



Time for a sacrificial gift to those who sacrificed all

By Rodney Pitzer

The months of May and June account for many days of remembrance and celebration concerning the United States Armed Forces. Some of the events and days include Victory in Europe (VE) Day, Military Spouse Day, Loyalty Day, Armed Forces Day/Week, National Military Appreciation Month, National Day of Prayer, Memorial Day, Navy Day, Army Day, and Flag Day.

All these set aside days are more than appropriate given the numerous sacrifices made by the personnel that make up the United States Armed Forces and their families. One byproduct of their sacrifices is the freedom for charities to minister and donors privilege in giving in the United States.

One way to show your gratitude in a very tangible and appropriate display would be to give money to a charity that ministers directly to the Armed Forces and their families. There are a number of devoted "military ministries" and charities with a program assisting the armed forces; however, the following are just four that are worthy in considering to support. All four have a MinistryWatch.com Transparency Grade of an 'A' and are members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

(1) Cadence International

Cadence International began with ministering to American military families more than 50 years ago. Since 1992 they have also been looking for opportunities for ministry to other nations as well. **Contact details:** PO Box 1268, Englewood, CO 80150 / (800) 396-6680 / info@cadence.org.

(2) Christian Military Fellowship (CMF)

CMF supports United States military personnel and their families, worldwide, with prayer, Bible studies, local fellowships, conferences, referrals, free literature, correspondence, hospitality, and Christian resources. **Contact details:** PO Box 1207,

Englewood, CO 81050-1207 / (800) 798-7875 / Admin@CMFHQ.org.

(3) Military Community Youth Ministries (MCYM)

"Club Beyond" is the name used by MCYM to identify its ministry with military teens worldwide. More than 65 full-time staff along with hundreds of volunteers work in more than 40 major locations, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Iceland, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. MCYM ministers annually to more than 14,000 teenagers. **Contact details:** P.O. Box 2486, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901 / (800) 832-9098 / information@mcym.org.

(4) Officers' Christian Fellowship (OCF)

OCF desires to serve those who serve their country. They have numerous resources to help military members and their families grow together in their relationship with God and others. OCF considers its Core Competencies as, (A) Prayer, (B) Small Group Fellowship and Outreach, (C) Leadership, (D) Conference Centers, and (E) Publishing. OCF serves, active duty officers, enlisted personnel, guard and reserve members, academy and ROTC cadets/midshipmen, international military personnel, civilian employees of the military, retirees, widows, and their families. **Contact details:** 3784 South Inca, Englewood, CO 80110-3405 / (800) 424-1984 / ocfdenver@ocfhq.org.

One additional commonality to this niche ministry segment is that they all have fairly small budgets compared to others in the charity world. I suspect that even what you may consider a small one time gift will be well used by these ministries. Perhaps what you may consider a "sacrificial gift" may not look so sacrificial compared to those in the Armed Forces and what they are willing to give up. ☺

Select Military Ministry Links

[Armed Forces Christian Union](#)

[Association for Christian Conferences and Teaching Services \(ACCTS\)](#)

[Beacon of Hope Outreach Center](#)

[Cadence International](#)

[Campus Crusade For Christ Military Ministry](#)

[The Chaplain's Page](#)

[CMF \(Christian Military Fellowship\)](#)

[Christian Service Centers, Inc.](#)

[Japan Military Christian Fellowship](#)

[Military.com](#)

[Military Community Youth Ministries \(Club Beyond\)](#)

[The Military Fellowship](#)

[Military Living Home Page](#)

[Military Wives and Moms](#)

[Missions To Military](#)

[Naval Christian Fellowship \(United Kingdom\)](#)

[Navigators Military Ministry](#)

[Navy Christian Link-up](#)

[Officers' Christian Fellowship of the USA](#)

[Open Bible Ministries](#)

MinistryWatch.com is a donor-supported service of Wall Watchers. If you believe what we are doing is benefiting the Lord's work, we invite you to visit www.ministrywatch.com and sign up for this free newsletter or become a donor to our ministry with a tax-deductible donation.

Navigators (NAV)

By J. Andrew Preslar & Rodney Pitzer



To know Christ and to make Him known

The Navigators (NAV) is an interdenominational, Christian ministry which exists in order to help people know Jesus Christ and become his disciples.

