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Navigators

*“We’re always seeking
the Lord again to see
which hungry and
oppressed He would
have us serve ”*

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The Navigators of Canada

What I do?: My primary role is as one of 6 Regional Field Directors for the Navigators in Canada, which also involves shared national leadership. I serve and oversee staff, most of whom carry on student ministry, and some who serve overseas. My grassroots ministry is focused on *discipling and equipping lay leaders* i.e. volunteers who make up and carry on the bulk of the Navigators ministry in any country where we minister. The Alpha program has been a tremendous platform much used by the Navigators for meeting and learning how to help local people. As Navigators, we have led Alpha courses in churches, our homes and in our community centers where we live. Whatever the entry point, we invariably engage in one-on-one mentoring with people, focusing on THEM – and their own spiritual journey and their ministry in their own relational networks.

Why I do what I do?: It has been said that we do what we see. The person who led me to Christ when I was a UBC student took great pains to share not only the Gospel of God but also (his) own life as well. (1 Thes. 2:8) In those early weeks, he read the Bible with me and helped me see how he applied the scriptures to his own life. He prayed with and for me. He took me to his church and ‘translated’ for me. He involved me in conversations with others about spiritual things. In other words, he taught me what it was to have fellowship with the Lord and to serve Him. To this day he still keeps in touch, prays for us and seeks to encourage us.

One of the Navigators goals is to help develop workers for the harvest, next door to everywhere. **That's what I love.** That carries Navigators into other people's neighborhoods, workplaces, churches and family networks.

For much of my 37 years of service on the staff of the Navigators, it has seemed appropriate to leverage my gifts through various forms of staff and organizational leadership, but my real passion continues to be helping people as I myself was helped. That has paid dividends as some of these have ended up serving in like manner on most of the continents of the world. Our recent trip to Asia put us in touch with former students who were involved with us in campus ministry in the early 80's and who have been serving in challenging places in Asia.

A passage that has guided and encouraged us for decades is Is. 58:10-12:

10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.

12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

We're always seeking the Lord again to see which hungry and oppressed He would have us serve, and we continue to seek to raise up those who would be foundational for many generations to come.

For more information, email Don at donm@navigators.ca

Support of the [Navigators](#) is possible only through the gracious care and planning, supervision and funding by individuals, corporate sponsors, and Bonavista Baptist Church - BBC. The Missions Committee of BBC wishes to take this opportunity to thank Don and Gael for their huge efforts - and we pray for their energy, health, and their compassion for university-age students struggling with finding meaning for them and for this world while studying to be our future leaders. We thank God for the blessing of Don and Gael's new grandchild Tyler. We also wish to thank God for allowing them to be the mouthpiece, the witness, for so many who have no voice - no power - in this world.

BBC works through many other viable and important faith-based charitable groups in and around the world. If you'd like to know more, we invite you to visit our entire missions' web site www.bonavistabaptist.com and see how others are making a difference in the lives of so many others.