

Navigator History

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

II. Before the War.

A. A major turning point is when the founder of the Navigators started articulating the mission of the Navigators as “producing reproducers.” (2 Timothy 2:2)

B. This is the point where the speaker was particularly affected.

C. Trotman liked to be personally engaged in the thing which he sent his men. He liked to lead out and see that God would use him.

D. Trotman began preaching “where is your man?” which was convicting to the speaker. You can reproduce yourself in many aspects.

III. After the War.

A. Navigators began to scatter.

B. Finances began to drop off , and the Navigators changed the policy about not raising funds. (1 Kings 17)

C. The Navigators began to reach out in creative ways.

D. In 1947, Trotman put an emphasis on other works.

E. Trotman realized that what he wanted done could not be done without working with other missions in 1948.

F. In 1949 many came on staff from a major staff conference.

G. In 1951 the Billy Graham Crusade became a big focus of the Navigators.

H. These were quiet years that needed to happen to lay a foundation for the mission program and a proper finance program.

IV. Personal thoughts about Dawson Trotman.

A. He was a great man for details, and it seemed like everything was important to him.

B. He did not want people to just show up at a Navigator home without calling.

C. Trotman enjoyed children.

D. He worked at humbling himself.

- E. He wanted people to present themselves well.
- F. He demanded most of those close to him.
- G. People were always very important to him.
- H. He was always conscious of letting people think he was doing things for himself.

Application questions

1. What was one of the early sermons of Trotman that shaped the mission of the Navigators about?

2. What two key developments happened after the war that laid a foundation for the Navigators and how did these come about?

3. How was Trotman an impact on the Navigator movement outside of his founding it?
