

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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All the World's a Stage

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
they have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts.*
- William Shakespeare, "As You Like It"

In the quotation above, William Shakespeare hits the proverbial nail on the head in several ways. First, he compares the world to a stage and indeed, it is... especially for Christians, whose every move is being watched and weighed by the unsaved world.

Second, we all have a part to play in God's grand design (see Psalm 139:16 and Proverbs 16:9) and, to a large extent, our heavenly rewards - not our salvation, which is the gift of God by grace through faith (see Ephesians 2:8-9) - are determined by how well we fill our particular role.

Third, there is no denying that we all have an entrance date (we call it our birthday) and an exit one, too. And fourth, during our earthly lifespan, the parts we play are many and varied, often determined by our respective age.

"The Bard of Avon" goes on to describe seven different "acts" of life, beginning with infancy and ending with old age, which he calls a "second childishness." For the sake of illustration, I'd like to limit those acts to three.

My first act lasted from birth to age 27.

During that period of time, I grew from a child to an adult, earned a college degree, and got married. Most importantly, I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord.

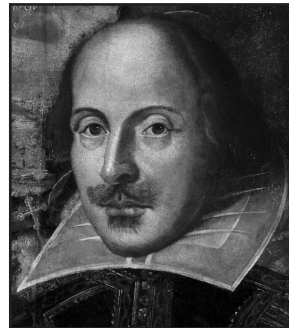
Act 2 began when I started my ministry career, founding The Saints Prison Ministry in 1987. That was also the year that Bethany, our first child, was born. For the next two decades, I served as executive director of that organization, and God used me to grow it

from a single softball team that ventured into prisons in the MidAtlantic States to an international ministry with multiple teams in multiple sports and - in addition to our headquarters in New Jersey - branch offices in Colorado Springs, Richmond, Charlotte, and Atlanta.

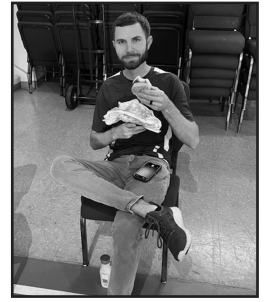
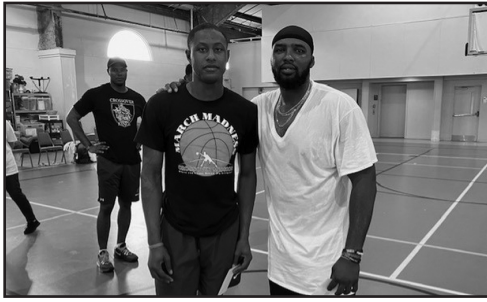
After 24 years, more than 350 prisons, and 23,000 professions of faith, the curtain fell on that stage of my life. Needing a new challenge and seeking a warmer climate, our family relocated to Vero Beach, Florida for Act 3, launching Risk Takers for Christ in 2011. Over the past 12 years, RTC has evolved from strictly a motivational ministry that conducted men's conferences, revival meetings, and periodic prison trips to one that uses sports to reach at-risk youth with the Gospel before they get into trouble with the law. We also publish a devotional message five days per week and, in 2022, planted a new church, Midway Bible Fellowship.

I fully expect to continue with RTC for as long as my good health allows, although I may not be running up and down a basketball

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March Madness Photos



Showers of Blessing

by Alistair Begg

"I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing." - Ezekiel 34:26

Here is sovereign mercy - "I will send down the showers in their season." Is it not sovereign, divine mercy? For who can say, "I will send down showers" except God? There is only one voice that can speak to the clouds and bid them send the rain. "Who sends down the rain upon the earth? Who scatters the showers upon the green herb? Do not I, the Lord?" So grace is the gift of God and is not to be created by man.

It is also needed grace. What would the ground do without showers? You may break the clods, you may sow your seeds, but what can you do without the rain? Just as absolutely needful is the divine blessing; you work in vain until God then bestows the shower and sends salvation down.

