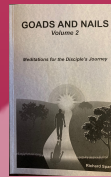


“We train disciplemakers...”



Who is Watchman Nee? p. 2



Helping others become
“independently
dependent” p. 4

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Compelled by God's Greatness

Hear John Anderson's
messages on our podcast
[*Making Disciples
Naturally*](#)

Mark your calendars for our
Fall Conference
with Mike Treneer
**October 29, 2022 at
Eastminster Presbyterian
Church, Wichita**

Who is Watchman Nee?
[*See the article
on page 2*](#)

**Mark your calendars to
help us represent
The Navigators® at the
Kansas State Fair
September 9-18, 2022!**



**Kansas
Communities
Ministry has
many free
resources you
can use**

Are you aware of all the resources the Kansas Communities Ministry has to offer? Here are some examples:

Conferences: Each year, the Kansas Communities Ministry hosts a Spring Men's Retreat from a Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. This is a time for men to get away in a retreat setting and enjoy worship, fellowship, teaching from God's Word and fun. Typically this is held in April of each year. In addition, we host a Fall Conference in Wichita on a Saturday. This is for all ages, both men and women, and is a tremendously encouraging time of fellowship and learning from the Word. While we are not an official “church,” still the admonition of Hebrews 10:24-25 applies as we gather to encourage one another in our faith and walk. Sign up for email updates (KansasNavs.org) for specific times and speakers.

Speakers: Would you like to host a one-day “mini-conference” at your church (or even in your home)? We can help organize that and provide one or more speakers. This would be a great encouragement for your ministry and friends. Contact us at office@KansasNavs.org. *(continued on p. 3)*

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“I will tell about your justice, and all day long proclaim your salvation [deliverance], though I cannot fathom its full extent.” Psalm 71:15 (NET Bible)

Who is Watchman Nee?

The Kansas Communities Ministry Teams will be reading through “The Normal Christian Life” by Watchman Nee starting in August 2022. Who is Watchman Nee?

According to the website watchmannee.org, Mr. Nee lived from 1903 to 1972. He was the son of second-generation Christians and was born in Foochow, China. He became a believer while in mainland China in 1920 at the age of 17. “At the moment of his salvation, his plans for the future were entirely abandoned. He testified, ‘From the evening I was saved, I began to live a new life, for the life of the eternal God had entered into me.’”

Nee had a very fruitful ministry, teaching both in conferences and in the printed word. Following the takeover of China, Watchman was imprisoned



Watchman Nee

Photo by Angus Kinnear, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

for his faith from 1956 until his death May 30, 1972.

We'll look more at his teachings and life in the next newsletter.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another” John 13:34-35
— Vol. 2, pages 37-40

“We are conscious of and dependent upon the word of God as He uses it in the lives of people to bring them to Him. Romans 10:17 declares ‘So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’ We know the importance of exposing others to this word, as we use it in Bible studies, and in our testimonies describing the Lord’s work in our lives. We are also aware of how the Lord uses not only the word, but our lives as well. Matthew 5:16 states ‘Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.’ ... Both our individual lives, as well as the word of God are key elements by which our Lord brings mankind to Himself. There is a third process, however, of which I was ignorant for many years. It is a powerful way by which He draws people into the Kingdom: the work of the Body of Christ, manifesting its love for one another.

“Years ago, I met with my medical residents in training for daily rounds at the hospital. I would often meet with them for lunch, as well as engage in various activities such as golf, tennis, and fishing. If they were responsive to spiritual topics, we would look at the scriptures together as well, either individually or in a small group. One particular young man was willing to meet for lunch, but saw no relevance of the scriptures to his life. He was willing, however, to attend a Leighton Ford crusade with me. Following the meeting, I asked him for his comments. I was expecting him to ask about what he had heard from the speaker, and perhaps need some clarification about the message. Instead his answer was, ‘The people.’ I said, ‘What do you mean, the people?’ His reply was, ‘The way they treated one another. They greeted each other. They cared for them. They loved them.’ Amazing! He had picked up from observation that many of the people who attended knew one another, and had expressed a love and concern which he had never seen before...

“Yes, He will use His word. But if we make love our goal, the following promise holds true. ‘By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.’”

In Christ, Richard Spann

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

Free Resources (continued from page 1)

Blog: We have hundreds of blogs written by Richard Spann, former Kansas Communities Ministry Director, dating back to 2010. These are timeless “bite-sized” pieces of Biblically-based wisdom focusing on our walk with the Lord and sharing His Love with others. Read and share with others at <https://kansasnavs.org/blog>

Recorded messages: We have audio recordings of most of the speakers who have blessed us, dating back to 2010. In the last few years we have made available both audio AND video messages from our conferences and retreats. These are a fantastic resource for each of us as well as those we are ministering to. Hear Jerry Bridges, Jerry White, Lonnie Berger, Mike Jordahl, Richard Spann, Dave Gresham, Ray Hoo, Don Davis and many, many others. These are true treasures to which we can listen (or watch) and be encouraged. <https://kansasnavs.org/media/>

The history of the Kansas Navigator ministry: Would you like to read about how this ministry began? Check out the “About our ministry” at KansasNavs.org. Here you can read of the way God worked in the lives of faithful men and women right here in Kansas who trained other faithful men and women (2 Timothy 2:2). On this page also is a video of the story of Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators ©. <https://kansasnavs.org/about-our-ministry/>

Online resources: <https://kansasnavs.org/resources/> (all of the following are found on this page)

Studies and books: Want to know what studies and books have influenced (and still impact) our ministry? These are studies and books that have stood the test of time and that you can use today in your ministry. They are linked to sources for purchase if desired.

