

Upcoming Learning Opportunities!

Want to grow and understand more about yourself and your role? TDC has developmental opportunities for Navigators everywhere! Email TDC@navigators.org to learn more!

- The **Personal Contribution Assessment** is now available online! The PCA guides you to explore your design and how it contributes to your role.
- **Supervision Training** just launched! It's designed to help supervisors get healthy in soul, equipped for the work and hopeful for the future.
- Maximize your learning by **working with a coach**—whether you're seeking to enhance Supervision Training or reaching for your next level as a disciplinemaker. Email coaching@navigators.org to request a coach!

a matter of life and death



by Cynthia Hagen
Staff Care Specialist
Train – Develop – Care

Sometimes learning can be a matter of life and death.

One of my favorite movies, *Glory*, is a fictionalized retelling of the 54th Massachusetts, the first African American regiment to fight in the Civil War. These volunteer soldiers fight for freedom, aware that capture by the Confederates means death.

As they prepare for battle one day, General Gould finds Major Forbes and some of his soldiers blowing off steam in target practice, watching one soldier pick off cans after cans with amazing accuracy. General Gould squelches the jovial mood. He pulls out his own revolver, stands beside the soldier, and tells him to shoot the cans again. Each time the soldier pulls the trigger, the general fires into the air near his head. The soldier misses every target. Gould holsters his gun and sternly commands the major, “Train them properly.” Forbes must now learn a new practice for training his men—and the men must adjust how they learn.

Fast forward to the heat of battle. Amid chaos and pressure, the same soldier has to make a harrowing shot. Because of his skill and good training, he saves his own and others' lives. We're in the middle of a battle that has been raging for thousands of years. Because we care about those God has entrusted to us, we want to train them properly to be in this battle—to be spiritually and relationally healthy, equipped to fight, and ready defend and take new ground for the Kingdom (Ephesians 6).

Training—whether for a race, a battle, or a career—is rarely easy, but it's crucial for success. See to it that you and those you work with are motivated to learn continually, and that they have time and opportunity to train. Train them properly; eternal lives depend on it. ◀

daniel (continued from p. 3)

generational impact: he influenced other men of God like Ezra and Nehemiah, who continued to implement God's will. Daniel's story compels us to be just that influential.

Many of us hit a plateau after gaining a foundational knowledge or skill. If we stop there, we can enjoy a degree of satisfaction in meeting expectations without further growth. But is this what we really want? C.S. Lewis illustrates the sad reality for many people in his book *The Weight of Glory*:

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

How would God have you learn to increase your joy, to bless others, and to give Him greater glory? How can you make intentional lifelong learning like Daniel's an integral part of you? ◀



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TDC@Navigators.org
www.TDCResourceHub.org

upfront

Real-Life Stories and Practical Tools
to Advance The Navigators Calling

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learning to run the race



by Oliver Porter
Associate Regional Director, Collegiate
Wayne State University

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.
(Luke 11:9-10)

I learned how to run the 400...This changed the way I ran other races as well.

As a high school track athlete, I never liked the 4x400 meter relay. I ran my segment in 52 seconds, which was decent but not great. I never wanted anything to do with that race. But by the middle of my sophomore year in college, I was timed at 48 seconds. You may be thinking I'd simply grown bigger and stronger, and therefore faster. That wasn't the case.

Instead, I learned *how* to run the 400. I became a student, learning everything I could. I watched as others took the curves. How and when did they use their arms? How did they use their legs? How could I breathe more efficiently?

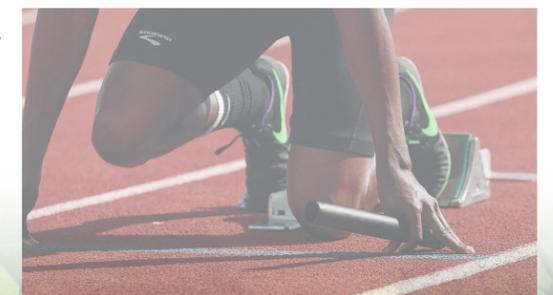
This changed the way I ran other races as well. The hurdles were my specialty. In two of those events, I was conference champion two years in a row, setting records that held for 30 years. Some of my other records still stand today. I don't say this to boast, but to demonstrate what being a lifelong learner can do. Learning how to run the 400 was the foundation of my success, because it opened other doors for me.

On a bigger scale, how can we better learn to “run the race”?

Since those college years, I've stayed open to learning. Asking good questions—of myself as well as others—has played a big part. Since asking myself how any Navigator tools or resources I already had could be reshaped or used differently, I've used the Wheel Illustration to ask believers, “Who's driving your life?” or, “If this is the steering wheel of our lives, what's really at the center?” And just try asking someone, “What would you do if God answered all your prayers with ‘yes’ today?”

Dawson Trotman was a man of innovation, repeatedly showing the benefit of agile or “open-handed” learning. I believe we all need to grow in that, including me. A life of learning has taught me to be ready for the doors God will open, but I want to be even *more* ready. Imagine what God can do with us all as lifelong learners!

What can you learn better today to set the foundation for the future? ◀



the language of learning

by Lyndi Lee Markus

Editor-in-Chief, *Upfront*
Train – Develop – Care



In 2012, I started raising support, preparing to serve with a small missions organization in the Dominican Republic. Part of this training? Learning Spanish.

