

# Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

## In this issue...

**Photos from our  
100-Hole Golf  
Marathon**

- page 2

**Listening to the  
Father's Heart**

A devotional  
message by  
Os Hillman.

- page 2

**Who's Going  
Thirsty?**

A devotional  
message from  
Alistair Begg

- page 3

Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

**Candid.**



## Goodbye (and Good Riddance), Marlboro Man!

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

*"If we love people, we will warn them of the  
consequences of dying in their sins."*

- R.C. Sproul

On January 11, 1964, Dr. Luther L. Terry, Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, released the first report of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health. It was based on more than 7,000 articles relating to smoking and disease that had already been published in various medical journals.

The Advisory Committee concluded that cigarette smoking is (1) a cause of lung cancer and laryngeal cancer in men; (2) a probable cause of lung cancer in women; and (3) the most important cause of chronic bronchitis. For several days, the report headlined newspapers across the country and was the lead story on every network television newscast. It was later ranked among the top news stories of 1964.

As a result of these findings - and the Surgeon General's report - Congress passed the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act of 1965 and the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act of 1969. These bills, once signed into law by Presidents Johnson and Nixon, required a health warning on cigarette packages, banned cigarette

advertising on radio and TV, and called for an annual report on the health consequences of smoking. Since then, warning labels have also been mandated on smokeless tobacco and vaping products.

Today, there are four different Surgeon General warning labels that cover everything from heart disease, emphysema, and carbon monoxide poisoning to fetal injury, premature birth, and low birth weight.

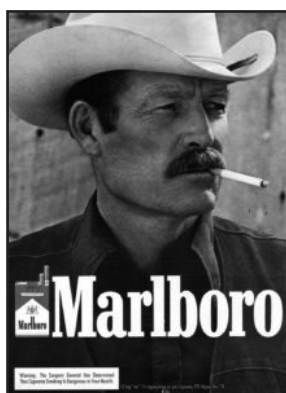
My friend, if the Surgeon General of the United States - having seen the conclusive data about the dangers of tobacco use - felt

compelled to warn Americans about its inherent dangers, shouldn't we as Christians feel even more compelled to warn unbelievers about the imminent danger of spending eternity in hell?

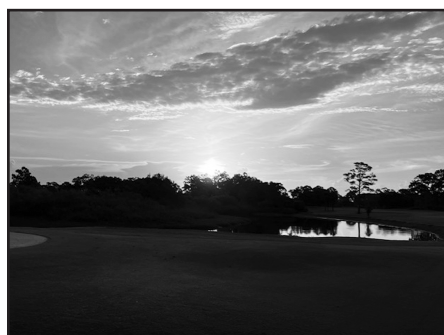
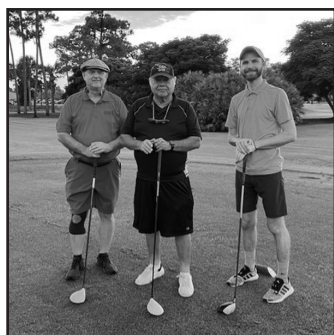
Dying of cancer is horrific and most of us have lost a loved one to that dreaded disease. But that temporary earthly suffering pales in comparison to languishing in the Lake of Fire for all eternity.

Please warn your unsaved loved ones about dying without Christ TODAY!

*"Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death - the lake of fire. And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:14-15 (BSB)*



## Photos from our 100-Hole Golf Marathon



## Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, each of my sons and daughters must experience their own personal cross in order to fulfill their destiny; there has to be a death before life can really be experienced. Betrayal is the tool that has often been a catalyst for this process. Even if you voluntarily go to the cross, it usually requires a third person to complete the process. For Jesus, it was Judas; for David, it was Absalom; for Joseph, it was his brothers. You must learn to wash the feet of the Judas' in your life. That is how you learn true forgiveness. That is how death works life in you.

For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could

bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; then I could hide. But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in the throng. Psalms 55:12-14

But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. Luke 6:27-29

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# Who's Going Thirsty?

by Alistair Begg

*"Let the one who desires take the water of life without price."*

- Revelation 22:17

The invitation is to "take ... without price." Jesus wants no payment or preparation. He seeks no recommendation from our virtuous emotions. If you have no good feelings, but if you are willing, you are invited; therefore come! If you have no belief and no repentance, come to Him, and He will give them to you. Come just as you are, and take without money and without price. He gives Himself to the needy.

