

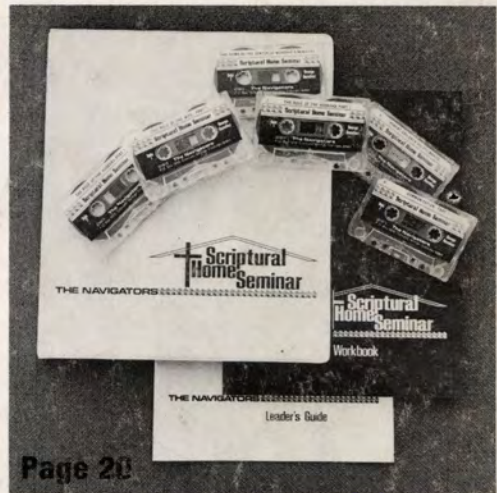
January 1974

# The Navigators Log

INTERNATIONAL EDITION



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# *"At all times, under any conditions, in every place we go"*

. . . working with business and professional people in Wichita, Kansas.

*story and photos by Ray King*

**I**n the spring of 1967 in Wichita, Kansas, five men began meeting every Saturday morning. As time passed others were invited to join them. They started calling themselves a "team".

The team continued to grow until over 20 were involved and they had to divide into four "squads." In the meantime two team members had been transferred by their companies to Kansas City where they formed another squad that today has seven members.

On the team there are sales managers, insurance men, engineers, business executives, oil men, geologists, students, teachers and doctors. What brings such a diverse group together? They are all committed to a common objective.

Ask any of them what this objective is and you'll get the same answer. "To know Christ in our own life in ever increasing depth, and to make disciples and develop disciplinarians at *all times under any conditions in every place we go.*" That's no small commitment for men successfully established in businesses and professions.

## **The Businessman's Advantage**

How does working in a business or profession mix with knowing Christ and making disciples? Most of the men feel it's a significant advantage.

Don Williams is a sales engineer for Heaven Engineering Company, a distributor of heating and air conditioning equipment. (Heaven is the owner's name.) He travels extensively in Kansas contacting potential customers. We asked if he had ever considered entering full-time Christian work. "I consider myself in full-time Christian work," he replied. "And I'm convinced that we have an advantage as 'lay' people. It's been my experience that people will open up to us much more readily."

Clyde Krug, an engineering supervisor in systems design at Cessna Aircraft, finds that his job gives him opportunities for ministry. "Making disciples is the objective for everyone. The activity we're placed in is a vehicle the Lord uses to put us next to people so we can make disciples in our relationships with them."

"It depends on what God equips you for," says J. V. Harlan, the head of an engineering group of 26 at Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base. "I believe that, in many cases, a person's calling is right where his intense interest or aptitude is. If you're a preacher or 'full-time worker' as the world looks at it, many times there's a wall between you and the so-called working person," he added. "They don't think you know their problems."

Bill Brunson is co-owner of Brunson-Spines Oil Company, a company that explores for oil and owns and operates oil properties. He summed up his ideas this way: "I think maybe we

have a special rapport with people. People tend to expect an interest in following Christ if you're a pastor or someone on the staff of a church or The Navigators or any other Christian organization. They don't necessarily expect it of a businessman. And as businessmen we have many more opportunities than staff people every day in our work.

"We can't all be full-time staff people but we can be available 100 percent of the time if the Lord wants us. Besides, if we were all full-time staff people, who in the world would support us?"

Although their jobs are an important part of their ministry, they find a need to avoid over-involvement. For several years Williams worked 100 or more hours a week. But he began to see the need for a job that demanded less of his time. He eventually took the job he has now and he disciplines himself to only 50 hours a week. That's still a full week but it gives him the time he needs for his family and for ministry activities.

Krug notes, "You owe a certain amount of your time and loyalty to the company. But you have to be able to leave the job and have peace of mind and provide for your family in things other than just the money you're earning. If the company would offer me a position with so much additional responsibility that I couldn't get time with the Lord and with my family, I wouldn't accept it."

## **The Best Men On The Job**

How does their commitment to Christ affect on-the-job performance? They work harder. Jim Fisher, branch manager over Kansas and Oklahoma for Northwestern National Life Insurance Company, has very definite ideas about this. "If a company is paying a person for eight hours of work, then that's what they should get. Taking money for work you haven't done is one of the worst testimonies a Christian can give."

Brunson has a similar view. "I'm spending more and more time in my ministry, but I think a Christian businessman must guard against not taking care of his business. We're to do *all things heartily, as to the Lord.*"

Dick Borchard believes Christians should be the best employees a company can hire. "I feel my job is a witness that a person who puts Christ first in his life can do a better job than a person who puts their job first. I'm confident that I can do a better job by putting Christ first than I could if I put the company first." Borchard is lead engineer of the instrumentation testing group at the Boeing Aircraft plant in Wichita.

Some of the team members have found men in their professions who want to grow in Christ. Dr. Harvey Ellis, a surgeon and general practitioner, was at the hospital one

morning and stopped to talk to Dr. Richard Spann. He found that Dr. Spann also was a Christian and wanted to learn more. They have been meeting regularly since then. Both frequently tell their patients what knowing Christ means to them.

Ray Patterson is head football coach at Wichita East High School. He told Dick Carpenter, an assistant basketball coach, about Christ "for two years running." Finally Carpenter decided to become a Christian. Patterson and his wife, Jane, now meet regularly with Carpenter and his wife.

Larry Stetler is a junior high and high school music teacher in Haven, a town near Wichita. Stetler shared his faith with a fellow teacher, Charlie Sauerwein, who later became a Christian. Stetler and his wife Barbara, now meet personally with Charlie and his wife Carolyn. And Stetler is helping to lead the "Memorize the Word" group Charlie and Carolyn are in.

The outreach of the men on the team is continually growing. But, it didn't develop overnight or by chance. In fact, the group really began long before 1967 with one man, Jim Morris. And the story of Morris's growth as a Christian provides some important clues as to why the team is growing today.

Morris, a geologist, asked Christ into his life in 1952 and promptly began studying the Scriptures. He read through the entire New Testament once each month during his first year as a Christian.

In 1956 a friend gave him a Navigator "Beginning with Christ" booklet. He was impressed with the practical use of scripture in the booklet and thought how much it would have helped him when he was first a Christian.

Later he heard Navigator President Lorne Sanny speak about "The Art of Personal Witnessing" on a Back to the Bible radio broadcast. Again he was impressed with the practical, effective use of scripture and he decided The Navigators had something that interested him.

In October 1956 Morris went to Lincoln, Nebraska for the Back to the Bible annual conference because he heard some Navigators would be speaking. At this conference he noticed "something different" about the Navigators he met.

He concluded that they were unique because they had the Word of God in their subconscious minds and acted out of confidence in the Word's power and authority. They were



But he realized that he couldn't change himself. So he asked God to forgive him and to change his unwillingness. "I was willing to become willing if God did something to work that change in me."

