

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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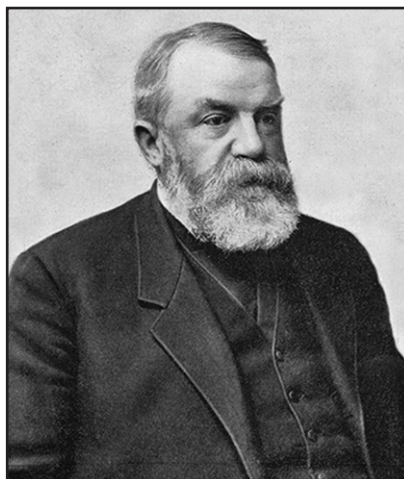
A Man Fully Consecrated to God

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

*"The world has yet to see what God will do
with a man fully consecrated to Him. By
God's help, I aim to be that man."*

- D.L. Moody

Dwight Lyman Moody was born in Northfield MA in 1837 and died there in 1899. In the 62 intervening years, he went from being a shoe salesman in his uncle's store in Boston to one of the greatest evangelists of the 19th century. Moody established a large church and Bible institute in Chicago, both of which were renamed in his honor after his death. He also founded two schools in Massachusetts, one for girls in 1879 and one for boys in 1881, that eventually merged in the late 20th century.



Moody traveled the world as an itinerant evangelist along with hymnwriter and gospel singer Ira Sankey, drawing huge crowds in England, Scotland, and Sweden. He was so well-known that Abraham Lincoln attended one of his Sunday School classes and Ulysses S. Grant attended one of his revival meetings. A conscientious objector during the Civil War, Moody paid nine visits to various battlefronts under the auspices of the United States Christian Commission of the YMCA. He also

modified and used to great effect the "Wordless Book" first designed by C.H. Spurgeon.

Today's quote epitomizes Moody's passion for serving God and reaching the lost. So does the following quote also attributed to him: "Faith makes all things possible... Love makes all things easy." Despite not having a formal Bible education and losing everything in the Great Chicago Fire except for "his reputation and his Bible," D.L.

Moody was used by God to impact millions of people during his 40-year ministry career.

Moody reminds me of a young shepherd boy named David, whom God called "a man after My own heart" (see I Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22). Not sinless or perfect but dedicated and fully committed.

Remember, my friend, God doesn't want your ability; He wants your availability. He will supply the rest and use you for His glory beyond your wildest dreams.

"For when Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he was not wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God, as his father David had been. Solomon followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD; unlike his father David, he did not follow the LORD completely."

- I Kings 11:4-6 (BSB)

The King's Garden

by Alistair Begg

“...*The king's garden...*”- Nehemiah 3:15

Mention of the king's garden by Nehemiah brings to mind the paradise that the King of kings prepared for Adam. Sin has utterly ruined that delightful dwelling and has driven out the children of men to till the ground, which yields thorns and thistles to them. My soul, remember the Fall, for it was your fall. Weep much because the Lord of love was so shamefully ill treated by the head of the human race, of which you are a member, as undeserving as any. Behold how dragons and demons dwell on this fair earth, which was once a garden of delights.

Look now at another King's garden, which the King waters with His bloody sweat -Gethsemane, whose bitter herbs are far sweeter to renewed souls than the luscious fruits of Eden. In Gethsemane the mischief of the serpent in the first garden was undone: There the curse was lifted

from earth and borne by the woman's promised seed. My soul, learn to ponder Christ's agony and passion; visit the garden of the olive-press, and view your great Redeemer rescuing you from your lost condition. This is the garden of gardens; indeed, here the soul may see the guilt of sin and the power of love, two sights that surpass all others.

Is there no other King's garden? Yes, my heart, or should be. How do the flowers flourish? Do any choice fruits appear? Does the King walk there and rest in the arbor of my spirit? Let me ensure that the plants are trimmed and watered, and the mischievous foxes hunted out. Come, Lord, and let the heavenly wind blow at Your coming, that the spices of Your garden may cast their fragrance everywhere. I must not forget the King's garden of the church. O Lord, send prosperity to it. Rebuild her walls, nourish her plants, ripen her fruits, and from the huge wilderness reclaim the wasteland and make of it a King's garden.

