

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

In this issue...

Shine Baby, Shine!

No more hiding your lamp under a basket!

- page 2

Have You Lost Your Zip, Zing and Zest for Life?

A devotional message from Dale.

- page 2

The Kaleidoscope of Christ's Beauty

A devotional message from Alistair Begg.

- page 4

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.


CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
ALLIANCE

Puma in Paradise

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

His real name is Allen Presbury Sr., but everyone calls him “Puma.” He got that nickname because of all the 3,500 men who were incarcerated at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford, Pennsylvania, he was the quickest and most agile athlete of them all.

That’s saying a lot about Puma’s athletic ability. It’s also saying a lot about the nature of his crime, because you didn’t get sent to Graterford for jaywalking or stealing a pack of gum. Built in 1929, SCI-Graterford was Pennsylvania’s largest maximum-security prison, surrounded by 30-foot-high concrete walls and guarded by nine manned towers. Graterford was decommissioned in 2018 and its inmates, including Puma, were relocated to the newly constructed SCI-Phoenix.

I first met Puma back in the late 1980s or early 1990s when our prison ministry softball team went to Graterford to play against their varsity team and minister to their players and any interested spectators. As you can imagine, Graterford’s all-star team was always very strong because they chose the best 10 players out of the 3,500 men who lived there. Graterford also had a massive recreation yard that held hundreds of men at any given time.



Puma played right field, batted left-handed, and to the best of memory, slugged at least one homer that first day. He also ran the bases like a deer. Over the years, Puma began to slow down as age and life behind bars took their inevitable toll. He eventually moved from right field to first base and then to pitcher, but he could still hit the ball a very long way.

The last time I saw Puma was in 2011, shortly before our family relocated to Florida to launch Risk Takers for Christ, and our conversation went something like this...

“Puma, I’ve been coming into this prison for the past 20 years, which means you’ve heard the gospel message several dozen times from our team. I’m not getting any younger and neither are you. When are you finally going to accept Jesus as your Savior?”

Puma just smiled wanly and shrugged. After all, you gotta be tough to survive in Graterford and so, my words just seemed to bounce off his rough exterior.

Since moving to Florida, I’ve thought of Puma and spoken about his situation to various groups when I’ve been asked to share about my prison ministry experiences. You see, one of the most heartbreaking aspects of Puma’s life is that his time on the streets was so violent that when he committed the crime for which he was incarcerated, his son was

continued on page 3

Shine, Baby, Shine!

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

“The Church has a God-given calling to respond to moral chaos.” - Carl R. Trueman

Jesus couldn't have made it any clearer in Matthew 5, the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, when he told His disciples that they were the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”.

Salt provides flavor and - especially in ancient times - was used as a preservative. And so, Christians are to “flavor” our world with goodness and grace while preserving our culture from ever encroaching evil forces.

Meanwhile, light not only guides people's steps so they don't stumble and fall, but it also exposes darkness... and the forces that rely on it.

Let me add some personal perspective...

I was born in 1959 during the last few months of the Eisenhower administration, and I grew up during the 1960s and 1970s. As chaotic as the Sixties were - with the anti-Vietnam War protests and the assassinations of JFK, RFK and MLK Jr. - and the Watergate scandal that plagued the early Seventies, it was still a much simpler time.

There were no personal computers, no cell phones, no

internet, most moms were homemakers, and everyone recognized two (and only two) genders. Profanity in public was minimal and there was no such thing as cable TV with its hundreds of sex-laden channels.

Perhaps we were lulled into a false sense of security, believing that common sense and common decency would continue indefinitely... and maybe even last forever. If so, we were foolishly naïve and unprepared for the onslaught of permissiveness and progressivism that has since turned America into a modern-day version of Sodom and Gomorrah.

So, what is a God-fearing, Christ-loving person to do? Run for cover? Hunker down and pray for the Lord's return? Keep quiet and “go with the flow” lest we draw attention to ourselves?

None of the above are acceptable options for a truly born-again believer! Individually and collectively, we must stand up and speak out for righteousness... while shaming the unsaved world by living lives that are above reproach and providing a moral compass for them to follow.

In other words, no more hiding your lamp under a basket (see Matthew 5:15). Shine, baby, shine!

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (BSB)

Have You Lost Your Zip, Zing and Zest for Life?

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

“Comfort is the enemy of progress. Change is disruptive but necessary. Effective change is not merely doing something different; it is doing something better.” - Dan Reiland, The Pastor's Coach

When I founded Risk Takers for Christ in 2011, it was for the purpose of challenging my fellow believers to step outside of their spiritual comfort zones and to take what I call “sanctified risks” for Jesus Christ. That's why our ministry's logo features a man walking along a ledge or a tightrope.

