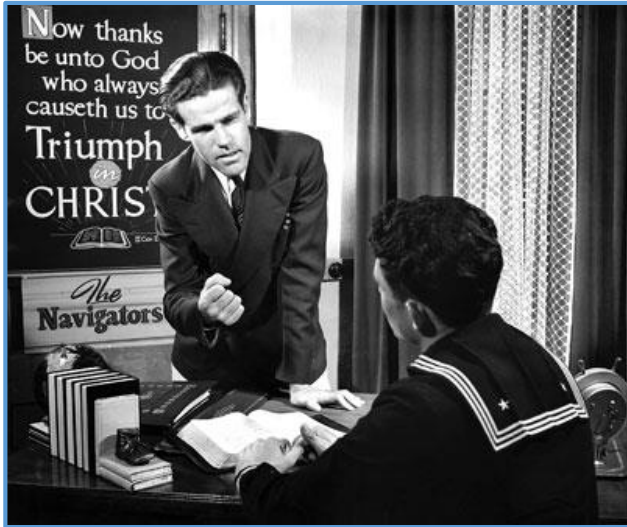


The Sacrificial Life

Dawson Earle Trotman (1906 – 1956) was a Christian evangelist and founder in 1953 of The Navigators, a para-church organization headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Its purpose is to train Christians with a particular emphasis on enabling them to share their faith with others. And even his death showed his commitment to the mission and his walk with Christ as he gave his life for others.



Through The Navigators, Trotman supported various Christian ideals – maintaining the disciplines of the Christ-centered life, abiding in the Word of God, the importance of personal follow-up, one-on-one discipleship training, scripture memorization and principles for multiplying Christian disciples, laborers and equippers around the world.

Trotman came to understand the power of mentoring through an experience. As a result of mentoring United States Navy sailor Lester Spencer aboard USS West Virginia, 135 additional sailors on

Spencer's ship became Christians before it was sunk at Pearl Harbor. By the end of World War II, thousands of men on ships and bases around the world were learning the principles of Christian discipleship.

Dr. Billy Graham said, "I think Daws has personally touched more lives than anybody I have ever known."

Trotman's work and writings were instrumental in the creation of the Campus Outreach ministry, which focuses on discipleship as a method of building up the community of Christians on college campuses.

Although he was an expert swimmer, Trotman lost his life on June 18, 1956, while rescuing two girls from drowning during a water skiing accident in Schroon Lake, New York.

In the last few moments he had in the water, he lifted one girl out of the water. He went down and got the other girl and lifted her out before submerging. He was not found again until the dragnet located his body a few hours later.

(more)

A man named Larsen was on that boat when Trotman died, and he said, “The entire United States Navy couldn’t have saved Trotman that day; it was God’s time.”

Time magazine published an article on Trotman’s life the next week. The caption beneath his name read, *Always Holding Somebody Up*.

In one sentence, that was Trotman’s life – investment in people, in honesty and humility, holding them up.

His story is inspiring. But the questions become: Are we doing that? Who are we holding up?

That’s daily business for the associates of Life Care and Century Park.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter