

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.



Risk Takers for Christ Meets the "Putnam Seven"

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

The Magnificent Seven is a classic 1960 western directed by John Sturges and starring Yul Brenner, Steve McQueen, Charles Bronson, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter, James Coburn, and Horst Bucholz. A remake of a 1954

Japanese film, *Seven Samurai*, it tells the story of a group of seven gunfighters hired to protect a small village in Mexico from a group of marauding bandits led by Eli Wallach.

The Magnificent Seven was such a critical and commercial success that it spawned three sequels, a television series that aired from 1998 to 2000, and a 2016 remake featuring such mega-stars as Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, and Ethan Hawke.

Well, on May 2nd, a new "feature film" was released at Putnam Correctional Institution in East Palatka FL starring Desi, Juan, Larry, Jatari, Donald, Jaquan, and Jevity. You've probably never heard of them, but God most certainly has because on that overcast day when our Risk Takers for Christ basketball team played and ministered at their facility, the "Putnam Seven" repented of their sins and placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Although you won't see their names lit up on

a movie theater marquee or announced at a Hollywood awards ceremony, their names are now recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life for all eternity... and that is far more valuable than an Oscar!

I could go on and on about how God blessed our day of ministry from the time our alarm clocks went off at 3 a.m.... through the 5-hour roundtrip drive... to the back-to-back games with no subs in Game One and just two inmate subs in Game Two... but it would be close to impossible to fully describe how powerfully He moved that day. Suffice it to say that it was one of the BEST days I have spent behind bars in recent years (even though one of my jobs was to defend a 330-pound inmate and prevent him from scoring. Oh, my aching body!)

The sheer joy of leading men to saving faith in Christ - and having inmates like Johnny and Billy come up to me between games to share their hearts and ask for personal prayer - is simply indescribable. So are the heartfelt thanks and yes, the hugs they offered out of sheer gratitude for our making the trip.

Because of YOUR generosity, not only were we able to distribute gospel literature to everyone in attendance, but we also gave hundreds of Gospel of Johns and evangelistic tracts (in both English and Spanish) for the players and spectators to take back to their



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RTC Winning Streak Continues!

by Rev. Dale Glading, President



For the 7th consecutive year, Risk Takers for Christ has been awarded Candid's prestigious Platinum Seal of Transparency. To give you an idea how rare that honor is, Candid, which was formed in 2019 when GuideStar and the Foundation Center merged, monitors the

finances of more than 1.9 million nonprofit organizations in the United States every year... and less than 1% of them achieve Platinum status.

Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency is the most sought-after award in the nonprofit industry and showcases the impact an organization is having as well as its overall performance. To qualify for Platinum status, an organization must demonstrate a top-tier commitment to data sharing and full financial transparency, providing comprehensive information about its mission, strategy,

metrics, and finances.

In other words, Risk Takers for Christ continues to maintain the highest ethical standards including 100% financial transparency. As such, our donors can rest assured that their gifts are being used wisely, judiciously, and for their intended purposes.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift to Risk Takers for Christ, simply scan the QR code below:



You can also donate by mail by sending a check to Risk Takers for Christ, PO Box 651421, Vero Beach FL 32965.

Risk Takers for Christ Meets the "Putnam Seven"

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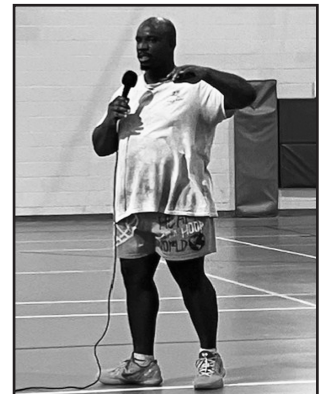
dorms and hand out to their friends who weren't able to attend our games. We also donated two basketballs, two nets, two whistles, and an air pump to the facility's recreation department... and they were extremely grateful.

One final note about last month's prison ministry trip...