Ten months later Morris attended another conference at Navigator headquarters in Colorado Springs. Again he was faced with the challenge of giving his life to an individual. But this time something had happened. "It had become the desire of my heart to do this. God had changed my desire without my being aware of it. It was painless . . . all from memorizing and meditating on God's Word."

Morris went back to Wichita and began looking for individuals he could help in their Christian lives. In the early 1960's he began to find men who were really responsive and started meeting with them. He tried to form a team. But one by one the men were transferred by their companies, preventing this.

He finally gave up trying to put a team together and prayed, "If You want a group here, You'll have to put them together and show me what to do." He continued working with individuals.

In 1967, four of the men he was meeting with asked him to start meeting with them as a group. He asked them to pray about it to make sure they really wanted to do it. They did. In May 1967, they began a Saturday morning Bible study. The four men: Dick Grant, Jim Fisher, J.V. Harlan and Ray Patterson, each lead one of the Wichita "squads" today. They are meeting with others on a small group basis just as Morris worked with them.



Far left, J.V. Harlan; left, Bill Brunson in his office; above, Jim Fisher; right, Clyde Krug discusses a plan with a member of his engineering group.

"saturated" with the Word of God.

He shared this idea with Navigator staff member LeRoy Eims. Eims challenged him to begin regular scripture memory himself.

Morris also saw in The Navigators a dedication and willingness to give extensive personal help to individuals. He realized that he did not have this dedication, that he was only willing to obey God if it fitted in with his own plans.

The lessons Morris learned and applied in his own life are carrying over in his ministry today. He knows that only the Word of God can permanently change people. So people are encouraged to memorize and meditate on God's Word to find answers from the scriptures for themselves. They aren't told what answers they should find or when they should find them. No matter what the extent of their commitment, they are accepted, loved and encouraged.

Morris says, "With each person there is a difference in how we help them, but the objective is the same. We want to get God's Word, God's thoughts, in to their subconscious mind so God can control, guide and direct their lives. We want them to realize that the person helping them is simply an encourager, stimulator, helper and counselor to them."

People aren't pushed into deeper involvement in the ministry. "When a person reaches the limit of his commitment we don't press it any further. We know that as he meditates on God's Word and it works in his life, his commitment will expand. We don't want him thinking it was us who took something away from him."

There isn't a lot of pressure on an individual to lead people to Christ or make disciples. Morris knows that as men get into the Word of God they will eventually want to help other people learn to know Christ. And he knows from experience that no one can find these people until God knows he is ready for them and gives them to him.

The result of this approach is greater commitment and dedication. Since there isn't pressure to meet some standard, only men who are genuinely committed get involved. And they come, not because of the negative motivation of group or personal pressure, but because of the positive motivation of God working in their lives in love. So their commitment is enthusiastic rather than grudging.

All of us know individual Christians who are totally excited about serving Christ, people who are glad for what God has done in their lives and are eager to continue giving Him control. They don't make a show of their excitement. It isn't a flashy, superficial thing that makes you think they're trying to impress you. It's a patient, unhurried trust in God and a real enjoyment of life. On Morris's team this is the rule rather than the exception.

And the reason seems to be that their motivation and commitment developed because God has done something in their lives through His Word.

One of Morris's most effective ministry tools is scripture memory groups. He likes them because they build discipline into people's lives and provide the highest quality spiritual "diet" for a new believer. He first developed the idea for the Wichita Bible Church where he is an elder. He and his pastor, Jack Middleton, were looking for a way to help young Christians grow in scripture memory and meditation so they developed this plan for their Sunday School.

The plan is built around a Moody Bible Institute correspondence course, "Memorize the Word", which was written for Moody by Lorne Sanny and other Navigator staff. A



An oil rig towers behind Jim Morris, left, and Dick Grant.

"Memorize the Word" group memorizes three verses each week and on alternate weeks they study a chapter in the course textbook.

But they do more than simply complete this course. At the group meeting each week the leader shares practical helps for getting into the Bible and for daily living. Group members share ways they have applied the verses they have learned.

On weeks when they don't study the textbook, they do a simple Bible study on the passage surrounding one of their memory verses, again thinking of a practical way to apply this in their lives. And each group is divided into pairs who pray for each other daily.

Daily review is emphasized. There is a weekly roll call and each member reports how many days he has reviewed his verses that week. The answer should be seven. If any one falls to five or less it is considered a danger sign and the leader takes immediate action to see how he can help this person.

Memorizing and reviewing verses daily for six months should produce results . . . and it does. People's lives are often completely transformed.

Team members have led "Memorize the Word" groups in over 15 Wichita churches and have more requests for new groups than they can fill. But for these men, the group is only a starting point.

### Five generations of multiplication

In the fall of 1966 Dick Grant asked Christ into his life. Jim Morris began meeting with him personally to help him grow in his Christian life.

Grant is a geologist who "sits on" oil wells while they are being drilled, analyzing the rock samples the drill brings up. As a young Christian, he spent his free time between samples reading the Bible.

One day Grant met Jon Brock, who sells equipment used in the oil industry. Brock noticed Grant's Bible and wanted to know more. Having recently become a Christian, Brock wanted help in his Christian life. So Grant began to help him.

A business associate, Doug Clothier, noticed a

change in Brock. After observing Brock for several months and talking with him, Clothier asked Christ into his life and decided to get in a "Memorize the Word" group at his church. Brock turned out to be the group leader. After the group ended Clothier and Brock started meeting together each week.

Clothier manages sales in Kansas for Harley Industries, an industrial equipment distributor. Nine months ago one of his salesmen, Gary McGee, became a Christian at a prayer breakfast, after seeing Clothier's life changing for several months.

Clothier started meeting with McGee weekly to give him further help. Since then McGee's wife and daughter have become Christians.

As the men lead scripture memory groups, they are looking for a certain kind of person or couple. They want the type described in II Timothy 2:2, “. . . faithful . . . who will be able to teach others also.” They look for those who are consistent in meeting the requirements and who indicate a desire to learn more. When they find this kind of person they begin meeting with them personally to give them further help.

This is the ultimate goal for the team members. They are committed to a process called spiritual multiplication. This is when an individual not only leads a person to Christ but helps him in basic Christian living and trains him to do the same with another. This is how Morris developed his team. He ministered personally to some of the men on the team. They in turn reached others and are training them so they can reach others. Through this process Morris today has “spiritual great-great grandchildren.”

Larry Stetler found that working with individuals produces lasting results. “We worked with groups in a church

Bob Ely, pastor of the Asbury United Methodist Church, says he finds a one-to-one ministry essential in his church in helping new Christians grow. People who have been in Navigator Bible studies and scripture memory groups are “among the most effective” in doing that ministry, he says.

Morris and his pastor, Jack Middleton, both agree that their ministries aren't separate or exclusive from one another.