You see, once we trust Jesus as our Savior and our “honeymoon period” ends, the Christian life can become fair-

ly routine if we let it. We have our “fire assurance” - meaning we know that we are going to spend eternity in heaven instead of hell - and so, we tend to put things on spiritual autopilot, coasting and cruising our way through life until God calls us home.

Yes, we still attend church faithfully, read our Bible daily, and pray regularly (if somewhat uninspiringly). But the zip, zing and zest are gone because we are content to not make any waves or ruffle any feathers... living our quiet, moral and unobtrusive lives below the radar, careful not to stand out in the crowd lest we offend someone.

What an absolute waste!

My friend, God did not send His Son to Earth - and Jesus did not bleed and die on the cross - so you and I

continued on page 3

Puma in Paradise

continued from page 1

listed as a co-defendant. And so, when we played softball against the varsity squad at Graterford, Allen Presbury Jr. would be sitting next to Allen Presbury Sr. on the bench.

Teammates in softball and teammates in crime... how incredibly tragic.

Allen Presbury Jr. is no longer incarcerated and quite frankly, I don't know if that's because he was released or because he died in prison. But I can tell you that Puma is still a resident at SCI-Phoenix, where he will turn 74 years old on the 4th of July.

The latest mug shot of Puma was taken on July 3, 2025, just before his 73rd birthday and he has a scowl on his face. He also looks 10 years older than his true biological age. Spending most of your adult life behind bars will do that to a man.

However, last week I received a text message from the

gentleman who I trained and mentored at my previous ministry to take over for me when I left in 2011. Actually, it was a group text sent not only to me, but also to a handful of my former teammates on The Saints Prison Ministry softball team that I had coached and played on for 24 years. Frank, my successor, had heard from someone involved in another prison ministry that Puma had finally placed his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and he wanted to share that wonderful news with us.

Imagine that... Allen Presbury Sr. is now my brother-in-Christ!

Just like the persistent widow in Luke 18, who badgered the judge until she received justice, hundreds of prison ministry volunteers have been bombarding the throne of God for decades, pleading with Him to save Puma's soul.

And now He has... hallelujah!

See you in Glory if not before, brother (and I sure hope heaven has a softball field).

Have You Lost Your Zip, Zing and Zest for Life?

continued from page 2

could live a painless and nondescript life. On the contrary, we are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), the light of the world (Matthew 5:14), and "more than conquerors" through Jesus Christ (Romans 8:37).

As such, our marching orders are to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19) and to storm the very gates of hell to rescue those souls in danger of perishing (Matthew 16:18). In other words, we are to be on the offensive, not the defensive side when it comes to spiritual matters "because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (I John 4:4).

Sounds to me like we are called to be Risk Takers for Christ!

"And without faith it is impossible to please God. For anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."
Hebrews 11:6 (BSB)

Golf Marathon Photos



The Kaleidoscope of Christ's Beauty

by Alistair Begg

"Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved."

- Song of Songs 1:16

From every angle our Well-beloved is most fair. Our various experiences are meant by our heavenly Father to provide new vantage points from which we may view the loveliness of Jesus. How friendly are our trials when they allow us a clearer view of Jesus than ordinary life could afford us! We have seen Him from the mountain peaks, and He has shone upon us as the sun in His strength; but we have seen Him also from the lions' dens, and even there He has lost none of His loveliness. In the experience of suffering and pain, from the borders of the grave, we have turned our eyes to our soul's spouse, and He has never been other than "beautiful."

Many of His saints looked upon Him from the gloom of dungeons and from the martyr's flames; yet they never uttered an ill word of Him, but died extolling His surpassing charms. To keep our gaze on the Lord Jesus is noble and pleasant employment. Is it not unspeakably delightful to view the Savior in all His works and to perceive Him matchless in each? To shift the kaleidoscope, as it were, and to find fresh combinations of matchless grace? In the manger and in eternity, on the cross and on His throne, in the garden and in His kingdom, among thieves or in the midst of cherubim, He is everywhere

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 uplifting devotional message each weekday.

glorious in His beauty.

Examine carefully every little act of His life and every trait of His character, and He is as lovely in the minute as in the majestic. Judge Him as you will, you cannot censure; weigh Him as you please, and He will not be found wanting. Eternity shall not discover the shadow of a spot in our Beloved, but rather as ages revolve, His hidden glories will shine with even more inconceivable splendor, and His unutterable loveliness will continually ravish all celestial minds.

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

1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

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/>

Our Staff & Board Members

Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Rev. Larry "Chap" Lilly, Vice President

Christopher Glading, Director of Programs and Publicity

Rebekah Bailey, Director of Communications

Deanna Glading, Executive Assistant

Trustees: Rev. Tom Cox, Steve Salis, Steve Schwartz

Advisory Council: Robert Bartosz, Steve Schoch

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

Excerpts may be published or reproduced providing proper attribution is given.