NAV carries out its mission primarily by means of one-to-one disciple-making relationships. Much of NAV's work is, therefore, of the "behind the scenes" variety. Small Bible studies, informal outings, prayer groups, and just getting together for coffee are common ways for NAV staff to implement their mission. The ultimate goal is to produce committed disciples of Jesus Christ who are in turn equipped to go out and make disciples- one person at a time.

(Continued on page 2)

Navigators

Transparency Grade

A

NAV exhibits exceptional transparency with regard to its financial and operational activities and position.

5 Star Financial Efficiency Ratings

☆☆☆

NAV is able to accomplish its mission with a relatively average investment in fundraising, administration, and infrastructure.

(Continued from page 1)

With Respect for Diversity

Of course, people are different. Gender, race, culture, age, and career are among the things that distinguish one person from another. A strategic plan of evangelism will take the differences, as well as the universal features, of human beings into account. NAV has done this by way of developing several different ministry programs. Each of these programs is designed to minister to a particular people groups in the context of their unique life setting and situations.

NAV is one of the larger ministries with an annual budget of about \$100 million. The following information is just a brief sketch of the many good things NAV is doing to help people know Jesus Christ and become His disciples.

1. Ethnic Ministries

- African American Ministry
- Asian American Ministry
- Hispanic Ministry
- Native American Ministry

2. Ministries to Other Specific Groups

- Collegiate Ministry
- International Student Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Business and Professional Ministries
- Community Ministries
- Military Ministry: NAV was born in the context of one-to-one discipleship in the military. This tradition continues through the Military Ministry program. NAV staff are engaged in discipleship work with military families across the globe, who are in a unique position to conduct informal missionary work as they extend the gospel to those communities where they are stationed.
- Prison Ministry
- Church Discipleship Ministry
- Women's Ministry

3. Vision and Organization

- **Home Office:** The international office and U. S. headquarters of NAV are located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Executive officers, directors, and various staff comprise the central leadership core of NAV.
- **U. S. International Ministries Group:** This is the missions branch of the U. S. NAV. The purpose of this ministry program is to serve NAV staff working overseas.
- **Cultural Affairs:** NAV's Cultural Affairs program helps to shape NAV's vision by creating strategies for effective ministry among diverse cultures and ethnic groups. One of the key components of the Cultural Affairs strategy is the push to get men and women of color involved in all kinds, and at all levels, of NAV ministries.

4. Camps and Conferences

- **Eagle Lake:** Located in Colorado, Eagle Lake serves as host to a variety of summer youth camps. Eagle Lake also sponsors camps in other parts of the U. S.
- **Glen Eyrie Group:** This beautiful retreat facility, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, serves as the location of a variety of NAV retreats, conferences, camps, and special events.

5. Ministry Tools and Publications

- **Dawson Group:** This ministry arm of NAV works to create and experiment with new tools for evangelism and discipleship.
- **NavPress:** This is the major publishing branch of NAV. NavPress publishes books for Christians, mostly dealing with discipleship issues (this includes books and study guides for dealing a wide variety of relationship issues and life situations). In addition to books, NavPress publishes the following magazines: Discipleship Journal, Current Thoughts and Trends (a kind of Reader's Digest for pastors and other ministry leaders), Pray! (designed to promote the values and ideas of the recent "prayer movement" in the U. S.), and Pray Kids! NavPress is a major resource for the various field ministries of NAV. This is a mutually beneficial relationship, because NavPress can produce


books specifically tailored for the kinds of work done by NAV staff, who, in turn, help to support NavPress by purchasing and recommending for purchase its publications. The best-known and best-selling publication of NavPress is The Message, a loose paraphrase (in contemporary and highly idiomatic English) of the entire Bible.

- **Pinon Press:** Pinon Press is the smaller publishing branch of NAV, whose purpose is to produce books that speak to the needs of unbelievers. Examples of Pinon publications are: Parenting with Love and Logic, The On-Purpose Person, and The On-Purpose Business. The purpose of such works is to "engage the unreached in the process of knowing Christ by publishing kingdom principles and perspectives on a broad range of life-related topics and in a style that is both credible and compelling."