*Left, football coach Ray Patterson discusses a play with a team member during practice.*

*Right, music teacher Larry Stetler in action.*

*Below, Dr. Harvey Ellis, talks with a patient.*



for a long time, but couldn't see that we were having a lasting effect. When we heard of spiritual multiplication, we really liked the idea of just working with one couple until they can reproduce themselves spiritually, because it sounded as if it would work and was scriptural. Now we've already seen it work in the lives of one couple.”

Clyde Krug thinks working with individuals is the best way disciples can be made. “I believe the way to make disciples is through a personal relationship — and I'm finding that you establish that relationship through openness and honesty. You have to sit down and open your life to him completely so that he's willing to open his life to you. Until you have that, you won't be very effective. And I don't think you can do that in a large group.”

Jim Fisher agrees. “You can't really help a whole group. You have to concentrate on somebody who really wants to grow and give him your attention. I don't mind investing any amount of time in an individual. But the time has to be there. I don't think there are any shortcuts at all.”

If working with individuals is the key, why have a team? One thing a team situation gives is unity and momentum in the ministry. And there are some things that can be taught effectively in a group situation. Morris also points out that each individual on the team has strengths and weaknesses. In the team, they complement each other providing a more balanced, complete ministry for each individual.

What effect has the team's ministry had on local churches? Pastors say it has been helpful.

Members of Morris's team who are in Middleton's church do sometimes lead groups in other churches. Says Middleton, “I consider it an extension of my ministry. Anything these men can do for the Lord I want them to do wherever it takes them.”

Gene Carlson, pastor of the Westlink Christian Church, was in a “Memorize the Word” group Morris led last year. Since then he has begun meeting one-to-one with some of the men in his church.

Carlson doesn't see the Navigator ministry as something separate from his church but as a part of his church's ministry. “I think in terms of the ministry of our church utilizing men who have the Navigator vision and the tools The Navigators provide.”

He says he sees a need to minister to the entire body of Christ rather than simply trying to build up his own church. “You have to develop world vision. Then when somebody serves in a ministry outside your congregation, you see it as an extension of your own ministry or the ministry of your congregation.”

All of this started with one man working personally with a few. But countless lives have been permanently changed and the outreach is still expanding. That's why the men on the team are doing the same thing Morris is doing. As one team member said, “We can see a real lasting effect from this kind of ministry. We have to keep from becoming group-oriented because that's what everybody pressures you to do. Our purpose is to find a few people we can work with and help them learn to live a high-quality, victorious Christian life.” ■

The radio talks on these pages were selected from 13 prepared by LeRoy Eims, The Navigators Western Division director. They were initiated during an unplanned meeting between Eims and Paul Ramseyer, station manager for KTIS, the Northwestern College radio station in Minneapolis. Ramseyer had been praying for years about having the Navigator basics on radio.

"I think The Navigators could have a ministry on radio because of their experience in helping people learn

how to have time alone with God and how to study and memorize the Bible," he says.

Over 400 radio stations have been informed about the talks, and over 50 have requested a pilot program. The series includes Bible study, Scripture memory, meditation, prayer, knowing and obeying Christ, witnessing and fellowship. Anyone interested in further information about the series can write to The Navigators, P.O. Box 1659, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901, U.S.A.

# Tune in & Turn on to Discipleship

. . . the first  
Navigator  
radio program.

by LeRoy Eims

## THE JOY OF READING THE WORD OF GOD

**D**oes the idea of reading the Bible sound about as exciting as a dental appointment? If that's the case, the next four minutes could change your life.

I know that for some of us, Bible reading is not a *joy* but a *job*. We know it's good for us . . . but it's dry and dull. (Sort of like cereal, without milk or sugar or some kind of fruit.)

But take it from me, Bible reading does not *have* to be that way. The words of the psalmist can be *real* to us. "How sweet are thy words unto my taste. Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth." Now, here are some things that will help.

**First of all, pray.** Psalms 119:18: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." We must pray and ask the Lord to give us spiritual understanding and enlightenment.

Even as Christians we can be blind to the things of God. But, as we pray, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us surprising things, *unexpected* things, *excellent* things and *wonderful* things. And the most wonderful thing of all is that we will see more and more of Jesus, *whose name alone is wonderful!*

**Secondly, we must pray for an attentive mind and heart.** Luke tells us of Jesus: "And he taught daily in the temple, and all the people were very attentive to hear him." Now, Jesus, our King of Kings, Jesus, our Teacher and Lord, has wondrous things He wants to teach us every day.

I have watched men in the Marine

Corps as their captain gave them orders. They were at attention, hanging on every word. Well, the Bible says that you and I are to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ. And when the captain of our salvation speaks to us, we should be at attention, *eager* to hear and apply His Word to our lives.

**Third, we must pray for a spirit of expectation.** Psalm 62:5: "My soul, wait thou *only* upon God, for my expectation is from him." I recall when my daughter Becky was young and Christmas would draw near. Her eyes would sparkle and dance when she saw presents with her name on them. She could hardly wait for Christmas Eve to come, when she would open her gifts. Her joy and excitement knew no bounds.

The same spirit must grip *our* minds and hearts. Before us is this great treasure chest full of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Before us is this great banquet table, full of spiritual truths to feed and nourish our soul.

Then, we must have a purpose. *Look for something specific.* The reason most of us don't find something in the Scriptures is because *we're not looking for anything.* *Do we want to learn to pray?* We can learn much as we observe the way men of God poured out their souls in the Scriptures.

*Do we want to be a better witness?* There are four books that tell us exactly how Jesus Himself went about revealing spiritual truths to the people He met. The books are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

*Do I want to be a man or woman after God's own heart?* Read the life of David. He *was* a man after God's own heart. *Do I want to be a friend of God?* Read the life of Abraham, the friend of God. Look for something! Read with a purpose.

Now then, in addition to prayer, and having a purpose, *we need a plan.* I use a Bible reading program that gives me daily assignments both in the Old and New Testaments. This simple little program is designed to help the children of God come into a *systematic reading of the Holy Scriptures*, so that nothing be left unread of that which is given as a light to our feet, for often unlooked-for help will be found in very unexpected places in the Bible.

Many are too prone to confine their reading to favorite portions — and hence to do dishonor to the *entire Word*. We are told that ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for *doctrine* — to teach us the mind of God.

For reproof — to warn and rebuke us when we've gone wrong —

For correction — to put us back again into the straight path when it has been missed —

For instruction (that is, for training and discipline) in righteousness,

That the man of God may be perfect — thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The man of God, therefore, cannot dispense with any portion of God's Word without loss to himself and hindrance to his usefulness.

## The New Scriptural Home Seminar

What does God's Word have to say about the family and interpersonal relationships? The new *Scriptural Home Seminar* is designed to look at the foundation of a scriptural home, the role of the husband, the role of the wife, parent-children relationships, communication and handling conflicts from the Bible's viewpoint.

Mr. George Sanchez, Staff Counselor for The Navigators and veteran speaker, emphasizes and utilizes scriptural principles as his basis while blending them with contemporary psychology in twelve messages. The Seminar was presented at The Navigators Conference Center at Glen Eyrie, Colorado Springs, Colorado, in June 1973 and is the result of hundreds of previous seminars held in the U.S. and overseas in both homes and churches.

