

# Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

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## Sowing Seeds, Saving Souls, and Molding Men

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

What do you do when your guest speaker has to cancel at the last minute for health reasons? Simply put, you utter a quick prayer, trust God, and speak from the heart.

That's exactly what happened - and what I did - at a recent Living H2O Initiative. Since I had no time to prepare a message, I felt that God wanted me to share about an experience I had just had a few minutes earlier.

Walking into a local CVS drug store to pick up some cases of bottled water, I noticed a large man in his early 30s getting ready to check out. There was nothing out of the ordinary about him except for his attire... or lack thereof. You see, not only were his pants below his rump, but all of his underwear - and at least half of his bare backside - were on display for all to see.

As I lined up behind him at the self-checkout counter, I decided to say something. "Hey brother," I began, "you need to pull your pants up."

Turning to me with an annoyed look on his face, the man responded with a sneer, "First, I'm not your brother."

"Well, you still need to pull your pants up," I replied. "There are ladies here and they don't need to see that." Offering a condescending

smile, the man extended his hand - which I shook - and promptly pulled up his pants.

As I glanced over at the store manager, a middle-aged woman who was closely monitoring the situation, I saw her mouth the words, "Thank you" at me. She then directed me to a live checkout counter where she waited on me personally... and thanked me once again.

And so, that is how I began my halftime devotional message before a packed gym of young men in their teens and early twenties. "Before I start," I said, "I want you all to say, 'Dale is a dinosaur.'" They laughed and complied, waiting to see what was coming next.



"You guys know how much I care about you and how badly I want to see you trust Jesus Christ as your

Savior," I told them. "But I also want you to succeed in life and part of success is dressing properly, speaking articulately, and acting responsibly."

After sharing my CVS story with them, I commended them for the simple fact that I rarely have to ask any of them to pull their pants up at our program. "Whether you do it because it's the rules... or because you respect me... or you realize that this church gym is as much God's house as the sanctuary across the parking lot, I applaud your behavior."

From there, I spoke about the importance of staying in school and getting a good education, landing a good job and working hard at it so they get promoted, developing good

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# Sowing Seeds, Saving Souls, and Molding Men

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credit, and becoming productive members of society. I also stressed the importance of treating women with respect, which included not using profanity in their presence or getting them pregnant outside of marriage.

Sure, a few of them giggled, but the vast majority hung on my every word. I then talked about how much God-given potential they all possessed and how badly I wanted to see them use it for His glory. I finished by assuring them of my love, after which I explained God's plan of salvation, encouraging them to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

When I was done, they erupted in applause.

Shortly afterwards, one young man approached me and said, "Thanks for your speech. I'm really trying."

"I know," I replied, "and you really do have a lot of potential."

Then another young man came up to me to share some good news. "I just bought a house," Jerry told me excit-

edly. "Good for you, Jerry!" I said, asking him for more details.

Jerry has been attending our Living H2O Initiative since he was in middle school, which was about seven or eight years ago. He has since graduated from high school and went to work for an air-conditioning company. Now, having diligently saved part of his salary, he was a first-time homeowner and couldn't wait to tell me about it.

"I wish I could come out more often," Jerry said, "but I usually work on my new house every night until 8 p.m."

"I understand completely," I told Jerry, "and I couldn't be prouder of you."

And that, my friends, is what our Living H2O Initiative is all about: sowing seeds, saving souls, and molding men.



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## Expect Trouble

by Alistair Begg

*"In the world you will have tribulation."*

- John 16:33

Are you asking why this should be, believer? Look upward to your heavenly Father, and behold Him pure and holy. Do you know that you are one day to be like Him? Will you easily be conformed to His image? Will you not require much refining in the furnace of affliction to purify you? Will it be an easy thing to get rid of your corruptions and make you perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect?

Next, Christian, turn your eye downward. Do you know what foes you have beneath your feet? You were once a servant of Satan, and no king will willingly lose his subjects. Do you think that Satan will leave you alone? No, he will always be at you, for he "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."<sup>1</sup> Expect trouble, then, Christian, when you look beneath you.

Then look around you. Where are you? You are in enemy country, a stranger and an alien. The world is not your friend. If it is, then you are not God's friend, for whoever is the friend of the world is the enemy of God. Be certain that you will find enemies everywhere. When you sleep, remember that you are resting on the battlefield; when you travel, suspect an ambush in every hedge. As mosquitoes are said to bite strangers more than natives, so the trials of earth will be sharpest to you.

