



# Disciples in action

## A FEW GOOD MEN

He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.  
– Acts 20:4



Source: Internet, US Navy Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Laura A. Moore

Here is a rare glimpse of the men that accompanied the apostle Paul. As they travelled with him, they would hear him say the same things in front of many witnesses. They were instructed to teach others what they saw their teacher doing (2 Timothy 2:2).

There were not many of them, the men that accompanied him, just a few good ones. But they were enough. “A few good men” – that’s the slogan of the Marine Corps – a few good ones would make the difference.

Jesus taught the masses and ministered to the needy but for three years, he focused on 12 men. He nurtured and trained them. That was all he selected to handle the tremendous task of telling the world and future generations of what he has done on the cross (Mark 3:14).

We are praying that God will raise many “few good men (and women)” who will in turn be able to teach others also. They can become the foundations of many generations (Isaiah 58:12) and reproduce after their kind. “*For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

God is still looking for a few good ones.

Yap Kim Meng

## Once a Navigator Always a Navigator

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*“When I was younger, the last thing I wanted to do was to teach. But when I was 45, I left my job in the military and embarked on a five-year university study in order to teach.”*

## ...and a Teacher

by Aurelia L. Castro

In 1988, Chok Sun left the military and joined the Ministry of Defence. He was promoted to a higher position but soon found himself working from 8 am to 10 pm on most days. Eventually he made a career switch in 1997 when his work limited him from spending time with his family. He became a teacher.

The transition from working with men and women in the military to children aged 6 to 12 in a primary school is encouraging for him. “It’s similar to disciplinmaking. Teaching gives me a lot of opportunities to make impact in the lives of this young generation. I believe this is where God wants me to be now,” said the father of one.

Chok Sun also coaches an athletes’ group in school. “Coaching the team is another avenue for me to influence lives as I help them see and reach their potentials. I find satisfaction seeing their improvement,” he said.

His daily motivation comes from knowing that God has a mission for each one. “*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name* (John 15:16). That has always been my guiding verse,” he said.

His teaching job now allows him to have quality time with his family. “God takes care of me. There’s no place for fear of consequences in



*Teacher Mok Chok Sun, enjoying time with his wife Song Imm and daughter Esther*

my life when I obey him and do the things he wants me to. He will not short-change me,” he said.

The teacher recalls someone telling him when he was a young believer of three important M’s in life – master, mission, and mate.

“I came to know Christ outside the Navs. But Kim Meng, who made the biggest influence in me as buddy and mentor, helped me discover Christ’s lordship in my life. God used the Navs to help me find my mission, and He provided me a mate,” he said.

Mok Chok Sun is married to a teacher and former TNT labourer **Tan Song Imm**. He is also currently involved in his church’s men’s ministry and cell group.

The Navigators military ministry team began in 1973 when **Patrick Tan**, a lieutenant in the Singapore Air Force and **Lauw Cheng Ho**, a former officer in the Ministry of Defence and three other men started their military men’s training apartment that year.

Although the military ministry has since closed in 1988 as more of the officers left the service, Navigators Missions Director Yap Kim Meng, one of its pioneering leaders, continues to meet with Mok Chok Sun and other Navigators military alumni for prayer and encouragement.

# JUMP STARTING YOUR DISCIPLES

**D**awson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, was always finding ways to help those whom he disciplined to grasp and integrate God's truth into their lives. He came up with illustrations such as the *Wheel*, the *Prayer Hand*, and the *Word Hand* that have become classic Navigator teaching tools.

Methods and tools are useful in helping disciples to grow in their walk with the Lord. In discipling them however, we have to be careful that we are not merely passing on methods and tools instead having the right heart and faith in exercising them.

Hebrews 13:7 tells us to *"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."*



Later when he sent out the twelve, he gave them specific instructions on what they were supposed to do and to whom they were to go to. (Matthew 10)

## 5. Give them encouragement

Jesus came alongside his disheartened disciples after his resurrection and listened to them as they grieved over his death. He gently rebuked them for their slowness to believe. He took time to systematically explain the Scriptures to them. He stayed with them and ate with them. Then their eyes were opened to recognise him.

Encouraged, they got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, *"It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."* Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread. (Luke 24:13-32)

## 6. Ask them for feedback

Shortly before his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus asked his disciples, *"Who do you say I am?"* It is important to help our disciples process what they are learning on the subject, issue or experience. Find out how they are doing, what they are learning and what other resources and help they might need to keep going.

Angeline Koh  
July 2006

## 1. Teach them by EXAMPLE

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1)

Jesus did not have to create a classroom situation to teach his disciples to pray. They came to him after they saw him pray and asked him, *"Lord, teach us to pray."*

The apostle Paul also taught by example. He was bold in challenging the disciples to imitate him as he imitated Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:7)

## 2. Teach them WHAT and WHY

Jesus did not spoon feed his disciples with his teachings neither did he water down his call to discipleship. He told many parables (Matthew 13) and posed hard questions that challenged them to think and to reflect on their lives. (Matthew 13:11-15)

Many of the disciples turned away from him (John 6:66) but a few remained faithful to him (Matthew 19:27a).

## 3. Show them HOW

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he gave them a model they could follow.

He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father..." (Luke 11:2)

He demonstrated the full extent of his love for them by washing their feet. Then he told them, *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."* (John 13:14-17)

## 4. Get them started

When the disciples reminded Jesus to send the five thousand away so they could buy food for themselves, Jesus replied, *"They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."* His disciples had a first hand experience of being part of a miracle that Jesus did. (Matthew 14:13-21)

THE NAVIGATORS is an international evangelical Christian organisation. Our calling is to advance the Gospel of Jesus and his Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost.

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