Perhaps you are looking for a method of reaching your neighbors with the Gospel or are responsible for a Sunday school class for married adults. The new *Scriptural Home Seminar* can be used effectively in both of these situations.

The Leader's kit includes the twelve messages on six cassettes in a handy vinyl folder, a *Leader's Guide* and one workbook. Additional workbooks are available. Each participant will want his own workbook where he can take notes on the outline provided, record his answers to discussion questions and read excerpts from outstanding articles.

The *Leader's Guide* provides pointers on how to effectively lead discussions based on the questions in the workbook and the messages — all that you need to get your own Seminar started.

To order your new *Scriptural Home Seminar*, send your name and address along with U.S. \$27.50 for the Leader's kit and U.S. \$1.00 for each workbook to The Navigators, P.O. Box 1659, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901, U.S.A.



## Expanded Tape Library

Over 100 messages by Navigators have been added to *The Navigators Tape Library*. The new listing includes cassette tapes such as —

### LeRoy Eims on:

*The Commission of Christ*  
*The Names of God*  
*Commitment to Christ*  
*Meditation*  
*Genesis*  
*Heart for Men*  
*Excellence*

### Skip Gray on:

*The Man of Faith*  
*Obedience*  
*Personal Responsibility*  
*Emotional Resources*  
*The Basics, the Battle, the Race*

### Jack Mayhall on:

*The Will of God*  
*The Devotional Life*

In addition there are messages by John Advocaat, Dr. Bob Bremner, Dave Dawson, Walt Henrichsen, Dave Johnson, Dr. Jack Mitchell, Harvey Oslund, Jim Petersen, Ed Reis, Lorne Sanny, Jerry White and others.

The "Especially for Women" section has been expanded to include messages by Helene Ashker, Jody Baker, Sal Beeston, Judy Crawford, Barb Haycraft, Vangie Hedstrom, Beth Mainhood, Carolyn Peterson and other girls workers.

These tapes can be used to meet either personal or training needs. Each cassette contains one message and is priced at U.S. \$3.50. Send U.S. \$3.50 for each cassette ordered to The Navigators, P.O. Box 1659, Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S.A. Write to this address for your free copy of the expanded *Navigators Tape Library* brochure. ■

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## The Navigators

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## THE JOY OF WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

**I**s it easier for you to read a newspaper in a high wind on horseback in a rainstorm than to witness for the Lord? If that's the case, the next four minutes could change your life.

Jesus told us to be witnesses. He said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me." You and I have a personal experience of Jesus Christ in our life. We have tested His teachings in our daily lives and found them to be true. This means that we can speak with conviction and authority because we are telling what we know.

Our testimony is not *hearsay*, but *history*. Consider I John 1:3: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

So every child of God is a member of a great witnessing brotherhood. God has graciously gifted certain divinely-appointed men to teach and train us to do our job better. *But witnessing is everybody's job.* The Bible says, "He appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service."

Now then, what's involved in being an effective witness for Christ? **First of all — we must be in intimate fellowship with Christ.** John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Salvation did not originate with man

and cannot be propagated on a human level. The Bible says, *It is God* who would have all men to be saved. *It is God* who is not willing that any should perish.

*It is God* who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *It is God* who sent His Son to seek and to save that which is lost. Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

*Our responsibility is vertical*, a living, vital fellowship with Christ. **Man** cannot work the work of God. He can only be used by God to do it. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do *nothing*."

**Secondly, pray. Pray specifically** by name and ask God to prepare the hearts of people for your witness. The Bible says, be persistent in prayer. Pray that God will give us a good opportunity to preach His message! So make a list of people who need the Savior and pray that God will prepare the soil of their heart for the seed of His Word.

**Which leads to a third thing: share God's Word.** Note these examples: Acts 17:2 "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures." Acts 8:35 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

So as we pray and plant the seed of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit takes that Word and germinates it and a new life results. Jesus said, "Behold a sower goes forth to sow — *and the sower soweth the word.*" Why? Because we are born

again, not of corruptible seed, but of *incorruptible* — by the Word of God. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not primarily *persuasive*, but *creative* — it creates new life!

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16.

One last thing — share the Word of God so that people *understand clearly* how to receive Christ into their lives, Matthew 13:23 says: "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, *and understandeth it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty." ■





# The Navigators Log

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## TO MAKE A PERMANENT DIFFERENCE

The Navigators is an international, interdenominational Christian organization. It is the aim of The Navigators to make a permanent difference in the lives of people all around the world. Jesus Christ gave Christianity a great commission in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . ."

The objective of The Navigators is to help fulfill that commission.

Navigators spend hours with new believers individually and in small groups. They study the Bible, pray, witness, counsel, teach . . . all personal, intensive training on a man-to-man basis.

This training produces a certain kind of Christian: a disciple. A disciple has a

Christ-centered life. He is disciplined in using the Scriptures and in prayer, is experienced in telling others about Christ and is able to teach new believers how to win and train others.

These disciples are helped by continual training to become disciplemakers, thus multiplying themselves as Paul commanded Timothy, ". . . what you have heard from me . . . entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2).

The Navigators concentrate their work on campuses, on military bases and among laymen and women in the United States and on every continent (28 countries currently).

## WRITERS AND ARTICLES FOR JANUARY

The first Japanese to become a Navigator area representative was Nagai Toru. Read about him in the personality profile at right.

A series of talks on the basics of Christian living by LeRoy Eims, (photo at left) director of The Navigators Western Division, is now being aired on several Christian radio stations. A selection from the series is found on pages 12 and 13.



Potentially, laymen can have a more effective ministry than "full-time" Christian workers. Jim Morris leads a group of business and professional men who are having that kind of ministry in Wichita, Kansas. Read the laymen's feature on pages 4-7.

"I believe that spiritual multiplication is the only way the average man can change Christian history on a large scale in the world," says Ichimura Kazuo. Read "How Can We Reach Four Billion People?" page 14.

Lorne Sanny, (photo at right) the president of The Navigators, discusses the role of women in The Navigators on page 16.



"Two Become One" is a study book written by Navigator representatives Elven and Joyce Smith. Get a preview of their thoughts on marriage on page 17.

"It Makes You Happier To Give Than To Get" provides the reader with a scriptural approach to giving. This article by Rod Sargent, (photo below) vice president of The Navigators, is on pages 18 and 19.



"Decade of Development," an extensive fund-raising drive in the U.S.A. designed to broaden the financial base of support for The Navigators ministry, is explained in the article on page 8.

A weekend of hiking in the Welsh mountains was more than that for a group of Navigators from Birmingham, England. It was also an opportunity for spiritual growth. Read the international report on page 9.

New Navigator materials available for purchase are explained in the materials advertisement on page 20.

Nagai Toru



## Personal Spiritual Help Makes The Difference

Nagai Toru became the first Japanese Navigator representative in 1971. He could easily have given his life to chemistry. He had been awarded a scholarship to study chemistry at Harvard Isotope Institute in the United States, but he declined the opportunity.