Kansas Communities Ministry resources: These are free downloadable documents such as The Primary Aim of the Navigators, Navigator’s Basic Beliefs, Profiles of a Disciple, Five Elements of a Team and Revised Team Guidelines.

The Navigators © free resources: These are free downloads, including The Wheel Illustration, The Word Hand Illustration, The Bridge to Life, The Prayer Hand, How to Spend an Extended Time in Prayer, How to Have a Daily Quiet Time, etc.

List of “Partners”: Here is a list of Navigator ministries at various colleges in Kansas, as well as Every Man a Warrior and Discipleship Library. If you haven’t checked out Discipleship Library, please do so. It is a huge online library of messages nationwide (maybe worldwide) by Navigator Staff and friends. It is a tremendous and priceless, but free, resource.

Kansas Navigator Newsletters: These are archived dating back to September 2018.

Podcast ministry: Over the last three years, we’ve been interviewing faithful disciples as an encouragement for you to walk with the Lord and share your faith by investing in others (mentoring). We have over 4,000 downloads now and are listened to throughout the US and the world (over 200 downloads in Europe, 77 in Asia, 13 in Australia and Indonesia and 15 in Africa). These are bite-sized episodes designed to be an encouragement in your life and ministry. Listen on our website (<https://kansasnavs.org/podcasts/>) or on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, Overcast, etc.

Goats and Nails: These 5 volumes include 31 devotionals each and are a distillation of truths the Kansas Navigators have inherited over the years, penned by Richard Spann. What a fantastic resource! office@KansasNavs.org

“Emotion is no substitute for activity. Activity is no substitute for production. Production is no substitute for reproduction.” — Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators ©

■ “We train disciplemakers...”

He Must Become Greater; I Must Become Less by Richard Spann

John the Baptist had clarity concerning his calling. It was not to draw attention to his own ministry, but to the person of Christ. His role was defined as follows: “The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:29-30).

Our task, like that of John the Baptist, is one of introduction. Our relationship with others should enable them to fall more and more in love with Jesus Christ. We wait upon the Holy Spirit to manifest the bridegroom’s voice in their lives. Our joy is in seeing His voice become increasingly manifest in their lives. We need to be available to them as long as it takes to see God’s work accomplished in their lives. At some point, however, we must be willing to become unnecessary to them. As He becomes greater, we must become less. As Oswald Chambers relates, “If you become a necessity to a soul, you are out of God’s order. Your great responsibility is to be a friend of the bridegroom.” *My Utmost for His Highest*, March 24.

In our relationship with others, we must always emphasize what Christ has done for us, not what we have done for Him. Their gaze needs to be continually directed away from us toward Christ. Although we may be channels of God’s blessings and introduction, it should be clear to them that we are not the source. Our lives must be lived with enough transparency that they can see the light of God shining through the cracks in our clay pots! “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” (II Corinthians 4:7). We must be convinced in our own lives that Christ has done all that we need and that He is all that we need. If they see that we are looking to anyone or anything but Christ, then we will have become a stumbling block to them. We will have diverted their trust and dependence away from Christ.

Some years ago, I had a conversation with a relative about his son. He was discussing some of his desires for his child. He went through a few items that he was hoping to accomplish and at the end of his list made the following statement. “My main goal is that he will become independently dependent upon Christ.” Independently dependent! Having heard this from him, my wife and I then decided that this should be a prayer for our two daughters as well. We knew that there would be an end to what we would be able to say and do. Our influence would diminish and our impact would lessen over time. As this occurred, our hearts were gladdened and encouraged as we saw both of our daughters manifest dependence upon the Lord independently of us! We were full of joy when we heard the bridegroom’s voice expressed through their lives!

Time, distance and other ministry pursuits often separate us from those we have ministered to over the years. We no longer play any role in their Christian walk and service. We have become unnecessary to them. We may wonder if our impact was sufficient to make a significant difference in their life and ministry. The apostle John, near the end of his life, had the occasion to look back on those to whom he had previously ministered as well. In many cases, his influence and input had long since ceased. They had become independently dependent upon Christ. After hearing that the bridegroom’s voice was still being heard through their lives, he described his joy in these words. “It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” (3 John 3-4) May this joy be yours as well as by God’s Grace you hear the bridegroom’s voice in the lives of those in whom you have invested your own life.

In Christ, Richard Spann

“All that we build is going to be inspected by God. When God inspects us with His searching and refining fire, will He detect that we have built enterprises of our own on the foundation of Jesus?”

— Oswald Chambers, referring to 1 Cor. 3:10-15.

(Quote taken from *My Utmost for His Highest*, May 7)