Then, it is plenteous grace. "I will send down the showers." It does not say, "I will send down drops," but "showers." So it is with grace. If God gives a blessing,

He usually gives it in such a measure that there is not room enough to receive it. Plenteous grace! We need plenteous grace to keep us humble, to make us prayerful, to make us holy; plenteous grace to make us zealous, to preserve us through this life, and at last to land us in heaven. We cannot do without saturating showers of grace.

Again, it is seasonable grace. "I will cause the shower to come down in their season." What is your season this morning? Is it the season of drought? Then that is the season for showers. Is it a season of great heaviness and black clouds? Then that is the season for showers. "As your days, so shall your strength be."¹

And here is a varied blessing. "I will give you showers of blessing." The word is in the plural. All kinds of blessings God will send. All God's blessings go together, like links in a golden chain. If He gives converting grace, He will also give comforting grace. He will send "showers of blessing." Look up today, O parched plant, and open your leaves and flowers for a heavenly watering.

Devotional material is taken from "Morning and Evening," written by C.H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg. Copyright © 2003, Good News Publishers

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, do you remember when my Son told his disciples to get into the boat and sail with him to the other side of the lake? Remember the sudden fierce storm that arose? The disciples thought my Son was unaware of the storm because he was asleep, and they feared for their very lives. They concluded from their vantage point that he did not care about their circumstances. "But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'" (Mk 4:38). Son, do not assume I do not care if I do not calm every storm in your life immediately. Storms help you understand your level of faith and how to apply it. Let me take you through the storms rather than around them. Storms train you to navigate through adversity. My son David understood this. So must you.

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." - Mark 4:35

Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle. - Ps 144:1

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All the World's a Stage

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court when I'm 70. So, in other words, I don't expect an Act 4. Instead, I plan to go directly from Act 3 to my final curtain call... which will be Heaven itself.

How about you, my friend? At what stage of life are you? Is God blessing and using you for His glory where you are or is He preparing you for yet another Act, so to speak? Either way, keep on trusting Him to complete the good work that He began in you (see Philippians 1:6).

Upcoming RTC Events

April 2: One-Year Anniversary Celebration at Midway Bible Fellowship, Vero Beach FL

April 22: Olde Hickory Golf Classic, Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL

June 14: 100-Hole Golf Marathon, Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL



6th Annual Olde Hickory Golf Classic

Saturday, April 22, 2023
Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL
8 a.m. shotgun start

Step back in time for a 1920's era golf tournament highlighted by our famous Hickory Hole, which features Bobby Jones replica golf balls and hickory-shafted clubs. Four-man scramble format including greens fees, cart, range balls, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, putting contest and prizes. Proceeds benefit Risk Takers for Christ's sports outreach to at-risk youth.

- 🏌️ Just \$90 per golfer or \$350 per foursome.
- 🏌️ Players will be permitted to use their own golf balls, except for the Hickory Hole and the putting contest.
- 🏌️ Longest drive and closest to the hole contests!
- 🏌️ One free mulligan for wearing knickers!
- 🏌️ Sponsorships available!
- 🏌️ Registration deadline is April 15th.

Please visit our website for more information:
www.risktakersforchrist.org

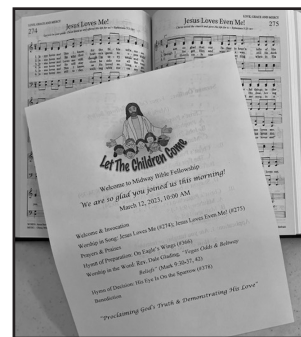
We Have a QR Code

Everyone can use a spiritual lift in the morning, especially on weekdays when work, school, and other demands vie for our time and attention... and sap our strength. Risk Takers for Christ wants to help by offering a free weekday devotional message that will challenge and encourage you in your daily walk.



*Point your smart-
phone camera at
this QR code to
receive an uplift-
ing devotional
message each
weekday.*

Midway Bible Fellowship Photos



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