Although that was not an easy decision, Toru did it because more than anything else in life, he wanted to see other young Japanese becoming wholehearted disciples of Christ.

His own Christian life had been nurtured by personal help from Navigator representative Bob Boardman, director of The Navigators in Northeast Asia. "Boardy gave me a vision," says Toru. Now, in several Japanese cities, young Christians are saying the same thing about Nagai Toru.

He is a classical guitarist, daring on skis, an avid reader and a collector of antiques. Toru lives in Shizuoka, a city of three million, where he is training university students in discipleship. Two men are living with him and assisting in his ministry.

Six months in Singapore in 1971 broadened Toru's training and understanding of Christian work around the world. While there he assisted in the ministry to students at Singapore's Polytechnical Institute. Toru believes this kind of training should be encouraged as young people have the ability to adapt to new circumstances quickly and learn from them.

"Navigators all over the world don't teach people by lecturing each other but by living together," he says. "Our goal is to help people become like Christ inwardly. Only by living together can we develop a close personal relationship naturally."

Often he is asked why The Navigators don't have a student center or a church. His answer is always, "Because we have a home. A home is everything a Navigator has. The home is the best school to learn Christianity in. That is what makes our work effective." From his own personal experience Toru knows that personal spiritual help makes the difference. "If every missionary in Japan had someone living with him and learning from him the whole of Japan would be changed," he says.

"My constant desire as a child was to cultivate plantations in Brazil," says Toru. "Now I would like to cultivate people. There is no doubt in my mind that I should be a missionary in Asia." ■



# Decade of Development

... a new Navigator program.

**T**his spring The Navigators will begin a national fundraising program, "Decade of Development." This program has been planned to provide adequate support for staff, improve administrative services and ensure that ministry objectives will be accomplished.

"Decade of Development" will be a vital preparation for the future of The Navigators ministry. Current plans call for a broad base of personnel and finances so that The Navigators ministry can be established in every major nation of the world in the 1980's.

"Decade of Development" will be more than just a fundraising project. It will be a nationwide attempt to communicate The Navigators vision, ministry and worldwide plans to those ministered to by The Navigators and to the Christian community at large. As a result of this special effort many will be better equipped to pray intelligently and become personally involved in Navigator ministries.

A projection of anticipated income through 1983 compared with budget estimates for that period dramatizes the need to immediately broaden the base of financial support. While total income increased by more than 30 percent annually during the past three years, there was not a corresponding increase in the number of new givers. The number of new donors supporting the work increased by only 22 percent annually. Even if new giving had increased at the same rate as total income that would still have been inadequate. If nothing were done to accelerate this rate of growth, The Navigators would end this decade far short of estimated needs.

Recent fluctuations in international finances have reduced the purchasing power of the dollar overseas. In some places devaluation has been as much as 30 percent. So many Navigator missionaries from the United States are well below their budgeted incomes. Some representatives in the United States are also in need of additional financial support to bring their incomes up to their budgeted needs.

Although there has been a significant increase in gift income for ministry purposes, income for administration at the international headquarters increased last year by only three percent. Now for the first time since 1964, administrative expenses exceed income. While administration costs for some organizations account for up to 50 percent of their budget, expenses at headquarters account for only 10 percent of The Navigators budget.

Glen Eyrie, The Navigators international headquarters, was purchased in 1953. Because of the expansion of the ministry, headquarters staff and services have outgrown their present facilities. A new international headquarters building is an urgent need and will call for 2.5 percent of the headquarters budget for the next ten years.

Several other capital improvements are needed to improve facilities for the year-round conference program. These include a new 32-room lodge, kitchen and dining room improvements, a new swimming pool and other smaller remodeling projects. Altogether, these capital improvements, including the new office building, will account for less than one percent of the American ministries budget from 1974 to 1984.

A trained workforce of 1,500 Navigator staff and contacts will carry out the calling phase of the project. They will make personal visits to people who have been ministered to by The Navigators. They will begin making calls after three training sessions planned for February and March of this year in over 80 locations across the country.

Funds will be raised in cash and in three-year "Faith Promises." While pledges involve a formal obligation, a "Faith Promise" is between the individual and God. No request for payment will ever be made.

The original purchase of Glen Eyrie provided one of the most exciting episodes in the history of The Navigators. God provided the needed funds in answer to the prayer, faith and vision of thousands of Christians.

"Decade of Development" will give a similar opportunity for many to see God work through their own lives in answer to prayer. Investing in "Decade of Development" will be an investment in the Lord's work of making a permanent difference in the lives of men and women. ■

# Hiking in the Welsh Mountains

. . . British Navigators escape the city for a weekend.

*story and photos by Monte Unger*

**P**EN Y PASS, WALES. The picturesque Welsh mountains of Snowdon, Glyder Fawr, Tryfan, Moel Siabod and Carnedd Llewellyn loan their broad slopes, grassy hillsides, blue lakes and towering crags to hundreds of city-escapers each weekend.

People who wish to escape the heat, bustle, traffic, noise and pollution of the big city head for the fresh, crisp air of Snowdonia National Park for a few days of physical and mental refreshment.

But, recently, a group of nearly 100 young men and women went to the mountains for an even more profound reason: to deepen their fellowship with one another and to get to know God better.

They were Navigators from Birmingham, England.

They not only hiked and picnicked, but spent much time in personal prayer, in discussing the Scriptures with one another, in explaining their faith in Christ to other hikers and in reading the Word of God.

The motto of The Navigators is "To know Christ and to make Him known."

Steve Covell, Navigator representative in Birmingham, talked about "getting to know Christ personally" to the group one evening in the Pen Y Pass youth hostel. He said, "Philippians 3:8-10 reads, 'Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness

from God that depends on faith; THAT I MAY KNOW HIM and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death . . .'

"The Amplified New Testament," Covell continued, "explains and expands verse 10: '(For my determined purpose is) that I may know Him — that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding (the wonders of His Person) more strongly and more clearly.'

"I want to ask you: Do you know Him? Do you know Jesus Christ personally? I'm not asking if you go to church, or if you live a good life, or if you call yourself a Christian . . . but do you know Him?"

"If you do know Him, your whole life is going to change. You'll never be the same, I can promise you.

"Paul's determined purpose was first 'to know Christ.' When that comes first, then the desire to 'make Him known' follows automatically. You want to tell others about something you highly prize or someone you deeply love.

"If you do know Him, you should be changing, growing and developing. Paul said he wanted to 'progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him.' Are you experiencing a progressively increasing knowledge of Christ? This is one of the reasons we are here this weekend in these beautiful Welsh mountains, so that together as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can grow in our knowledge of Him."

Comments by some of the hikers about their attitudes toward God, their sense of values and how they have been helped in their Christian growth follow:

*continued next page*



Hiking continued

**ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD  
BEFORE BECOMING  
A CHRISTIAN**

**ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD  
AFTER BECOMING  
A CHRISTIAN**



Before I went to university, I had no idea of what the gospel was. I was happy with the life I was living and had little reason to question my purpose. As a result, I had never consciously worked out my attitude toward God. I certainly neither believed nor understood the possibility of having a personal relationship with Him.

