyrie.

- b. It gave them a greater understanding of their relationship with the church.

- c. It increased their staff.

- d. It gave them several opportunities.

E. Glen Eyrie was purchased in 1953.

1. They raised the support for it on the day of the deadline.

2. Not everyone was in support of it.

IV. The speaker feels the best days are ahead because of...

A. The men God is raising up. This is the number one ingredient for a movement.

B. The cooperation between ministries.

V. The greatest problem today is one of growth.

Application questions

1. What observations did you make from this time period?

2. How has what occurred during this time period influenced the current Navigator work?

3. What personal lesson will you take from these events?
