

# Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

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## Here Comes the Suzie Q

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Recently, I read a biography about Rocky Marciano. The inspiration for the Rocky movies starring Sylvester Stallone, Marciano was the only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated. His unblemished record was threatened by Larry Holmes, but Michael Spinks upset Holmes to claim his belt and end his winning streak at 48.

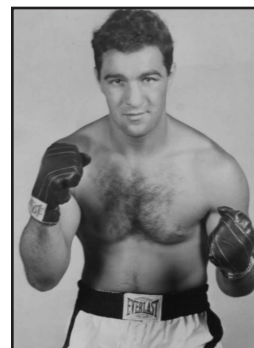
According to most experts, Marciano was not a polished boxer. He lacked the speed of Muhammad Ali or Sugar Ray Robinson, and the scientific approach of Gene Tunney. However, what Rocco Francis Marchegiano had was one of the most devastating right hands in boxing history. Only Jack Dempsey, the “Manassas Mauler,” could rival Rocky’s knock-out punch.

In fact, Marciano’s right upper-cut was so explosive that his trainer, Charley Goldman, gave it a name, the “Suzie Q.” After working over his adversary with punishing body blows, Marciano would wade in for the kill, unleashing his not-so-secret weapon.

Rocky rode the Suzie Q to the heavyweight championship, knocking out 43 of his 49 opponents along the way. His title defenses against Jersey Joe Walcott, Roland La Starza, Ezzard Charles, Don Cockell, and Archie Moore were epic battles, as was his lone fight against Joe Louis. Marciano not only scored a TKO over his boyhood idol, but he knocked the “Brown Bomber” clear out of the ring.

Well, I’ve never stepped between the ropes in

my life, but I experienced a real “haymaker” or two at our recent Bible conference, “Messages from the Mount.” Spread over three days and nine sessions, God used the inspired messages - delivered by three anointed preachers - to deliver a series of spiritual body shots to everyone in attendance...including me.



That’s the way God works. He “softens you up” with scriptural truth after scriptural truth and then, in His perfect timing, here comes the Suzie Q. BAM!!!

Down you go, so convicted by your own sinfulness that you are unable to defend yourself. Instead, like Isaiah in 6:5, you cry out, “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.”

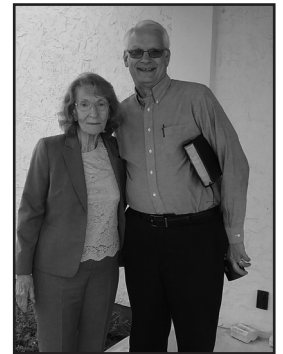
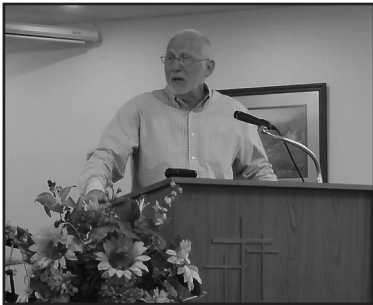
There you are, flat on your back, a crumpled heap lying helplessly on the canvas as the referee prepares to count you out. But then, something incongruous happens: he stops counting at nine. Next, he helps you to your feet and - in front of a host of spectators - he lifts your arm triumphantly in the air, declaring you the victor.

It’s then, as your head begins to clear, that you realize something unexpected and unexplainable. It wasn’t the bell that saved you, it was the Referee Himself.

Because He loves you.

## Check out these photos...

Scenes from our 3-day, "Messages From the Mount" Bible conference, November 12-14, in Sebastian FL.





## Twenty-One Days of Intense Ministry

Beginning on October 27th, Risk Takers for Christ conducted three weeks of almost non-stop ministry. Here is a brief overview of everything that God accomplished during those 21 days.

**Saturday, October 27** - Rising at 3:30 a.m. and on the road by 4:30 a.m., our Risk Takers basketball team ministered at Putnam Correctional Institution in East Palatka, FL. An estimated 100 inmates watched as we won the morning game and Putnam took the afternoon contest. Far more importantly, 11 men made decisions for Christ.

**Monday, November 5** - Our Risk Takers for Christ Board of Trustees met to discuss future ministry plans as well as our 2019 budget. We gladly welcomed Michael Kelley, Dr. Matt Parris and Rev. Greg Sempsrott to our board.

**Wednesday, November 7** - Risk Takers president, Rev. Dale Glading, preached at the "Wednesday Without Walls" homeless program at First Baptist Church of Vero Beach. More than 40 people were in attendance.

**Saturday, November 10** - Our Risk Takers basketball team was back in action at Hardee Correctional Institution in Bowling Green, FL. Down by 21 points in

the morning game, our short-handed squad roared back to earn a 99-99 tie. The afternoon game was cut short after three quarters, but not before we had the opportunity to distribute gospel literature to an estimated 250 inmates.

