

# KANSAS COMMUNITIES MINISTRY UPDATE

*"My objective is to know Christ in my own life in ever-increasing depth and to make disciples and develop laborers at all times, under any conditions, in every place I go"*

## Matthew 28:18-20

"Then Jesus came up and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (NET Bible, used by permission)

## Evangelism

In his book [Sharing Jesus Without Fear](#), Bill Fay suggests a series of diagnostic questions that we might use to help us "go deeper" with someone.

I have used these recently and found them to be helpful. The first question is "Do you have any spiritual beliefs?" This is better than asking "Do you believe in God" as the latter question can be confrontational and possible lead us down a rabbit trail.

In a conversation with someone we might ask about someone's job, their family, their hometown, then genuinely be interested in and ask, "Do you have any spiritual beliefs?" This is open enough that they are free to elaborate or not. Most folks are on some type of spiritual journey that we can help them with!

## Discipleship is about making spiritual generations!



Jim Downing (1913 — 2018) was affectionately known as "Navigator 6" - one of the first servicemen discipled by Dawson Trotman. He was in the US Navy and stationed in Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941. He rushed to the USS West Virginia to assist the injured crew.

He was a great influence on many people, both inside and outside the Navigator community. He continued to spend time in the Word, growing in his love for Jesus and continued to invest in individual's lives up to his death at age 104. One of the last people he mentored was a local Colorado Springs TV newscaster who gives her story on the Navigator podcast "The Apprentice Approach."

What is arresting to me is this quote from Jim Downing: "As I think back to the early days of The Navigators, what Dawson was about was equipping people to reproduce. Now that is not the universally accepted definition of what a disciple is. So, Dawson Trotman, from the very earliest believed in generations, believed in reproduction, and a keyword is maturity. So, he chose discipleship as we call it today - I call it maturity - as the best means toward multiplication and spiritual reproduction. Maturity is measurable. In zoology, when an animal is mature, it reproduces. In botany, when a fruit tree is mature when it reproduces. So the end result of all parental care is that they will reproduce." (<https://glenevrie.org/blog-028-teaching-vs-transference>) (Continued on back page)



## Goads and Nails

*Excerpt from Goads and Nails,  
Volume 1, pages 51-53*

*“Start where you are, with what you have and do what you can.”*

“Most of us have felt at some time that our spiritual ministry was hindered because of our location...or because of what we think is a lack of training. Lorne’s [Sanny] as printed above is taken from a message given by him on Judges 3:31, ‘After him came Shamgar the son of Anath, who struck down 600 Philistines with an oxgoad; and he also saved Israel.’ Shamgar was a man just like us ... and is a model of what we are to be. Our location is established by God (Acts 17:26). Our resources are adequate (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Lorne summarizes some of his thoughts on Judges 3:31 with this statement: ‘We need to start where we are (because we can’t start where we are not) with what we have (because we can’t use what we don’t have) and do what we can.’

He has designed and equipped us, and matches us perfectly with the work he has for us.”- Richard Spann

## Spiritual Generations (Continued)

Jim quoted Dawson Trotman as saying that the purpose of equipping people was to help them reproduce. Discipleship in today’s church is often equated with church attendance, involvement in programs and reading your Bible when you can. Instead, the vision for discipleship from Trotman’s perspective was to equip the person to reproduce.

2 Timothy 2:2 says “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” Paul commanded Timothy, his child in the faith, to reproduce what he had heard Paul teach. The goal is reproduction. The goal is to see spiritual generations.

We have not completed our task with another individual until they have caught the vision of personal reproduction. They are not yet mature. How do we encourage that? Consider these thoughts:

1. Pray consistently and earnestly for them to catch the vision of individual reproduction (2 Tim. 2:2)
2. Model individual investment and speak with enthusiasm about your heart’s desire (1 Cor. 11:1: Imitate me...)
3. Pray with them that the Lord would bring someone into their lives to invest in (Col. 1:28-29)
4. Study John 15 with them. Talk about bearing fruit as a sign of maturity. (John 15:5,8)
5. Listen to Navigator messages together that emphasize 1:1 discipleship and reproduction ([discipleshiplibrary.com](http://discipleshiplibrary.com)). I assign one or two messages to listen to weekly, then I take notes on the message and we discuss the content over lunch. This is a great encouragement so the person I am meeting with hears it from someone besides me!

Encouraging maturity in those with whom we are working is not easy. It cannot be rushed, either. It is the Holy Spirit who is doing the work, convicting and convincing someone (John 16:8). Apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5), yet with Him we are given all the tools we need (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Walking in total dependence on Him, yet encouraging, modeling, teaching, training as He gives guidance, we can be His instruments in the lives of individuals.

Remember: “Discipleship is about making spiritual generations!”

— David Dennis