

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

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I'm Not Going to Disney World!

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

Sometime around 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 8th, a football player will look into the TV camera and say the words, "I'm going to Disney World!" Based on past history, it will most likely be the quarterback of the winning team... or perhaps a running back or a wide receiver.

That catchphrase has been used almost annually ever since Super Bowl XXI on January 25, 1987, when New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms was asked, "Phil Simms, you've just won the Super Bowl. What are you doing next?" Simms, who replied "I'm gonna go to Disney World!", was paid \$75,000 for promoting the iconic theme park in Florida.

Ironically, Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway was paid the same amount to utter the same phrase in a prerecorded ad in case Denver won the Super Bowl and Elway was named the game's MVP.

Following Super Bowl XXV in 1991, Ottis Anderson, the game's MVP, was given the choice to say, "I'm going to Disney World!" or to dedicate his victory to American troops serving in the then-ongoing Gulf War. To his credit, Anderson chose the latter, and so the line was once again given to Phil Simms.

Over the years, other sports heroes - from baseball pitchers Orel Hershisier and Frank

Viola to basketball superstars Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson - have mouthed those famous words. So have figure skaters Brian Boitano and Nancy Kerrigan and race car driver Jeff Gordon.

Well, no one is paying me \$75,000 to say a single sentence on TV nor do I plan to visit Disney World in the near future, but I will be going someplace far more exciting the day before Super Bowl LX is played in Santa Clara CA. That's right, folks... "I'm going to South Bay Correctional Facility!"

While I am there, my Risk Takers for Christ teammates and I will be playing at least two basketball games against two different inmate all-star teams and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with hundreds of prisoners. Not only will we be sharing the gospel during halftime of both games, but we will

also be distributing gospel literature - Gospel of Johns and evangelistic tracts in both English and Spanish - to as many men as possible in that institution that currently holds 1,948 inmates.

South Bay is an unusual correctional facility in that it is privately owned and operated by The GEO Group under a contract with the Florida Department of Corrections. I have had the privilege of ministering there numerous times with basketball and softball teams ever since South Bay opened in 1997, and I can't wait to return. I have also ministered at



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Alaska, Here I Come!

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

“Yes, well, it's colder than that at Hamilton College. Students' ears are falling off. It ain't Christian.” - Mr. Webb, Our Town, Act III

When I was in 11th grade, I had the privilege of playing the lead role in our school's production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. I portrayed the Stage Manager, who basically narrates the story with a series of soliloquies.

In one of the scenes, Emily Webb, who we learn has died in childbirth, is granted the opportunity to go back and relive one day of her past life. She selects her 12th birthday, a bitterly cold winter day in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. In fact, it is so cold that the town's constable, Bill Warren, tells Howie Newsome, the town's milkman, that the reason he's up so early that morning is because he's "Been rescuin' a party; darn near froze to death, down by Polish Town thar. Got drunk and layout in the snowdrifts. Thought he was in bed when I shook'm."



Constable Warren then tells an abbreviated version to Mrs. Webb, Emily's mother. "I was called up this mornin' to rescue a Polish fella - darn near froze to death he was." In turn, Mrs. Webb mentions to her husband that it's "Been right cold" after which Mr. Webb replies with today's quote above.

I share this long introduction to say this: I hate cold weather. Actually, I don't just hate it, I despise it with every fiber of my being and every bone in my body. And the older I get, the less I like it, which is one of the main reasons I am so grateful to live in the Sunshine State.

That being said, if tomorrow morning our three kids announced that they were all moving to Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Nome, Alaska - and were taking our six precious grandkids with them - I would be on the next plane, train, or automobile to the Arctic Circle.

You see, as much as I hate cold weather, I love my family more... and I simply can't bear the thought of being separated from them.

My friend, God feels the same way about you and me. That is why, when our sins threatened to separate us from Him for all eternity, He sent His Son to die in our place on the cross. Jesus paid the penalty for your sins and mine so we could be forgiven and spend eternity with Him in heaven.

Now that's love that is powerful enough to warm even the coldest (and hardest) of hearts!

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16 (NKJV)

I'm Not Going to Disney World!

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several of the other 50 correctional institutions run by The GEO Group across the country during my 38 years of prison ministry.

On the morning of February 7th, my alarm will be set for 5:30 a.m. so I can meet the rest of my teammates at 6:45 a.m. for the 90-minute drive to South Bay. However, if the past is prologue, I will wake up well before my alarm goes off because I will be so excited about the opportunity to share my faith with so many lost and lonely prisoners.

Maybe I'm strange, but I would much rather spend my Saturday afternoon competing for a heavenly prize than a Sunday evening competing for the Lombardi Trophy.

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 (BSB)

Thank you for joining me in this eternal endeavor through your fervent prayers and generous financial support.

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, you are learning some truths about my ways. They aren't cookie cutter formulas, but fresh manna prepared just for you. I worked in my daughter Naomi in a way that few could understand. She lost everything that was dear to her. I remained silent for ten years of her journey. Sometimes the pain of broken dreams helps you discover your true desire for me, only to find me strangely absent --at least that is how you perceive me. I'm still there, working quietly behind the scenes of your life. Sometimes your greatest faith test is to believe that I am still there. The frustration of not being able to "find" me actually works to deepen your longing. Only by not revealing myself for a season can I awaken the true desire in you that displaces all other desires. However, if you decide the waiting is too painful, the enemy will step in and entice you to entertain lesser desires in order to medicate your disappointment, grief and pain. Do not go

this way, son. The waiting will be worth it. The latter shall be better than the beginning.

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." Psalms 37:4

"Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; I say, on the LORD!" Psalm 27:14

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- ▷ 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 3 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



Ponder the Things of God

by Alistair Begg

"I will meditate on your precepts.." - Psalm 119:15

There are times when solitude is better than company, and silence is wiser than speech. We would be better Christians if we were alone more often, waiting on God and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for service in His kingdom. We ought to ponder the things of God, because that is how we get the real nutriment out of them.

Truth is something like the cluster of the vine: In order to have wine from it, we must bruise it; we must press and squeeze it many times. The bruiser's feet must come down joyfully on the bunches or else the juice will not flow; and the grapes must be properly tread or else much of the precious liquid will be wasted. So we must, by meditation, tread the clusters of truth if we desire the wine of consolation from them.

Our bodies are not supported by merely taking food into the mouth, but the process that really supplies the muscle and the nerve and the sinew and the bone is the process

of digestion. It is by digestion that the outward food becomes assimilated with the inner life. Our souls are not nourished merely by listening for a while to this and then to that and then to the other part of divine truth. Hearing, reading, marking, and learning all require inward digesting to complete their usefulness, and the inward digesting of the truth lies mainly in meditating upon it.

Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make only slow advances in the Christian life? Because they neglect their closets and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they want the corn, but they will not go out into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs on the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it.

Deliver us, O Lord, from such folly, and may this be our resolve this morning: "I will meditate on your precepts."

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



Midway Bible Fellowship

Proclaiming God's Truth & Demonstrating His Love

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts

10 a.m. - Worship service

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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/>

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

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