Combined with the 100 men who received literature in the morning - and the nine that trusted Christ as Savior - it was an incredible day of ministry.



**Monday, November 12 to Wednesday, November 14** - Our 3-day, "Messages from the Mount" Bible conference was a rousing success. All nine sessions featured powerful preaching and teaching from Matthew 5-7 by three anointed pastors: Rev. Tom Cox, Rev. Dave McMurray, and Dr. Bill Waltz. Kenny Munds, an award-winning vocalist and guitarist, ministered in music throughout the conference and each evening session also featured a guest vocalist.

In addition to all of the above activities, we held four Living H2O Initiatives, our basketball program for at-risk youth, on October 29, November 1, November 8 and November 15.

## New Paradigms

by Os Hillman, TGIF Today God Is First Volume 2

*"Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage" (1 Sam. 10:22).*

If you want to experience something you've never done, you must do something you've never done. In his book *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing His Will*, Henry Blackaby writes, "You cannot go with God and stay where you are."

God often has to radically change us if we are going to fulfill His purposes in our lives. Saul was about to be anointed by Samuel as the first king of Israel. Samuel said to Saul, "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person" (1 Sam. 10:6). Up to this point, Saul had never prophesied or led a group of people. He had also never had to be accountable to a prophet and to God for his every action.

Saul took a big step of faith right away and prophesied with the prophets just as Samuel said he would. How

exciting that must have been. Yet, when Samuel called the entire nation of Israel together to announce him as Israel's first king in history, Saul was nowhere to be found. This part of the story is humorous. Excitement is in the air, but when they call Saul's name, he doesn't even come forward. So the people "inquired further of the Lord, 'Has the man come here yet?' And the Lord said, 'Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage'" (1 Sam. 10:22).

I recall when God began moving me from a career in advertising to a new ministry to men and women in the workplace that involved writing and public speaking. Neither of these were my particular forté. I was forced to do something I had never done.

The story of King Saul should be an encouragement to us all. God continues to pick the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. Your greatest setback can be thinking that there's no way that God can use "little me." However, the reality is that He can and will, if we respond to the new places He takes us.

*Reprinted by permission from the author. Os Hillman is an international speaker and author of 15 books on workplace calling. To learn more, visit <http://www.MarketplaceLeaders.org>*

## Poignant Prisoner Prayers

Here is a sampling of prayer requests from the men at Hardee Correctional Institution in Bowling Green FL.

David - Please pray for my family and me. My mother is 94-years old.

Leroy - My request is to keep God in my life.

Michael - Please pray for me for 30 days to experience grace, joy, love, peace and God's protection.

Kendrick - To get my life right and leave the old me behind. Also, for God to guide me with good health and bring me back to my family.

Max - For guidance and salvation for all, especially for me and my family.

Marcus - For God to look over my kids.

Jeremy - Please help me. My family is small and money is low.

Fanex - For blessings for my family because they are poor and can't get past nothing.

Clovis - For my family to turn to Christ.

Roosevelt - For my wife's health and our marriage.

Joel - Please pray for my sister in the hospital.

Bedford - Please pray that I stay out when I get out on March 12, 2019.

Timothy - That I continue praying for others instead of myself.

Austin - For my family's safety and my freedom.

Luis - That the judge decides to take a few years off my 20-year sentence.

Jimmy - To preach and share the gospel more beautifully in the Name of Jesus my Savior.

Herschel - Please pray for me to change.

Wilson - I'd like a prayer for strength and spiritual sturdiness.

Eric - For my son to establish a relationship that has been non-communicative for a number of years.

Dwayne - I need help in trying to explain to my daughter why I wasn't there for her for 25 years.

Andrew - That my mom stays healthy and doesn't worry about me too much.

Michael - For the mercy of God.

Marcus - To be free.

Kendell - For restoration of my family.

Johnny - For rest in my spirit.

Johnny - For God to protect each and everyone of his children, and everyone at Hardee CI.

Kevin - That God will give me another chance in society.

Mack - For God to continue to strengthen me in my faith.

## Our Staff & Board Members

Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Rev. Larry "Chap" Lilly, Vice President

Christopher Glading, Director of Programs and Publicity

Ed "EJ" Tarpey, Director of Camps and Clinics

Rebekah Bailey, Director of Communications

Trustees: Rev. Thomas Griffin, Michael Kelley, Steve

Navarro, Dr. Matt Parris, Rev. Greg Sempsrott

Advisory Council: Robert Bartosz, Steve Schoch

## Upcoming Risk Takers Events:

- ♦ December 8: Basketball at Polk CI, Polk City FL
- ♦ January 7: RTC Board Meeting, Vero Beach FL
- ♦ January 12: Basketball at DeSoto CI, Arcadia FL
- ♦ February 9: Basketball at Tomoka CI, Daytona Beach FL

**Take a Risk! is a publication of Risk Takers for Christ, PO Box 651421, Vero Beach FL 32965-1421.  
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