*Bill Wilson Coventry*

After I came to Christ, the most astonishing fact to me was that One as great and mighty as God could and would have a loving, personal relationship with me.



He was a vague person in the sky. I doubted very much that He even existed.

*Margaret Taylor Birmingham*

He is Someone who is interested in me on a moment-by-moment basis. He is Someone I can get to know in an intimate way. I realized for the first time that God was my Father who loved me, was interested in me and concerned enough to correct me.



If God existed, and I was not even sure He did, it appeared to me that He certainly did not have any concern or interest in my life. Therefore, I led my life on that basis, doing what I wanted to do. I gave up church at the age of 16.

*Fred Horrox Birmingham*

For the first four or five years of my Christian life, though the change was slow, I gained definite assurance of my salvation and the sense that God was at work in my life. The major changes in my thinking over the years are that God's ways are not man's ways, and that I'm to consider things from God's point of view, not the world's.

**HOW MY SENSE OF VALUES  
HAS CHANGED AFTER  
BECOMING A CHRISTIAN**

My values as a teenager were never clear. Morally, I accepted the values of those around me. Without hurting anybody else too much, my greatest desire was to be successful in whatever I did, whether it was my career, sports, or marriage. But I measure success differently now. It is to follow Jesus more closely day by day. Success is no longer outward results, but inward obedience to the Word of God.

Now my relationship with the Lord is most important. Also, people have become increasingly more important, especially their spiritual condition. Previously, I was only concerned for their physical welfare.

Before becoming a Christian, my dream was to succeed in business, then design and build my own home. My work in the construction industry would have become my security.

But I learned a lesson about how shaky that security might have been. Just recently, the industry was rocked by the news that one of the largest construction companies in England had called in the receivers and had ceased trading.

I realized my security is in God and not in the world or the things the world considers important.

**HOW THE NAVIGATORS  
HAVE HELPED  
ME SPIRITUALLY**

They have helped me most by personal encouragement and by training in practical Christian living. It has been vital to my growth for faithful Christians not only to point out weak areas in my life, but also to help me change.

The Navigator Bible studies helped me realize that I was God's child and that I did have eternal life. The Bible became meaningful as never before, as I obtained help in how to study the Word personally and in how to apply it to my own daily life.

After having been a Christian for four years, I still did not really know how to have a consistent devotional time with the Lord or how to study His Word for myself. The Navigators helped me get started in knowing Christ for myself and helped me grow in my walk with Him.

I cannot think of one person whom I helped during the first four years of my Christian life. But The Navigators helped me become equipped to share Christ with others and to make my life count for the One who "loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). ■



# How Can We Reach Four Billion People?

by Ichimura Kazuo

Suppose your health is not good, so one day you go to a doctor. He tells you that you will only live for three more years. What would you do?

Although this is probably not true of any of us, every day our physical death is nearer without our being conscious of it. We are deceived into thinking that our lives will continue forever.

Two thousand years ago when Jesus was 30 years old, He only had three more years to live. What did He do during those three years? Did He preach to the multitudes? Yes, He did. However, He spent most of His time helping and training 12 disciples whom He carefully chose. He prayed and prayed for His disciples. He taught and led and helped them all the way.

What was the result of His work? Today we can see millions of Christians around the world who have been saved from futile living by the name of Jesus.

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). "Go . . . and make disciples of all nations . . ." (Matthew 28:19). This is what we call Christ's great commission.

How do we obey this command? How do we preach the gospel of Christ to our own nation? How do we preach it to the nearly four billion people of the world? How is it possible for the average man to play a significant part in reaching the whole world for Christ?

The Bible teaches us how to do it, and Jesus Himself showed us by training 12 disciples. The key is not fanfare, but man-to-man training—telling people about Christ personally, helping young Christians grow in their relationship with God, developing disciples who are able to lead others to Christ. It takes a lot of time and effort at the beginning, but I

have seen in Japan that it is easier to multiply later after you have trained a few men.

Today only one percent of the Japanese people call themselves Christians, even after 100 years of active missionary endeavor. Why is the percentage so low?

Statistics indicate that the average Japanese Christian will not lead even one man to Christ during his whole life. What a miserable condition for a Christian! The percentage of Christians in Japan will not increase, even if a lot of people accept Christ, unless we personally teach the new Christians to read their Bibles, to obey it and to tell others about Christ. This does not mean that large evangelistic meetings are not important (God uses them mightily), but helping young Christians grow and multiply is important, too. This is the difference between addition and multiplication. Just adding Christians to the body of Christ is not enough. We must multiply them, too.

Let me explain why. Suppose Mr. A could lead 1,000 men to Christ every day by the grace of God. And suppose that these men do not lead any men to Christ throughout their *whole* lives. At this rate, in one year there would be 365,000 new Christians. This means it would take 10,000 years to win to Christ 3,650,000,000 people—the world's population.

On the other hand, suppose one man leads just one person to Christ this year and trains him. Then next year these two men each lead a friend to Christ and train them. Then the following year each of the four men take on a new person to train.

How many years would it take to reach the world for Christ this way? Only 32 years! Can you believe that? In 32 years all the human beings on earth could know Jesus Christ. What a tremendous miracle!

### MARXISM VS. CHRISTIANITY

When I was a first-year student in high school in Tokyo (I was not yet a Christian), I visited a Christian meeting near my house. The people there looked like good men, but I could not find any enthusiasm in their hearts.

When I entered the university, I became very interested in Marxism. However, it could not solve the deep emptiness of my heart. Finally, I found the solution in Jesus Christ when I asked Him to be my personal Savior.

But I was disappointed when I looked at other young Christians. It was as if they were sipping coffee and chatting while sitting in the bottom of a boat . . . complaining about how slowly the boat was going. The leader worked hard to row the boat (the group of Christians), but no one tried to help him. They were just having a cup of coffee.

Later when I was a businessman, I made a trip to Hokkaido, one of Japan's islands, where I visited a large Christian gathering. There were very few men. It looked like a ladies' meeting.

The other day I went to a Christian meeting in Kobe. Very few young men and women were there. It seemed to be an old people's meeting.

Why are there so few Christian young men in Japan today? I think Japanese young men do not know how to maintain a vital relationship with God through studying the Bible, prayer and talking to others about Christ. They cannot multiply strong Christians because they are not strong Christians themselves. Therefore, they give up the Christian life.

In the last century there have been several outstanding Japanese Christians who have had a great influence on other Christians and on Japanese society. However, I have never heard of Japanese Christians who made disciples and trained them to make more disciples until seven years ago when Navigator Representative Bob Boardman began a university ministry in Tokyo. He started with two men—Uno Yuji and Nagai Toru—with whom he spent hours and hours, teaching them to apply God's Word to their lives and to influence other students for Christ. With the help of other American staff members, Uno and Nagai developed into strong Christians who can train more strong Christians.

