

*Dear Collaborers,*

*On my way home from the Australasian staff conference I re-read the story of Job. Here was a man "blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil." He ordered his life by the simple proposition that God rewarded good and punished evil. Within that framework he prospered, self-satisfied, unaware that the deepest desire of his life was still unmet...a man misled by success.*

*Midway through the story his heart's need is uncovered. Through disaster and suffering he discerns that, more than anything, what he really wants is a personal relationship with God. He wants to see God. He wants what later saints would call the Beatific Vision. "And after my flesh has been thus destroyed...I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold."*

*In the end (actually, a new beginning) Job was granted the desire of his soul. "I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee." And from this story I am reminded of three things we shared together in our recent regional conferences:*

*(1) We are as easily misled as Job. Give us a little success, a secure relationship with our family or the Navs (or even the prospect of these), and we quickly relax our quest.*

*(2) Nothing less than a deep, growing, personal relationship with our Lord will do. The Navigators are a poor substitute for Jesus. The Great Commission is not enough. Position, production, reputation – these are nothing. Family, friends are second best. Only Christ can satisfy. Only he is worthy of our steady pursuit.*

*(3) God is faithful. Discerning our deepest longing, he will do whatever is necessary – he will even allow disaster to overtake us – to detach our hearts from 'things' and return us to Christ. This may require repentance on our part, perhaps even a kind of second 'conversion.' As Job said, "Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

*That there may be in this story a special word for Navigators is perhaps playfully implied in the closing lines of the book. "And after this Job lived 140 years and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations."*

*With you...for Him,*

*Scotty*