Most of these ministry programs are full-fledged ministries in and of themselves. They have distinct points of emphasis, their own structures (determined largely by where and to whom they minister), and their own staff. There are, however, two common denominators that unite all of these projects: (1) commitment to NAV's principle of biblical discipleship via personal, one-to-one relationships, and (2) a general reliance upon the methods and tools for evangelism and discipleship provided by NAV's publishing ministries (Dawson Group, NavPress, and Pinon Press). These are strongly unifying features in so diverse a ministry as The Navigators. It should be noted that in all of these ministries, NAV utilizes the principle of spiritual multiplication. NAV trains not only disciples, but disciple-makers. In this way, NAV has managed to maintain its emphasis on individual relationships while at the same time expanding its sphere of ministry around the globe (NAV currently has over 3,800 staff of 63 nationalities serving in more than 100 countries).

Concluding Notes

On the whole, NAV appears to exemplify a positive mixture of diversity (its multi-faceted, contextualized, ministry programs) and unity (a common commitment to the message of Jesus Christ, and a common emphasis on one-to-one discipleship) in the ways it implements its mission of helping people know Christ and become his disciples.

Currently, there is a trend among evangelical Christian organizations towards "holistic," group-oriented ministry. Such ministries focus upon doing social good works on a large scale, as a good thing in itself and as a kind of witness to the Gospel. While such efforts are valuable and sorely needed, it remains true that the principle goal of the church is to make disciples of all the nations; that is, to equip and encourage them to "navigate spiritually." The Navigators, through intentional disciple making and with respect for diversity, is a prime example of a major evangelical ministry that is attempting to fulfill the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20) in a direct manner- one person at a time. 

Navigators

Supporters Might Say

- NAV's emphasis on the practical brings discipleship to bear upon real life.
- The one-to-one emphasis of NAV is refreshing.
- Most NAV books and training materials are written and formatted in such a way as to render the information accessible, easy to follow, and readily transferable.
- NAV is very aware of, and responsive to, cultural differences. This allows the ministry to develop disciple-makers and discipleship material particularly suited for a variety of ministry situations.
- Many women are becoming involved in all kinds of ministry through NAV, either directly (as staff) or indirectly (through a NAV program).
- For NAV, the main things (evangelism and discipleship) are the main things.

Critics Might Say

- Some evangelicals have been critical of The Message. Should NAV really be promoting, and using in its training programs, a loose paraphrase of Scripture? The Bible may be challenging for many people, but isn't helping people to meet that challenge by means of good hermeneutics a (major) part of discipleship? Providing them with a substitute "Bible" seems an easy cop-out.
- NAV staff are generally required to raise their own support. There is nothing at all uncommon about this, but it does present an obstacles for potential full-time disciple-makers.

| Organizational Details | |
|------------------------|---|
| Home Office | PO Box 6000 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-0934 |
| Phone | (719) 598-1212 |
| Website | www.navigators.org |
| Federal Law | EIN: 84-6007896 Tax-Exempt Tax Deductible |

Worldview Considerations

- (1) The philosophy underlying Pinon Press seems to be that unbelievers, as such, can live according to "kingdom principles." If this is not so, then it seems that Pinon Press must simply be mediating, to the unchurched, one function of the Torah: good in itself, impossible to keep, and ultimately pointing us to Christ (Gal. 3:23-24). Or it could be the case that by "kingdom principles" Pinon means something like "natural law" (which unbelievers can know, and which forms the basis of civil and just societies). In any event, Pinon's purpose statement indicates that the program is engaged in a form of "pre-evangelism."
- (2) NavPress publishes a number of books by Hugh Ross, the well-known Christian astrophysicist. Ross holds to ancient earth and local flood theories of Genesis. Some creation scientists demure at one or both of these theories. A particularly controversial aspect of Ross's thought is the "scientific theology" set forth in his book, Beyond the Cosmos (published by NavPress). The views expressed in this book have been challenged by other evangelicals as implying an unorthodox view of God. Ross maintains, for scientific reasons, that there are six "extra-dimensions" beyond the four (length, width, depth, and time) that we commonly experience. The problem is that Ross goes on to say that God exists within these dimensions, thus rendering God, in contradiction to orthodox views, a spatio-temporal being. Ross then attempts to explain some central Christian doctrines in light of the hypothesis of God's multi-dimensionality. Unfortunately, his reasoning leads to both unilluminating (e.g., his "illustration" of the Trinity) and unorthodox (e.g., his view of the incarnation) explanations of those doctrines.

Contact Us

MinistryWatch Direct aims to spur donors to examine ministries and make discerning giving decisions.

2514 Plantation Center Drive
Matthews, NC 28105
1 (704) 841-7828

www.ministrywatch.com
www.wallwatchers.org
www.thegoodsteward.com