Lastly, look within you, into your own heart, and observe what is there. Sin and self are still within. If you had no devil to tempt you, no enemies to fight you, and no world to ensnare you, you would still find in yourself enough evil to be a sore trial to you, for "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick." Expect trouble then, but do not despair on account of it, for God is with you to help and to strengthen you. He has said, "call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

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

## Words of Wisdom from The Prince of Preachers

Upstarts frequently steal the highest places, while the truly great struggle in obscurity. This is a riddle in providence whose solution will one day gladden the hearts of the upright; but it is so common a fact that none of us should complain if we face the experience. When our Lord was on earth, although He is the Prince of the kings of the earth, yet He walked the footpath of weariness and service as the Servant of servants.

It should then be no surprise if His followers, who are princes in His line, should also be looked down upon as inferior and contemptible persons. The world is upside-down, and therefore the first are last and the last first. Consider how the servile sons of Satan lord it in the earth! What a high horse they ride! How they exalt

themselves. David wanders on the mountains, while Saul reigns in state; Elijah is complaining in the cave, while Jezebel is boasting in the palace. Yet who would wish to take the places of the proud rebels? And who, on the other hand, might not envy the despised saints? When the wheel turns, those who are lowest rise, and the highest sink. Patience, then, believer, eternity will right the wrongs of time.



*"I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves." Ecclesiastes 10:7*

- Charles H. Spurgeon

## Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, the world supposes that you must be strong to be of value, but I want you to know that I most often use broken vessels. When my son Jacob wrestled with my angel, he was literally striving with me. In his early years he used control and manipulation in his relationships because he was driven by fear and insecurity. He was such a strong leader. He had many fine qualities. But he depended a great deal on his own strength. I had to remove his physical strength so that my strength could be realized in him. Like a stallion, his strong will had to be broken. Otherwise, he would not have fulfilled his destiny; his life required a limp. You, too, have received the blessing of the limp. This often unwanted gift allows my sons and daughters to realize that true life can only come when they fully identify with me. My nature is to work through broken vessels. Embrace this and see what I will do through your limp.

*"In that day," says Yahweh, "I will assemble that which is lame, and I will gather that which is driven away, and that which I have afflicted; And I will make that which was lame a remnant, and that which was cast far off a strong nation: And Yahweh will reign over them on Mount Zion from then on, even forever." Micah 4:6-7*

*"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." Ps 34:18*

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## Door Knocking vs. Feet Sitting

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

*"Work harder than anybody you've ever seen. That's what I believe." - Meek Mill, musician*

I guess I get it from my dad...

What's that, Dale? Your sweet tooth? Well, yes, but that's not what I'm referring to today. I meant my dad's strong work ethic, which is something he needed to provide for a family of eight on a single income while sending four of us to college.

I followed in my dad's footsteps by starting a prison ministry from scratch, writing three books, and running for Congress twice in the span of three years. Just try working 50-60 hours per week and then knocking on 10,000 doors in your "spare" time!

When our family relocated to Florida in 2011, I quickly discovered that I could outwork almost everyone I met. I suppose it comes from growing up in New Jersey, where the pace is fast and the rat race is in full swing. In the Garden State, you either sink or swim... and if you're standing still, you're actually falling behind.

Native Floridians, on the other hand, tend to be a bit more laid back in a "what's your hurry?" kind of way. I suppose that's why they often smile more and live longer than us transplanted northeasterners.

But something tells me that there is probably a "happy

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over 100 years of experience in the injection molding industry. Scott, Frank and Doug Cooley are hands on managers who oversee the daily operations at Nylacarb. They are dedicated to providing unparalleled service to customers, and confident in their abilities to fulfill your injection molding needs.

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### 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.*

## Door Knocking vs. Feet Sitting

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medium” somewhere that we should aspire to, especially when it comes to spiritual matters. In Luke 10, we read the story of how Mary and Martha responded to a visit from Jesus. While Martha busied herself making sure that Jesus was comfortable and well fed, Mary simply sat at His feet and drank in His teaching.

When Martha complained to Jesus about Mary’s supposed laziness, He chastised her gently but directly. “Martha, Martha, you are worried about many things,” Jesus said. “But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Warren Wiersbe, one of my favorite Bible commentators who is now with the Lord, put it this way...

“What we do with Christ is far more important than what we do for Christ. Again, it is not an either/or situation; it is a matter of balance... Few things are as damaging to the Christian life as trying to work for Christ without taking time to commune with Christ.”

Can I get an “Amen?”

### Save the Date!

100-Hole Golf Marathon  
Wednesday, June 14, 2023  
Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL



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