Aside from me, our other four basketball players - Marty, Charles, Aaron, and Shaiel - were all initially exposed to Risk Takers for Christ through our Living H2O Initiative. This was the third trip for Marty and Charles, the second one for Aaron, and the first one for Shaiel. It is so rewarding to see young men attend our basketball program for at-risk youth, grow in their faith, and then share that faith with lost and lonely inmates.

Our next prison ministry trip is scheduled for Saturday, August 1st to Sumter Correctional Institution in Bushnell, FL. Please start praying *now* for God to prepare the hearts of the men we will encounter so that they will be receptive to the Gospel message.

Living H2O Photos



Tested and Battered

by Alistair Begg

"All the days of my service I would wait." - Job 14:14

A short stay on earth will make heaven more heavenly. Nothing makes rest so enjoyable as work; nothing renders security so pleasant as exposure to danger. The bitter cups of earth will give a relish to the new wine that sparkles in the golden bowls of heaven. Our battered armor and scarred countenances will render more glorious our victory above, when we are welcomed to the seats of those who have overcome the world.

We would not have full fellowship with Christ if we did not sojourn for a while below, for He was baptized with a baptism of suffering among men, and we must be baptized with the same if we would share His kingdom. Fellowship with Christ is so honorable that the sorest sorrow is a light price by which to procure it.

Another reason for our lingering here is for the good of others. We would not wish to enter heaven till our work is done, and it may be that we still have a part to play

shining as light in the dark wilderness of sin.

Our prolonged stay here is doubtless for God's glory. A tested saint, like a well-cut diamond, glitters much in the King's crown. Nothing reflects so much honor on a workman as a protracted and severe trial of his work and his triumphant endurance of the ordeal without giving in or giving up. We are God's workmanship, and He will be glorified by our afflictions. It is for the honor of Jesus that we endure the trial of our faith with sacred joy. Let each man surrender his own longings to the glory of Jesus and declare: "If my lying in the dust would elevate my Lord by so much as an inch, let me still lie among the pots of earth. If to live on earth forever would make my Lord more glorious, it should be my heaven to be shut out of heaven."

Our time is fixed and settled by eternal decree. Let us not be anxious about it, but wait with patience until the gates of pearl shall open.

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

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." - Hebrews 12:15

Son, sometimes it's hard for you to forget the failures of your past. I never created you to be a perfect man or husband or father or boss. All of my sons and daughters have a sin nature. Failures do not mean you are a failure. It simply means you have fallen short. Some of life's greatest lessons can come through the lessons learned from your failures. If you allow mistakes to define your future, you will never risk again. You will live in fear of failing. You will define your life by performance. I desire you to live free of fear and performance, willing to risk and trust me for outcomes. Fear of failure hampers your ability to walk with me, and leaves you unsure of my love and omnipotence in your life. I never define you by your past, only by what I see as your potential. Do you remember my first words to Gideon? They were "Oh mighty warrior!" He was just a farmer at the time, but I saw him for what he was to become. Think not of your

past, my son, but only of the future I have for you.

"But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Phil 3:13.

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Simply type in our GiveBack ID: MGVVPU or use the following QR code:



Prayer Requests from the Men at Putnam CI

“For God to please make clear His will for my life.” - Jason

“I thank God for everything and pray for my sister Letika.” - Bobby

“Please pray for my future.” - Terence

“To become more obedient.” - Billy

“Please pray for my mother, Kelleen. She recently uprooted her life and moved up north to take on some very large tasks. Pray that she will find a loving church community in Ohio.” - Aiden

“Please pray for my wife and my mom.” - Johnnie

“To be filled with God’s assurance and not live off my own understanding.” - Kendarius

“Please pray that my detainer gets lifted this month and for my success in music when I get out,” - Lexus

“Please pray for my family’s health.” - Kelly

“That my grandson may also know Jesus.” - Jeffrey

“For my parole hearing, my wife, and my children.” - Marcus

“My E.O.S. (end of sentence) date is coming soon.” - Jevity

“Please pray for Angelica. She is going through a tough time.” - Donald

“For freedom and a wife.” - Juan

“For Putnam, my family and friends, my situation, and even my enemies.” - Desi



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

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.

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/>

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