

“We train disciplemakers...”



Spiritual  
Conversations  
— p. 2



The Power of  
Example  
— p. 3

# Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

*Making Disciples  
Naturally* Podcast  
&  
Richard Spann's  
blogs are found at  
[KansasNavs.org](http://KansasNavs.org)

**Spiritual Conversations**  
— page 2

**This is the Day**  
— page 2

**The Power of Example**  
— pages 3 - 5

**To register for the  
Fall Conference:**  
[Click Here](#)

**For videos of our recent  
men's retreat: [Click Here](#)**  
(Then enter 2026 in the  
search box)

## **Dr. Jerry White to speak at Fall Conference on *Making Disciples for a Lifetime***

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jerry White, International President Emeritus and Board Chair Emeritus of The Navigators (c) to address our Fall Conference, September 26, 2026 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Dr. White has been a friend and encourager of the Kansas Navigators for many years and always brings fresh insight and focus in his Bible-based messages.



General White was born in Iowa and raised in Spokane, Washington. He received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1959 (U. of Washington). His master's degree is in Astronautics (The Air Force Institute of Technology) and his Ph.D. is in Astronautics (Purdue University). General White served in the U.S. Air Force. During his 13½ years of active duty, he served in many capacities, including an assignment as a mission controller at Cape Kennedy during the height of the American space program and was an associate professor of astronautics at the Air Force Academy in Colorado for six years and co-authored a nationally recognized textbook on astrodynamics.

Jerry and his wife, Mary, have written numerous books on practical topics such as work, ethics, and parenting adult children. His books include *Rules to Live By* (2010, NavPress); *Unfinished: How to Approach Life's Detours, Do-Overs, and Disappointments* (2013, NavPress); and *To Be A Friend: Building Deep and Lasting Relationships* (2014, NavPress), among others.

Registration information is found at <https://kansasnavs.org/conferences>

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“If you have no desire to worship the Lord, then choose today whom you will worship, whether it be the gods whom your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But I and my family will worship the Lord.”

— Joshua 24:15 (NET Bible)

## Spiritual Conversations

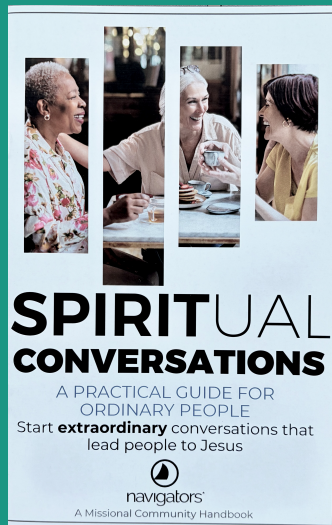
A Practical Guide for Ordinary People

Pub. by The Navigators (c)

Have you ever wanted to share the Gospel with someone but had no clue where to start? As believers in Jesus, we are often told and encouraged to share our faith. Perhaps we've memorized a gospel presentation of some kind, like the Bridge Illustration or similar. Or perhaps it seems that God is calling you to be more bold in your witness, but you just don't know where to start.

This little booklet may be just what you are looking for! It is written by Navigator Jon P. Hans, in collaboration with others. It relates four steps in moving the conversation toward spiritual things:

1. **Small talk:** Most people are OK with and want to engage in small talk. Use whatever is available — a shirt they are wearing with a team on it, or



maybe compliment them on something you note they are doing.

2. **Going Deeper:** If you sense they are open, you might say, "Are you doing that from a faith background?" or "I was wondering, do you have a faith background?" or "I was wondering, can you tell me about your faith journey?"

3. **Dialogue:** Cultivate the art of truly listening to the other person and echo back to them what they are saying. This shows them you are listening. Out of a motivation of love, you might say, "That's fascinating. Can you share more about that?" or "I'm curious, how did you come to that conclusion?"

4. **Follow up:** Offer to meet with them for coffee to continue the discussion. Offer to pray for them on an issue they raise. Invite them to a Bible study.

This is a very practical booklet and is available free as a [PDF right here](#). Or you can contact Jon Hans at [jon.hans@navigators.org](mailto:jon.hans@navigators.org) to inquire about obtaining the printed version at very low cost.

## Goads and Nails

(excerpt)

By Richard Spann

"This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it."

*Psalms 118:24*

(Excerpt from Vol. 4, pages 17-21)

It had been a long day. We saddled up early in the morning and took the horses up above timberline... The three of us fished, and spent most of the day near the summit of the mountains in the region. In the late afternoon a sudden thunderstorm accompanied by lightning, hail and drenching rain descended upon our camp... About one hour later, having been drenched and pummeled by the hail, we made our way down the slippery trail to base camp at 9,000 feet from above 13,000 feet... When we finally reached a plateau some several thousand yards from the corral, my horse bolted for the barn and I was fortunate to hang on, but was hit by a number of branches of the trees in the path the horse had chosen. When I staggered from the horse at the corral, I mentioned a complaint about the weather to the wrangler. He calmly took care of the horse while I wobbled to a nearby fence. His only comment to me was "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." My immediate thought was "You take this horse for a ride in this hail and let me see you rejoice in this day!"

