

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for* Christ

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Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.



I Sure Missed Going to Prison!

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

After dedicating most of my adult life to ministering to hundreds of thousands of incarcerated men, women, and teens, the Covid pandemic resulted in prisons across the country being closed to outside volunteer organizations. Then, in 2021, I contracted a near fatal case of the Delta variant myself, which kept me on the sidelines for quite a while.

Since then, I have spent most of my time ministering to at-risk youth through our Living H2O Initiative, pastoring Midway Bible Fellowship, and writing my weekday Dare 2B Daring daily devotional messages. But truth be told, a big part of me remained behind the concrete walls and barbed wire fences where I have been privileged to minister since 1987.

Just when I thought that my prison ministry days were over, God reopened that door... and when God opens a door, He opens it W-I-D-E! With a newly formed Risk Takers for Christ basketball team, we reached out to 15 different correctional institutions throughout southcentral Florida, and the response has been overwhelming. So overwhelming, in fact, that our schedule is already filled through the end of 2026!

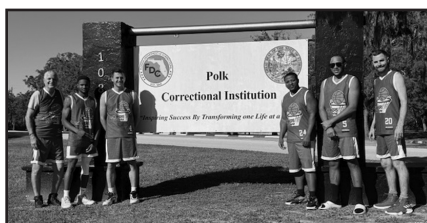
And so, with two veteran players, four rookies, and one nonplaying volunteer, our “new

and improved” RTC basketball team ventured into the Polk Correctional Institution in Polk City on Saturday, November 1st and God moved in a very powerful way. From the minute we passed through security, His anointing was upon the day... and we needed every ounce of it because we were so short-handed and the prison wanted us to play three games against three different all-star teams.

After an early morning wake-up call and a two-hour drive across the state, our team started the first game slowly, falling behind by as many as 17 points. But we never gave up... and led by Marty Gradijan's 22 points, we narrowed the gap to just five. Doing so earned the admiration and respect of the prison administration, the other team, and every inmate spectator, which allowed us to share the gospel at halftime to a very receptive audience.

The second game was also closely fought although we ran out of gas at the end. However, our halftime gospel presentation went extremely well and - perhaps energized by the response - we dug deep and won the third game by a wide margin.

Altogether, we distributed an estimated 400 Gospel of Johns with evangelistic tracts inside and saw 10 inmates make first-time professions of faith in Jesus Christ. What a great day of ministry!



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I Sure Missed Going to Prison!

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As you can see from the team photo on page 1, two of the players were my son Chris and me (and at age 66, I was only there to offer a few “spot minutes” in case of injury or extreme fatigue). The other four players are all new recruits from our Living H2O Initiative, which was extremely gratifying personally. I couldn’t have been prouder - not only of the way they played, but also of the way they conducted themselves inside prison for the first time.

The second picture features our squad with one of the inmate teams and the referees, who were inmates themselves (so guess who got all the calls?) Before leaving, we donated two new basketballs and other sports equipment to the institution and promised to make a return visit as soon as possible.

There are more pictures from our visit to Polk CI featured throughout our December newsletter but let me

leave you with a few prayer requests from the men there.

“For my mom and the tough time she’s going through.” - Justin

“I have nowhere to go when I am released on 10/21/26.” - James

“Please pray for my health. They say my cancer came back.” - Randy

“For my mother to get her liver transplant.” - Cedric

“Please pray for my mom, Norma. She has cancer.” - Edwin

“For forgiveness.” - Nelson

P.S. We just added four more players from our Living H2O Initiative plus two returning veterans, just in time for our next prison trip to South Bay Correctional Facility on February 7, 2026.

More Prayer Requests from the Men at Polk CI

Julius - *“For strength and to know Christ.”*

Eric - *“For God to keep blessing us with His grace and miracles.”*

Joseph - *“Please pray for my wife, my family, and myself.”*

Terrance - *“To be a better father.”*

Anthony - *“To create in me a clean heart.”*

Patrick - *“I used to be Muslim, but I’ve converted back to a follower of Jesus.”*

Bruce - *“For love, joy, and peace in my life and for my family and loved ones.”*

Edgar - *“For everyone to know Jesus.”*

Timothy - *“I am being released soon. Please pray that I find a good job to support myself.”*

Ankit - *“To find my way back to Christ. I’ve lost my way.”*

Brian - *“For the people that are suffering from Hurricane Melissa.”*

Kelvin - *“I go home in 9 months, and I need a good job.”*

Dale - *“For my friend who just lost his dad.”*

Tyreke - *“Please pray for me and my situation.”*

Eric - *“That the Lord protects us from our enemies at all times.”*

Jamas - *“Praise God for all the good He does. Plus, please pray for my family.”*

Jason - *“For me, and my ex, and our kids to be a family again.”*

Malik - *“To get my wife back and fix my heart.”*

Bryant - *“To stay out of trouble.”*

Kelvin - *“For a long-lasting healthy life.”*

Kadeem - *“For my family and strength.”*

Anthony - *“For my landlord and my family.”*

Jonas - *“For strength in our Lord Jesus Christ while in seminary school.”*

Photos From our Visit to Polk Correctional Institution on November 1, 2025



2026 Treasure Coast Senior Symposium

"Finishing Well: Spiritually, Physically, and Financially"

March 5-7, 2026

Genesis Church

3660 16th Street, Vero Beach

Featuring the Spiritual "Space Cowboys"

Rev. Tom Cox, Rev. Dave McMurray, and

Dr. Bill Waltz

Art Argenio, D.C. and Matt Parris, D.C.

*Licensed financial advisors: Chris Glading
and Steve Salis*

*Special music provided by Kenny Munds, Academy of
Country Music award-winning musician*

- ▷ Thursday, March 5 - 6:30 to 9 p.m.
(light refreshments)
- ▷ Friday, March 6 - 6:30 to 9 p.m.
(light refreshments)
- ▷ Saturday, March 7 - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(inc. a catered lunch)

(Thursday & Friday sessions are FREE. Saturday's session is \$20 pp or \$35 per couple.)

To register, visit www.risktakersforchrist.org or email info@risktakersforchrist.org

Sponsored by Risk Takers for Christ, Grandparents for a Godly America, and Genesis Church of Vero Beach

Shop and Give

Do you buy Christian books, Bibles, or gifts online? If so, Christian Book Distributors (www.cbd.com) is the absolute best place to shop. Even better, Christianbook will give back 4% of your purchase price to Midway Bible Fellowship, the church that Risk Takers for Christ planted in 2022.

Simply type in our GiveBack ID: MGVVPU or use the following QR code:



RTC Prison Ministry Basketball Team Schedule



- ▶ February 7, 2026 - South Bay CF, South Bay FL
- ▶ May 2, 2026 - Putnam CI, East Palatka FL
- ▶ August 1, 2026 - Sumter CI, Bushnell FL
- ▶ November 7, 2026 - 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/>

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.*

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