

NAVIGATOR HISTORY AND VISION

- I. We start with the assumption that God brought the Navigators into existence to revitalize important Biblical **principles** among the nations of the world.
- II. God chose 27 year old Dawson Trotman to be the man to model and live out these **principles**.

Six minutes from his tape, MY TESTIMONY.

- III. These **principles** are well illustrated in the Wheel illustration.

Trotman's description of the 42 day prayer meeting which was followed by his conceptualizing a team of men , THE MINUTEMEN to live out the **principles**.
- IV. God used former BIOLA classmate Helen Rittenhouse to put Trotman in touch with Lester Spencer, the first of many to buy into the **principles** hook, line and sinker.
- V. God chose the ships of the U.S. Navy to be the initial laboratory in which the **principles** would become steel threads of character in those whose lives incorporated them. Note letterhead in 1944
- VI. The Friday and Saturday night meetings: One of Trotman's methods for imparting the **principles** to young military men.
- VII. The world wide impact of the men who lived the **principles** during the Decade of Disciplemaking. 1935-1945
- VIII. Time Magazine's article and caption under his picture, ALWAYS HOLDING SOMEONE UP.
- IX. The mission of those who have and now live out the **principles** in his simple words:

**LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST AND BUILD THEM UP TO WHERE THEY WILL
REPEAT THE PROCESS.**

- X. Dawson Trotman's most persistent question:

WHERE IS YOUR MAN, YOUR WOMAN?

He once said, "I am a perfectionist and furthermore if I were not a perfectionist there would not be a Navigator work today."

**BY THAT HE MEANT HE HAD SEARCHED FOR AND DISCOVERED WHAT HE
THOUGHT WAS THE NEAREST TO PERFECT WAY OF REACHING THE WORLD
FOR CHRIST WHICH IS:**

**EVERY CHRISTIAN REACHING THE LEVEL OF MATURITY NECESSARY TO
REPRODUCE AND MULTIPLY,**

The Navigator

TIME, July 2, 1956

Dawson Trotman clambered back into a motorboat one day last week after two hours of waterskiing on Schroon Lake, N.E. He was dog-tired, but before he settled down he asked one of the two girls in the boat, Allene Beck, if she could swim; when she shook her head, he traded places with her so she would be in a safer spot. Minutes later the speeding boat bounced on a wave, and both of them, the 50-year-old man and the girl, shot into the water. He swam to her and held her head above water until the boat could circle back and she was hauled aboard. But as hands reached down to seize Trotman's hand, he sank out of sight.

So died Dawson Trotman, "The Navigator," light and power of a movement that echoes the words of the Scriptures around the world. Billy Graham interrupted his evangelist crusade in Oklahoma City to "preach his funeral" at Colorado Springs, Colorado and devoted his week's Hour of Decision broadcast to him. Radio Preacher Charles E. Fuller did the same with his Old Fashioned Revival Hour.

The Sailor & the Cop. At 18, Los Angeles-born Daws Trotman, as he later recounted, "gambled and was very deep in the world." He was courting a girl named Lila, as religious as she was pretty, and she took him with her to some church meetings. At the second meeting Dawson was the only one there who had memorized six Bible verses that had been assigned at the first meeting. The same thing happened at the third meeting. The following week he was "taken of the Lord," converted to evangelistic Christianity, and welcomed to membership in the interdenominational Church of the Open Door in Los Angeles.

Memorizing the Bible was the key to conversion, as Trotman saw it, so he handed out scores of Scriptures to youth groups he organized. One day in 1934 a mother asked him to look up her son, a sailor on a ship off Long Beach. Sitting in his old car by the waterfront, Trotman quoted the Bible to the boy until a policeman grew suspicious. A few minutes later, Trotman had talked the cop into joining him and the sailor in a session of prayer. The sailor said: "I'd give my right arm if I could do what you just did." Dawson challenged him to try.

It was the beginning of a movement that Trotman called the Navigators for its nautical origins. For that sailor converted a friend with the technique he had learned from Dawson Trotman, and that convert in turn convinced another. Soon Navigators were spread across the seven seas. At one point during the war there were Navigators in more than 1,000 U.S. Navy ships and stations.



The Navigators

EVANGELIST TROTMAN

Always holding someone up.

B-Rations. Evangelist Graham urged Daws Trotman to join his Fort Worth crusade in 1951, and asked him how to keep people to their religious conviction once they had made their "decisions" and signed their pledge cards. Navigator Trotman organized the system of Biblical instruction courses – "B-Rations" (for Bible) of verses to be memorized. Graham and his team have used them ever since as the core of their system following up Graham "converts" (TIME, October 23, 1954).

In 1953 Trotman bought a large luxurious ranch at Colorado Springs and turned it into a national headquarters and free vacation spot for Navigators. But Daws Trotman did not rest; he got up early to pray and read and stayed up late to talk to would-be converts, until a heart ailment several years ago forced him to slow down and take more than his customary five hours' sleep.

Last week Billy Graham summed up what many Christians in many places of the world were saying about Daws Trotman, "I think Daws had personally touched more lives than anybody that I have ever known," said he. "He lived to save others." Said a Navigator, "His death was just the way he would have planned it."

