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# You Cannot Outgive God

Taken from "The Navigator" by Robert D. Foster



*"...instead of averaging them,  
he added them all up!"*

## A HEART FOR THE BODY

One example of Navigator founder Dawson's generosity in support of other Christian organizations is that he would give away money even when it seemed his own organization most needed it!

Prior to moving Headquarters to Colorado, The Navigators had a financial drive entitled, "Anchor Home Base." The Headquarters in Los Angeles needed repair and new equipment. In the midst of this all-out endeavor, the annual Forest Home Banquet was staged. Forest Home, a mountain conference grounds in the San Bernardino hills of Southern California, was the brain-child of Henrietta Mears of Hollywood Presbyterian Church and Gospel Light Press, a dear friend of both Daws and Lila Trotman.

Upon receiving the invitation to this fund raising banquet, which was to be held at the Palladium in Hollywood, Daws called and reserved an entire table for ten. The price wasn't cheap, but Daws felt the cause was worthy. "Anchor Home Base" was laid aside for that evening so that The Navigators could thoroughly enjoy the music, testimonies, and a challenge from Miss Mears, who told what God was doing up in the San Bernardino Mountains. After a marvelous meal and a soul stirring program, it was time for the offering and taking of pledges.

Dawson turned to all of us at the table and asked if we would each write on a piece of paper the amount of commitment that we felt The Navigators ought to make. I sat there pondering the issues: How about our own project, "Anchor Home Base?" Sure we used the Forest Home conference facilities a couple times a year, so what would be right? As I looked around the crowd of over a thousand people, I decided they probably weren't over-committed to other projects as we were, so very freely and with openness of heart, I wrote on my little slip of paper what I thought would be a reasonable share for The Navigators to give.

Daws then collected our pledges, shuffled them with his own, and began to open them one by one. Then he did a most amazing thing. He took his fountain pen and, instead of averaging them, added them all up! He then took the official Forest Home pledge card and filled it out, writing in the TOTAL of all our pledges as the amount that The Navigators planned to give the following year. Not only was I surprised but the entire table of staff members was bowled over. On the way out of the car that night, his comment to me was simply, "Freely have we received, freely give!"

"Anchor Home Base" was a huge success, but not without lots of hard work and intense prayer. We had all learned a great lesson that night: you cannot out-give God.