

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for* Christ

In this issue...

Listening to the Father's Heart

A devotional
message from
Os Hillman.

- page 2

The Dumbest Professor I've Ever Met

Dale shares his
experience about a
lecture.

- page 3

Darkness and Light

A devotional
message from
Alistair Begg.

- page 4

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Risk Takers for Christ Celebrates 15th Anniversary

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

On August 1st, Risk Takers for Christ marked its 15th year of ministry, a milestone that comparatively few businesses or non-profit organizations get to see. Only by the grace of God has RTC survived and prospered for this long.

Risk Takers began with a singleminded focus: to challenge believers to step outside their spiritual "comfort zones" and to be bolder in their faith. Over the past 15 years, our ministry has expanded to include sports outreaches to prisoners and at-risk youth, a new church plant, and a weekday devotional series that has produced more than 3,700 unique online messages.

Guided by God's providential hand, RTC ministry teams have conducted successful outreach events in seven states and two countries on two continents... all with just one full-time employee, two part-time employees, a handful of dedicated volunteers, and a shoestring budget. To God be ALL the glory!

With your generous support and God's continued blessings, RTC's future looks even BRIGHTER! To make a special 15th Anniversary donation, scan this QR code:



RTC Ministry Milestones (2011-2026)

August 2011 - RTC president Dale Glading relocates to Vero Beach FL with his family to launch Risk Takers for Christ

September 2011 - RTC president Dale Glading begins writing and publishing Dare 2B Daring devotional messages each week-day, with more than 3,700 currently in circulation

December 2011 - RTC conducts its first of many Dare 2B Daring men's conferences, this one at First Baptist Church of Vero Beach (subsequent conferences have been held in NJ, PA, and DE)

September 2012 - RTC conducts 11-day South Carolina Prison Project that includes 14 different correctional institutions, partnering with Solid Rock Baptist Church (NJ), Lifted in Faith (LA), and Columbia International University (SC)

January 2013 - RTC launches its Living H2O Initiative, a biweekly basketball outreach to at-risk youth in Indian River County FL

Spring 2013 - RTC conducts its first FL Prison Project, an outreach that still continues today, involving more than 25 different correctional institutions throughout the state and reaching tens of thousands of inmates with the gospel

continued on page 2

RTC Ministry Milestones (2011-2026)

continued from page 1

Summer 2013 - RTC conducts Kentucky Prison Project with Lifted in Faith strength team

September 2013 - RTC spearheads the first of three countywide Racial Reconciliation Conferences that are held annually in 2014 and 2015

April 2014 - RTC conducts Kenya Prison Project that includes 10 prisons and one orphanage, ministering to an estimated 5,000 inmates in western Kenya

2018-2021 - RTC conducts multiple Bible conferences and sports camps in conjunction with Cornerstone Baptist Fellowship of Sebastian FL

April 2022 - RTC launches Midway Bible Fellowship, an independent church plant in Vero Beach FL

April 2025 - RTC launches Grandparents for a Godly America, a coalition of Christian grandparents who want to see their grandchildren grow up in a safe, strong, and godly America

June 2025 - RTC conducts Creation Camp at Genesis Church of Vero Beach, partnering with Creation Today

July 2025 - RTC sponsors countywide celebration of the 100th anniversary of William Jennings Bryan's last public address in Vero Beach FL

March 2026 - RTC hosts first Treasure Coast Senior Symposium featuring the Spiritual Space Cowboys



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Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, many times those closest to you will seek to prevent you from drinking from the cup I have reserved for you. Remember, even as you value their comfort, only you have been given the grace to walk this road and the insight to trust me through this. Your friends do not wish you to suffer and they also fear being in such a hard place themselves. They want to rescue you and blot out the very idea that I would ask any son or daughter to go through pain. Avoid sympathy that would take you from the path of the cross. I give you the cross so the cross can give you me. Only there can you identify with the work I gave my Son to carry out and find true joy. Use your pain to understand and feel the pain of others; it is the only way to identify with their plight. This is true intercession. This is truly walking in the shoes of another. Embrace the cross that you might provide freedom to those who are bound. That's the business my Son was about.

So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" - John 18:11

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God.
- Colossians 1:24-25

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The Dumbest Professor I've Ever Met

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"It would be better for many professors if instead of following their own devices and cutting out new paths of thought for themselves, they would inquire for the good old ways of God's own truth and beseech the Holy Ghost to give them sanctified understandings and teachable spirits." - C.H. Spurgeon

A few weeks ago, I attended a lecture on biblical geology that was taught by a college professor who had studied at Columbia University. She was speaking at a local synagogue but since the lecture was advertised by a Southern Baptist church, I figured it would be worth attending.