I made study my lifestyle—I labeled the contents of kitchen cabinets, mentally translated discussions in meetings, and attended a Spanish-speaking church to find intentional environments for practice and even cultural discomfort.

Gaining fluency didn't mean I knew it all. But after dedicating myself to Spanish, when I decided to dabble in French a few years later, I knew the questions to ask and how to find answers. Most people who learn a second language pick up a third more quickly because the process of learning is similar.

In The Navigators, we have our own language: Life-to-Life®, Wheels, Hands, and disciplinarians. Some of us attain fluency in our TLAs and NSGs and D4Ls ... but can we ever "get it all"?

Or maybe that's the wrong question. Maybe what we want to bring with us as Navigators isn't just excellence in the Scriptures and a heart to make disciples, but a deep, characteristic curiosity. What if we become experts at asking questions and then applying what we've learned? Then, no matter what our mother tongue might be, we'll all speak clearly and succinctly the language of learning.

Think about the process of something you've learned and what it required of you. How might that translate into a language of lifelong learning that you could pass on to those you disciple?

Let's get curious and learn from each other. ◀

lifelong pursuit



by Diane Burrell
Navigator Representative, Encore

"Mom, thank you for being open to hearing the issue I had with what you said to my wife." When we'd talked earlier, I knew my son was concerned about my sensitivity. Now his words reaffirmed the importance of being a continual, or lifelong, learner.

How often have you heard the statement, "A disciple is a learner"? This will be my fiftieth year of knowing Christ, learning from Him, and being involved with The Navigators. So many things have changed in my life, but that particular quote has been a constant.

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29). When something feels heavy—like having to face my wrong choice in what I'd said to my daughter-in-law—I don't have to give way to hurt or fear or anger. As a lifelong learner from Jesus, I'm ready to turn to Him once again. I can take all my weariness and burdens

to Him, find rest, and seek to learn what I should do.

Is this the key to having a learner's attitude? Taking everything to Jesus?

Jesus knew what it was like to suffer

in the flesh. Hebrews 5:8 says, "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered" (NASB). In the Garden of Gethsemane, His heart's attitude was one of obedience to what God was calling Him to do. And when we come to Him, we have to come ready to do things His way, not ours.

One of my most effective pathways for hearing Jesus' voice has been through listening prayer. As I sit before Him and wait for His direction, He reminds me to "be still and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10). To find rest for my soul, I must be like Jesus, humble in heart. Waiting for Him to speak is challenging, but God promises that "those who wait on the Lord will gain new strength" (Isaiah 40:31).

When I was burdened with something one of my adult children was going through, I went to Jesus and asked, "What do you want me to do about this?" In a still, quiet voice, He told me to first thank Him for the situation, then praise Him, and finally worship Him. As I did, peace flooded my soul. I've been practicing this simple ritual ever since.

Lifelong learning takes coming to Jesus with an obedient heart, listening for Him, and waiting on Him. Then determine to do what He guides you to do, no matter how simple it sounds. You'll find rest for your soul. ◀

what motivates you?

We asked, you answered! Here are your top answers (from our survey in *NavWeekly*) for what motivates you to be a lifelong learner.

1. **Intimacy with Christ:** Getting to know the Lord more deeply and helping others to know Him, enjoying His presence.
2. **Natural curiosity** that stretches your mind and heart to make new connections and gain new perspectives.
3. **The desire to have a teachable spirit** and continue growing in Christ and more like Christ, always able to receive instruction. (Ecclesiastes 4:13)
4. **Being in learning, growing community** with other people.
5. **A drive or a hunger** to fulfill all God created you to be and do. (Ephesians 2:10)
6. **The joy of figuring out something new** and applying it.
7. **Scriptures revealing** to you how much there is to learn, and powerfully working in your life! (Hebrews 4:12)

The word cloud below is a summary of what many of you said keeps you from continuing to learn.

Are any of these potential pitfalls for you? Spend a little time with Jesus and ask Him what He might be revealing to you and inviting you toward.



intentional like daniel

by Tom Horn
World Missions Regional Rep
Asia Pacific



I love learning in absolutely all its forms. Mostly books, but also articles, seminars, courses, or experiential learning from a mentor or accountability friend. In developing

my philosophy of ongoing learning, I've been drawn to the prophet Daniel—who, I suggest, was an intentional lifelong learner! What can we learn from him about this?

1. **Daniel embraced challenging opportunities** (Daniel 1-6). Daniel 1 tells of a teenager transplanted into a foreign culture and language and placed immediately into a masters-level course of study. (The cross-cultural workers among us can probably identify!) Daniel accepted this challenge and sought to make the best of a difficult situation. With God's help, he excelled in his understanding and discernment.
2. **Daniel learned to bless others and glorify God.** When required to suffer for his convictions, he chose faith and obedience that led to learning and serving. Even in his success, we see him learning to live a humble life with a God-centered perspective.
3. **Daniel loved Scripture.** When Daniel was 70-80, we still see him reading the sacred writings, leading into "prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3, ESV) when he realized captivity was about to end. Clearly, he loved to be nourished and challenged by what men of God wrote.

Wow! Daniel's decision to assume a learner's posture his entire life led to

[daniel](#) (continued on back)

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