As a result, we now have Japanese Navigator staff in five cities in Japan: Sendai, Utsunomiya, Tokyo, Shizuoka and Kobe. We are making plans to spread to western Japan, where there are 20 large cities, and at the same time to eastern Japan. We will have a university ministry in almost all the large cities of Japan in the near future.

Right now The Navigators are in 28 countries; four of these nations regularly send out Navigator missionaries. By 1980 we will be in 40 countries, and 18 of them will be sending out missionaries consistently.

All this has happened by helping young Christians grow in Christ until they can help others. *Multiplication.*

Therefore, we should work hard for Christ, using our know-how to make disciples, so we can fulfil Christ's great commission through multiplication. This is the only way, I believe, that the average man can change Christian history on a large scale in Japan and in the world.

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO THEN?

First of all, we must *keep ourselves pure*. God will use men who offer themselves as a living, holy sacrifice. Even if we have a good strategy to reach the world for Christ, it has no meaning unless we are holy unto God. "If any one purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel for noble use, consecrated and useful to the master of the house, ready for any good work" (II Timothy 2:21).

Second, *we must have a heart for reaching the whole world for Christ*. Dr. W. S. Clark, an American school teacher who taught in Japan in 1877, said to his students in Hokkaido, "Boys, be ambitious for Christ!"

Dawson Trotman, the founder of The Navigators, said, "Do you ask God for peanuts or continents?"

Third, in order to accomplish big things for God, *we ourselves must be soldiers of Christ*. Namely, we must be Christ's disciples and devote ourselves to making disciples. We should pray for God to give us disciples. Jesus Himself chose 12 and made them disciples.

Fourth, *we should ask God by faith to enable us to reach the world for Christ*. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). Jesus promises, "Ask, and it will be given you" (Matthew 7:7).

Philip and Andrew did not have enough faith when Jesus asked them to feed the multitude. However, when they gave to Jesus what food there was in the crowd—five loaves of bread and two fish—Jesus performed a miracle. All we have to do is offer all that we have to Jesus by faith. Then He will work a miracle.

Finally, *we must be single-minded*. The Apostle Paul said, "One thing I do" (Philippians 3:13). Today, what is that one thing for you? Jesus said, "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!" (Revelation 3:15) Are we hot to do one thing or are we lukewarm? If we are neither cold nor hot, we had better stop following Christ.

I hope all of us are hot in Christ to do one thing, to devote ourselves completely to accomplishing His great commission.

*Ichimura Kazuo leads the Navigator ministry at Kobe University in Kobe, Japan. This article is from a talk he gave to 50 Japanese university students.* ■



*Ichimura Kazuo (photo right) talks with a student about Christ (photo above).*





# Women in the Navigators Work

by Lorne Sanny, president of *The Navigators*

**P**eople often ask me about the future of the women's work in *The Navigators*.

My answer is: we need women . . . lots of them.

We are praying for the privilege of ministering to tens of thousands of women.

To accomplish that objective we are going to need the help of over one thousand women in the next six years. This will include a revolving staff of about 50 women who would have a full-time discipling ministry among other women. It will include many wives of representatives, many others as helpers in homes and as office workers.

By revolving staff, I mean that, as they get married or possibly go to other jobs, others would take their place. This indicates a continual influx of full-time women's workers.

The Apostle Paul writes, "And I ask you also, true yoke-fellow, help these women, for they have labored side by side with me in the gospel . . ." (Philippians 4:3). Paul started his ministry in Europe with women. One of his first contacts was at a prayer meeting on a river bank. One of the women there was Lydia.

Our Navigator work in Europe was started by a woman, Mrs. Gien Karszen from the Netherlands. She is still working with us. And the ministry in England began because of Joyce Turner, who is now ministering to all the Navigator women in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. So, women are important in *The Navigators* discipling ministry.

FIRST, we want to help women to become godly women. This is our primary job. That means to help them come to know Christ and become disciples. We also want to help them get involved with discipling. Our purpose is not to train wives or secretaries, but first and foremost to help women become godly women.

SECONDLY, we want to help them find their most effective place in life. We want to help women to discern their

unique gifts and help them develop in those areas. I Peter 4:10 says each of us has a gift. Romans 12:6 says they all differ. We can reproduce disciples, but we cannot reproduce gifts. They are sovereignly bestowed by God.

THIRDLY, we want to help women develop a skill . . . some way to earn a living, so that they can support themselves in their chosen careers, or if need be, as widows.

Women have always had an important place in *The Navigators*. They have contributed to our ministry through prayer. Two ladies, Irene Mills and Laura Thomas, prayed for years for the conversion of Dawson Trotman. Dawson's wife, Lila, was at the heart of the work in its beginnings. From the first years of their marriage there were guests in their home continually — sailors, young people, friends.

When my wife, Lucy, and I lived in Seattle, Washington, the fellows who used to come into our home would tell me how they enjoyed the talks I gave on Saturdays. Then as they got to know me better they would say, "But you know what really impressed me around your home? Watching Lucy go about her work." Just observing Lucy.

The wife has always been THE KEY to the Navigator homes, and this will continue. As well as being a mother, a sweetheart, a good cook and a friendly hostess, the wife also plays her part in the ministry. There are women helping in offices as secretaries and bookkeepers, in homes as furniture-dusters and dishwashers. They are helping in the discipling ministry. There are literally thousands of university and career women who are part of our ministry teams while they study or work. There are those who are working with us full-time in the women's ministry.

Women were involved with Jesus and His ministry in this way. "And the twelve were with him, and also some women . . ." (Luke 8:1-2). That is the balance we want to keep in our ministry. Our prayer will be "bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth" (Isaiah 43:6). ■

# How Can Two Become One?

... a review of a new  
Bible study booklet.

**W**hat does it take to have a successful marriage? A multitude of books have been written to answer this question. Some of these books refer to the Bible, telling what the Scriptures say about marriage. But there is almost nothing available to help a couple study the Bible to find practical guidelines for their marriage. *Two Become One* meets this need.

Elven and Joyce Smith, Navigator representatives in Pasadena, California, developed this Bible study book at the request of evangelist J. Allan Petersen of Omaha, Nebraska. Petersen conducts crusades that emphasize God's answers to marriage and family problems.

People at his crusades were becoming Christians and starting to rebuild their marriages and families according to the Bible. But he had no way to help them keep on growing after the crusade meeting. He felt he needed a Bible study book on marriage to help them find answers in the Bible and he asked the Smiths to design one.

The Smiths are well qualified for the job. In 27 years of marriage they've learned many important lessons that have made their marriage obviously successful. That's why those who know the Smiths best often go to them for advice and help with their marriages.

Their personal experience isn't their only qualification. Since joining the Navigators staff in 1959, part of their ministry has always been with couples, giving them extensive counseling experience.

