

# Navigator History

*John Crawford*

## I. Introduction.

A. The conference is about helping someone know the Lord and helping them help someone else.

## II. Dawson Trotman.

A. Trotman came to know Christ through a Scripture memory program put in place at a church he was attending.

1. The verses he memorized began working on his mind.

2. He learned that Jesus forgave the sins of the world and that one must receive that forgiveness for it to take effect. (Romans 3:23, John 1:12)

B. Crawford came to faith in Christ after his mother died realizing that he had to take responsibility for his own spiritual life.

1. Just because you are called to preach does not mean you are supposed to be in the pulpit. (Colossians 3:23)

2. A Christian is to live like a Christian no matter what they do. (Colossians 3:17)

C. Trotman committed to teach Les Spencer how to walk with God and witness to other people. When Les recruited another man, Trotman encouraged Spencer to help the man learn what Trotman had taught him. This was the beginning the Navigator movement.

D. Crawford was introduced to the Navigators in the Navy and they encouraged him to start out early how he planned to live the rest of his life. He had considerable effect among the men.

E. Trotman approached Crawford eventually about giving his life to making disciples so that he could extend his influence in the pastorate, missions and all fields of ministry by making disciples who did that kind of work.

## III. Question and Answer.

A. Oftentimes problems can be handled if a person can walk with Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:12)

B. We are to always give thanks for our children because they are a gift we might not have. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

C. Things that stand out about Trotman.

1. He really loved his disciples.

2. He would put others first.

D. Scriptural principles that have helped Crawford's marriage.

1. Helping people draws a couple together.
2. Crawford should have helped his wife more with childrearing.
3. Crawford took the lead with finances.
4. Praying twice a day has drawn he and his wife together.

**Application questions**

1. What characteristics of the Navigator movement have been passed down from its beginning? Explain.

---

---

2. What characteristic about Trotman's life challenged you the most? Explain.

---

---

3. Memorize 1Thessalonians 5:18 and write it below. Why was this important to the speaker, and how might this be important to you?

---

---