In nineteenth-century Britain the drinking fountains at the corners of the streets were valuable institutions; it would have been a strange and foolish sight to see someone standing at the fountain declaring, "I cannot drink because I do not have any money." However poor an individual may be, there is the fountain, and just as he is, he may drink of it without cost. Thirsty passengers, as they go by, whether they are dressed poorly or expensively, do not look for any authorization to drink; the

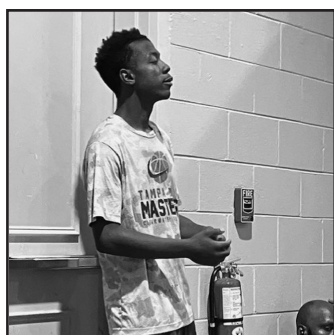
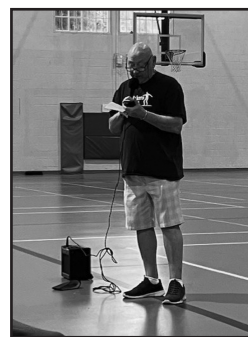
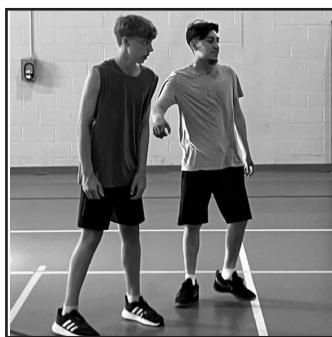
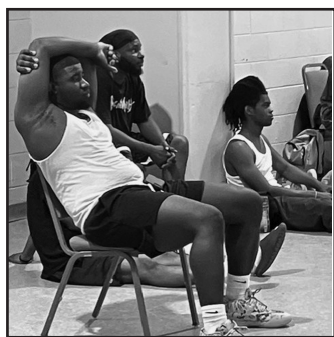
existence of the fountain is sufficient warrant for taking its water freely. The generosity of some good friends has put in place the refreshing supply, and we take it and ask no questions.

Perhaps the only people who go thirsty through the street where there is a drinking fountain are the fine ladies and gentlemen who are in their carriages. They are very thirsty but cannot think of being so vulgar as to get out to drink. It would demean them, they think, to drink at a common drinking fountain: so they ride by with parched lips.

How many there are who are rich in their own good works and cannot therefore come to Christ! "I will not be saved," they say, "in the same way as the prostitute or the blasphemer." What! Go to heaven in the same way as a chimney sweep? Is there no pathway to glory but the path that led the dying thief there? I will not be saved that way. Such proud boasters must remain without the living water; but "Let the one who desires *take the water of life without price.*"

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

## Living H2O Photos



# Trust God, Not the Weatherman

by Rev. Dale M. Glading

Last June, Deanna and I decided to take our four oldest grandkids to northern Kentucky to see the Ark Encounter – a life-size replica of Noah’s Ark – and the nearby Creation Museum. We also visited the Newport Aquarium and an alpaca farm while we were there along with several other sites.

The trip was so enjoyable that we decided to return to Kentucky again this June, but this time to tour the southern part of the state, focusing especially on the underground caves in the region. Our 2024 trip had been blessed with absolutely gorgeous weather, but the 2025 version was shaping up to be a partial rainout. In fact, the weatherman was calling for sunny skies on the day of our arrival, partial sun the next morning, and then three and a half days of rain.

Bummer!

We didn’t let the negative forecast slow us down, going to the top of the Sunsphere in Knoxville on Day One, and touring both Mammoth Cave and Dinosaur World on Day Two. Day Three was when the rain was supposed to hit, but guess what? The skies were clear all day long as we visited the Lost River Cave and a local dairy farm.

Surely it was going to rain the next day as we took an old-fashioned train ride through the Appalachian Mountains to an abandoned mining camp, right? Wrong! Nothing but sunshine once again... at least until we headed to our hotel in Cookeville, TN. For about 90 minutes, we drove through a steady downpour as our grandkids laughed, played, and napped inside. By the time we arrived at our destination, it was barely sprinkling and the next day brought blue skies and white puffy clouds.

God is so good!

No sooner had we returned from Kentucky, but my son Chris and I were scheduled to participate in a 100-Hole Golf Marathon to raise money for our Living H2O Initiative. Once again, the weather report was ominous at best with a 55% chance of thunderstorms throughout the day.

Well, if my sunburn is any indication, God decided that He knew better than the weatherman because we experienced one 10-minute shower and that was it. The rest of the day was sunny and hot, but with a refreshing afternoon and evening breeze.

Would God have been just as good - and just as deserving of praise - if it had rained every day on our trip to Kentucky as well as throughout our golf marathon? You betcha! After all, Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 5:45 that “He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Likewise, in Isaiah 55:9, God reminds us that “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

As they say in prison, “God is good all the time and all the time God is good.” Yes, when the sun is shining and yes, when the rain is coming down like cats and dogs.

However, I am forever grateful that He chose to give us beautiful weather to enjoy His creation in Kentucky while making some precious memories with our even more precious grandchildren. And yes, I am equally thankful for His granting Chris and me clear skies (and stamina!) to play 100 holes of golf in a single day.



**Midway Bible Fellowship**

*Proclaiming God's Truth & Demonstrating His Love*

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts

10 a.m. - Worship service

1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

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