One important part of their couples ministry has been Bible studies on marriage. While the Smiths were living in Seattle, Washington, a group of couples asked them for help with their marriages. So one thing they did was develop an eight lesson Bible study for them. When these couples had finished the lessons, another group asked for similar help. This time the study was expanded to twelve lessons and was called "Together."

In 1967 the Smiths moved to Pasadena. They did a major revision of "Together," expanding it to 18 lessons. They have encouraged both Christian and non-Christian couples to be in "Together" study groups. In six years, all but one non-Christian

couple who were in the studies, became Christians.

The Smiths aren't the only ones who have used "Together." Other Navigators requested copies and today the value of these studies has been proven around the world.

In writing *Two Become One* the Smiths drew on their experience of leading these Bible studies and counseling couples. The result is a 13 lesson Bible study book that deals with the problems people actually face in marriage, and provides answers that work.

The Smiths feel that a Bible study on marriage is the best way to start helping a couple, whether they are Christians or non-Christians. Speaking about Christian marriage they say, "If a Christian couple's marriage falls apart, what good does it do if they know how to share the gospel clearly or even how to memorize verses?" They find that non-Christians who attend a Bible study on marriage become more open to the gospel because they see that "This worked for my marriage, therefore it must work for the other areas of my life."

What does it take to have a successful marriage? The Smiths emphasize three key areas.

First they discuss growing in knowledge of each other and of the changes and circumstances of life. "Couples have to work on partnership and unity. If they don't, not only will they have problems, but their children will get the wrong picture of marriage."

A second important topic is communication. "It's as you communicate about all of life that the other things work. Often when couples have trouble raising children it's because they haven't decided together what should be done in training and then followed it together.

"Also, a lot of people have trouble with finances. But it's not really a financial problem. They simply haven't taken time to discuss their financial situation and decided how to handle it."

A third important area is consideration . . . being a servant to one another. Elven Smith says, "A marriage is not 50-50. It's 100 percent. My total desire should be to please my mate, not myself." ■



Above, Joyce and Elven Smith. Left, "Two Become One."

# *It Makes One Happier to Give than to Get*

*by Rod Sargent*

... a scriptural view of giving.

**G**OOD GUYS GIVE BIG — was the message proclaimed by the huge banner that greeted the Bay Bridge commuters on their way into San Francisco. “Good guy” status could be achieved by a generous contribution toward the city’s annual fundraising campaign.

Much giving today, even by Christians, is prompted by just such superficial stimuli — the passing of the offering plate on Sunday morning, the awareness that someone might be watching or a distorted sense of obligation.

The Jew of the Old Testament often felt obligated to give. He saw it as his duty and fulfilling that obligation required considerably more of his annual income than the ten percent so commonly mentioned. Students of Jewish history consider that at least 20 percent of a Jew’s income was involved in tithes and offerings. The Old Testament specified how much was to be given and when.

But Jesus never emphasized obligation as a motive for giving. He didn’t even endorse the paying of tithes emphatically. His example and instructions on the subject were distinctive.

Some feel that the promise of future reward is too selfish and, therefore, an unworthy motive for giving. Yet Jesus emphasized reward as an incentive. “Sell what you have and give to those in need. This will fatten your purses in heaven! And the purses of heaven have no rips or holes in them. Your treasures there will never disappear; no thief can steal them; no moth can destroy them” (Luke 12:33 Living Bible).

On another occasion Jesus instructed a wealthy young man, “. . . go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven . . .” (Matthew 19:21 Living Bible). Jesus was not trying to make him poor; He was trying to make him rich. Had the young man died right then, he would have had no treasure in heaven. He had sent nothing ahead. Jesus showed him how to convert his possessions into eternal currency. While it’s true that we can’t take it with us, it is just as true that we can send it on ahead.

Jesus taught not only by instruction, but also by personal example. And through His example we discover the great, fundamental motive for giving. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor . . .” (II Corinthians 8:9 RSV).

The grace of Jesus Christ is showered upon the un-

worthy. Grace is giving without regard to merit. Our Lord delights in giving even at the cost of making Himself poor. He gave Himself for us because He loved us.

The Apostle John tells us that “. . . God so loved . . . that he gave . . .” Paul says, “And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us . . . (Ephesians 5:2 RSV).

The anointing of Jesus with costly ointment by Mary of Bethany was a simple, but beautiful act motivated by love.

If His love abides within us, it will be seen in the grace of giving — in our generosity as well as the joy we find in giving.

But there is more to New Testament giving than the spontaneous meeting of needs that touch our hearts. In I Corinthians 16:2 (Living Bible), Paul calls for a *portion* of all income. No particular amount is specified, but the amount can be determined on a proportionate basis. The more a person receives, the more he is able to contribute. Paul says in that verse, “On every Lord’s Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. *The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.*”

Many find it helpful to set aside a specific percentage of their income. The exact percentage must be determined by each individual without pressure from others. No one should attempt to legislate the giving of another — each must decide for himself according to the response of his own heart to the teaching of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit. “Every one must make up his own mind as to how much he should give . . .” (II Corinthians 9:7 Living Bible).

### Be a Generous Giver

Many have begun by setting aside a relatively small amount of their income for giving. Then, as they began to experience God’s blessing as a result of their giving, they gradually increased the percentage of their giving to 10 percent, 20 percent or more.

Another delightful aspect of giving is the way God always returns blessings to the giver. And He does this in proportion to the generosity of the giver. Paul says, “But remember this if you give little, you will get little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap

much” (II Corinthians 9:6 Living Bible). Jesus emphasized this principle in Luke 6:38, “For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give — large or small — will be used to measure what is given back to you” (Living Bible).

### How God Provides

Several years ago my wife and I decided to contribute 20 percent of her salary to the Lord’s work and save the remaining 80 percent for the down payment on a home. Several weeks later, we were challenged from the Scriptures and decided to reverse this plan — saving 20 percent of her income for the down payment and giving 80 percent to the Lord’s work. God blessed in proportion to our giving — pressed down, shaken together and running over. In a very short time, the Lord had supplied funds for the down payment — much sooner than if we had accumulated it by saving 80 percent of her salary.

Many Christians give mental assent to the New Testament principles of giving. But for many there seems to be a discrepancy between what they say they believe and what they practice. In the process, they deprive themselves of a priceless opportunity for blessing, personal growth and eternal reward.

If you are not now following a definite giving program, let me encourage you to begin immediately. Determine before the Lord what portion of your income you want to give. Decide on a specific percentage. Perhaps you would like to consider giving 10 percent initially. Even if you are not now making ends meet and feel you can’t afford to start giving, do it anyway. Step out by faith and soon you’ll see God provide. He will make your 90 percent go farther than the 100 percent ever did.

Keep in mind that we are to set aside the Lord’s money first, then use the rest for living expenses. “Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines” (Proverbs 3:9-10 Living Bible). You will be able to testify as many have done that when you gave first to the Lord, even though you couldn’t see your way clear to pay your bills, in a miraculous way God enabled you to meet those expenses. He is faithful to His promises. He invites you to put Him to the test. ■



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