One of our associate pastors retired about fifteen years ago and we attended the reception given in his honor. One of the ladies in our choir sang one of his favorite songs for him, and as she sang I also realized that it was meant for my wife and myself as well. The previous week, I had ... a biopsy of the prostate... We were fearful of the result and knew that the following morning might bring news about a malignancy... As she began her song, I knew immediately that the diagnosis was cancer of the prostate, and I also knew that the Lord was going before us to let us know of His care and presence for the future. Her song was... *Because He lives, I can face tomorrow*. When our Lord became the capstone, our future was changed forever. Every day is given to us with His infinite love, His perfect knowledge, and His perfect control. Because He lives, we can face our todays and our tomorrows, and by His Grace learn to rejoice in them. In Christ, Richard Spann

## The Power of Example by Richard Spann

*"People will do with others what you have done with them,  
not what you ask them to do with others."*

Howard Hendricks, retired professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, described it this way. He related that he had stood before his class and told them that they needed to get involved with others in Bible studies. The following year he traveled out to where his seminary students were doing pastoral work in local churches. As he sat in the pew, he heard them tell the congregation that they needed to be involved with others in a Bible study. The students were not involved in any Bible studies themselves, they were simply telling others what they had been told. Howard states that he went back to Dallas and began to have Bible studies with the students. A significant change occurred in this group of students. Wherever they went in their ministry, they were involved with others in Bible studies.



About forty years ago I recall sitting in a small tea room in downtown Wichita. An insurance salesman whom I had met a few months earlier was asking questions about the person of Christ. As I began to explain the gospel to him, I found a pamphlet in my pocket, written by an evangelist in California. It was a series of questions and statements in which my friend showed interest. At the conclusion of our discussion, he sat across the table from me and gave his life to Christ. Over the next several months we met regularly, during which time he became established in Christ and I began the process of equipping him for ministry. A co-worker of his was interested in spiritual matters and we discussed several ways of presenting the gospel including the Bridge Illustration. After several months went by, I asked him how he was progressing in presenting the gospel. He hesitated, and then related that he was unable to do so because he had not been able to find the pamphlet that I had shown him when he trusted Christ. Remarkable! He was programmed to do with others what I had done with him.

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**"We ought to be living as if Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back this afternoon." ~**

**Adrian Rogers, Pastor and speaker. Quote found at [https://www.azquotes.com/author/18813-Adrian Rogers#google\\_vignette](https://www.azquotes.com/author/18813-Adrian_Rogers#google_vignette)**

## Example (Continued)

Years later I was meeting with a man who had asked me to help with his discipleship. He was more established in his walk with Christ; so I chose to start with some materials more suitable for a mature believer. He continued to grow in Christ, and in time developed his own ministry. To my chagrin, he was using the same materials that I had chosen to use with him, but with new believers for whom it was not the best choice. He was doing with others what I had done with him.

Jim Petersen, author of *Living Proof*, stated the following in a Navigator staff conference:

“A ministry develops sort of a genetic code, a DNA, as it progresses. The choices made, the way things are done and the people who become a part - all contribute to defining the shape of things to come for better or worse.

Once the code is set, once a ministry takes form, it tends to follow that course. It will require deliberate conscious effort to make changes.”

Everything we do becomes a pattern for those who follow. Our initial interaction with those we are leading to faith will govern to a significant degree the manner in which they, in the future, will relate to non-believers. Not only is this true in a spiritual realm, but our relationships we have with co-workers, our families, our use of money, time and other resources will be an influence not only on those to whom we minister but to succeeding generations as well. Our lives, for better or worse, are patterned after the examples we have seen and lived with to a significant extent. I recently read again the story of Samuel. He was a man dedicated to the Lord, and committed to honoring



the Lord. Yet we read in I Samuel 8:3, “But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.” What was the reason for this, we might ask? From whom did Samuel learn his parenting skills? Eli, unfortunately, was the model to which Samuel was exposed.

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“I’d rather see a sermon than hear one any day. I’d rather one would walk with me, than merely tell the way.” ~ LeRoy Eims, author, speaker, Navigator. Quote from *The Lost Art of Disciplemaking*.

## Example (Conclusion)

I am in the process of learning to view others with a concern, not only as to what they might need, but more importantly, as to what those to whom they minister in the future might need. This requires looking beyond them to succeeding generations who will need a pattern for their lives and ministry as well. A young man with whom I meet regularly was quite knowledgeable with the scriptures. When I first met him, I was tempted to begin with something that I thought would be of more interest to him. As I considered the options I



became convinced that what he needed was to have a pattern of ministry established clearly in his life that would be the DNA for succeeding generations. Accordingly, we began with *Beginning with Christ*. This is where he needs to begin with most of those with whom his life will have an influence. They, in turn, will have this patterned in their lives.

Paul states the following in Philippians 4:9, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” It is my prayer that whatever is learned, received, heard or seen in our lives may be the correct pattern for the succeeding generations of followers of Christ.

In Christ, Richard Spann