I was wrong.

The professor began with a geographical and geological overview of the area around the Dead Sea, which was a bit dry (no pun intended) but at least biblically and historically accurate. She then spoke about how Abraham had left Ur of the Chaldees and settled in modern day Israel. She even touched on Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah "for their sin" but refrained from mentioning that their sin was rampant sexual immorality, specifically homosexuality.

The professor then tried to scientifically explain the fire and brimstone that God used to destroy the twin cities by suggesting that volcanic activity may have been involved because sulfur deposits have been found in the area. Everyone else in the audience just nodded their heads in agreement and acquiescence like a bunch of mindless sheep despite the fact that Genesis 19:24 clearly states, "Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens."

That doesn't sound like a volcanic eruption to me.

From there, the supposedly learned professor tried to explain the collapse of the walls around Jericho by blaming it on seismic activity. Forget about the trumpet blasts and the shouts of God's people, not to mention their obedience in marching around the city seven times that morning. No, she claimed, the "walls came a tumblin' down" because of an earthquake.

"How much time do I have left?" the professor then asked the moderator. When she was told she still had 20

minutes remaining, the professor decided to share some thoughts about the Great Flood. Once again, instead of relying on the biblical account, she looked exclusively to science... and pseudo-science at that.

Stating emphatically that the African and European continents were once joined at the Strait of Gibraltar "hundreds of millions of years ago" and then broke back apart, she deduced that the Dardanelles - a narrow strait between the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea in modern day Turkey, was once closed off. When that blockage was removed, she theorized, it could have caused a massive, localized flood that may have wiped out the people living in that area.

As if on cue, the sheep filling the pews in front of me nodded their heads affirmatively and obediently. The professor then asked for questions... and my hand shot up immediately. She managed to ignore it until every other fawning question had been answered and then finally, she called on me.

"Instead of concocting a theory about continents shifting and straits closing - all of which is mere conjecture, based on total speculation, and impossible to prove - why not simply accept the biblical account of the Great Flood in which God flooded the earth through a combination of 40 days and nights of rain and the opening of the underground reservoirs?" I asked the professor.

She looked at me as if I was some kind of Neanderthal who had just crawled out from under a rock.

It soon became clear that this educated professor, who was lecturing on biblical geology in a Jewish synagogue, had very little knowledge or understanding of the Old Testament. "I'm looking for scientific explanations," she said, clearly flustered. "Besides, I'm not here to be controversial."

No, ma'am, you were there to spout half-truths and whole lies... and I was there to refute them with God's Word.

"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise! Amen." - Romans 1:22 & 25 (BSB)

Darkness and Light

by Alistair Begg

"And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.."

- Genesis 1:5

The evening was "darkness," and the morning was "light," and yet the two together are called by the name that is given to the light alone! This is somewhat remarkable, but it has an exact analogy in spiritual experience. In every believer there is darkness and light, and yet he is not to be named a sinner because there is sin in him, but he is to be named a saint because he possesses some degree of holiness. This will be a most comforting thought to those who are mourning their infirmities and who ask, "Can I be a child of God while there is so much darkness in me?" Yes; like the "day," you do not take your name from the evening, but from the morning; and you are spoken of in the Word of God as if you were even now perfectly holy, as you will be soon.

You are called the child of light, even though there is

darkness in you still. You are named after what is the predominating quality in the sight of God, which will one day be the only principal remaining. Notice that the evening comes first. Naturally we are darkness first in order of time, and the gloom is often first in our mournful apprehension, driving us to cry out in deep humiliation, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The place of the morning is second; it dawns when grace overcomes nature. It is a blessed maxim of John Bunyan, "That which is last, lasts forever." That which is first yields in due season to the last; but nothing comes after the last. So though you are naturally darkness, once you become light in the Lord, there is no evening to follow; "your sun shall no more go down." The first day in this life is an evening and a morning; but the second day, when we shall be with God forever, shall be a day with no evening, but one, sacred, high, eternal noon.

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

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RTC Prison Ministry Basketball Team Schedule



- ▶ August 1, 2026 - Sumter CI, Bushnell FL
- ▶ November 6 & 7 - Charlotte CI, Punta Gorda FL; Avon Park CI, Avon Park FL; & DeSoto CI, Arcadia FL

You can donate to our basketball team by visiting:
<https://www.risktakersforchrist.org/partner--donate/>

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