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

Entitlements

by Os Hillman

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!"

- Philippians 2:8

Society today has duped many of us into believing that the world owes us. It owes us a good living, a loving spouse, good health throughout our whole life, sexual pleasure when we want it, and paid vacations the rest of our lives. The world has told us if we work hard and do right, we are entitled to these things. This is the Esau perspective on life. For a mere meal, he sold his own birthright for a simple pleasure to which he felt entitled.

Society, and even the Church, is more pleasure-focused than ever before. George Barna, the Christian researcher, cites:

We are not a society that simply enjoys its time off. Our leisure appetites drive us. It is increasingly common to hear people turning down job offers because the hours or other responsibilities would interfere with their hobbies, fitness regimens and other free time activities. Even

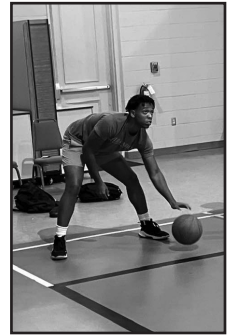
our spending habits show that playing has become a major priority. The average household spends more money on entertainment than it does clothing, health care, furniture or gasoline. Recreational activities have jumped more than 10 percent in the amount of time given to them. [George Barna, Frog In The Kettle (Ventura, California: Regal Books, 1990), 82.]

What are the motives for our work life? Is it only to gain increased pleasure and leisure time? Jesus said He came only to do the work of the Father. I am sure that Jesus had times of refreshment in His life that allowed Him to get recharged for the mission God called Him to. However, He understood the balance of maintaining mission and play.

When we view life with an attitude of entitlements, we are susceptible to becoming disappointed, resentful, and even bitter when our expectations go unmet. Ask the Lord if you need to relinquish any rights that may be hindering your freedom to experience His love and grace.

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Living H2O Photos



My Focus in My Medicare Years

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"I have now concentrated all my prayers into one, and that one prayer is this: that I may die to self and live wholly to Him." - C.H. Spurgeon

At the ripe old age of 64, do you know what matters to me? Every year, it seems like the list grows smaller and smaller.

When I was a young boy, things like good friends, good grades, and athletic success were critically important to me. So were the fortunes of my beloved New York Yankees and my all-time sports hero, Jack Nicklaus. In my teenage years, pretty girls joined the list as did my college aspirations.

By the time I met and married Deanna and we had started a family together, my main priorities were my bride, our kids, my career, and our church. Then, when I entered full-time prison ministry, that fledgling nonprofit organization took on increased importance. Not only were the eternal souls of hundreds of thousands of inmates at stake, but the ministry was also my livelihood... and that of 10 other employees under my care.

Other priorities also crept in during my 40's, including my nascent political career and the three books I wrote and self-published. Finally, our family's relocation to Florida and the launching of Risk Takers for Christ took up a lot of my time, attention, and energy.

Now, as I approach my "Medicare years," all three of our children are married and have established their own homes. At the same time, they have blessed us with six precious grandchildren who are now one of my absolute top priorities. I love them so much and am so deeply burdened for their spiritual growth and development that I pray earnestly for them daily.

I also spend a good bit of time focusing on our new church plant, Midway Bible Fellowship, and caring for our elderly parents. And so, at this stage of the game, life is about faith and family... family and faith. Ministering to those closest to me and sharing the gospel with lost and lonely people is all that really matters.

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."
- I Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)

Memorial Day Weekend at Midway Bible Fellowship



Save the Date!

100-Hole Golf Marathon
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL



To make a per-hole-pledge or a one-time donation, please visit
<https://www.risktakersforchrist.org/partner--donate/>
or scan the QR code below



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.*



Midway Bible Fellowship
Proclaiming God's Truth & Demonstrating His Love

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts
9 a.m. - Worship service
1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

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