

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

In this issue...

The Privileges of Mercy

A devotional message from Alistair Begg.
- page 2

Lookin' for Lovee

A devotional message from Dale.
- page 3

Living H2O Initiative Photos

- page 4

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Foundations on Fill Dirt

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Many years ago, Deanna and I were members of a wonderful independent Bible church in New Jersey. The people were extremely friendly, and the preaching was 100% biblical. What a great place to raise our children “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

The sanctuary, which was built in the 1970s, was very nice, too. In fact, it had enough room to accommodate at least 200 people, not including the balcony. Shortly after we started attending, the congregation even voted to add a state-of-the-art air conditioning system, which made worshipping on steamy summer mornings much more comfortable.

The only problem was the fellowship hall, which had been built in the 1950s before the old sanctuary was torn down and replaced by the new one. There was nothing wrong with the actual construction per se, but the foundation had been laid on fill dirt. And so, over the years, it began to slowly settle, causing cracks in the wall.

Deanna and I began attending the church shortly after we were married in 1985, and we stayed for 22 years. Over the course of those two decades, there was one subject that dominated virtually every congregational and deacon’s meeting that I attended: What should we do about the crack in the wall of the fellowship hall?

Instead of acting decisively, the deacon board continued to kick the proverbial can down the road, choosing to monitor the crack with a series of pencil measurements, each one documented and dated. The “wait and see” approach continued year after year while the crack widened inch by inch.

I have learned two very important lessons from that experience. First, make sure that your foundation is laid on terra firma. That goes for actual physical construction as well as in matters of faith. Jesus Himself taught that houses that are built on rock withstand life’s storms. Conversely, ones that are constructed on ever-shifting sand collapse when the rain falls and the wind blows.



Jesus, who was a master carpenter, was speaking both literally and spiritually. Contractors probably nodded in agreement when He spoke in terms they could easily understand and identify with. However, I am sure that they - and the rest of the crowd - also grasped the deeper meaning of the parable.

I think that one of the reasons why the United States of America has survived and prospered for 248 years is that our country was built on solid Judeo-Christian principles. That foundation has served us extremely well, but it is starting to show some wear and tear - and more than a few cracks - as politicians, academics, the media, and the entertainment industry all seek to deny our spiritual heritage

continued on page 2

Foundations on Fill Dirt

continued from page 1

and undermine our foundation of faith.

Ronald Reagan understood the dangers of turning our collective backs on God, saying that “If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”

“The Founding Fathers believed that faith in God was the key to our being a good people and America’s becoming a great nation,” the Gipper said. “Our National Motto - In God We Trust - was not chosen lightly. It reflects a basic recognition that there is a divine authority in the universe to which this nation owes homage.”

President Reagan also believed that “Inside the Bible’s pages lie the answers to all the problems that mankind has ever known. I hope Americans will read and study the Bible,” he added.

Unlike the secular humanists who are determined to rewrite American history, Mr. Reagan proposed that “Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.” He reasoned that

“Without God, there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience... without God, there is a coarsening of the society; without God, democracy will not and cannot long endure.”

The second lesson I learned from my “cracked church” experience was that sometimes you just have to gather the necessary information, pray hard for wisdom, and then pull the trigger. “It’s time to fish or cut bait,” my dad was fond of saying... and he was right.

I can remember telling my fellow deacons that I would support any decision they made - whether it was to demolish the fellowship hall and build a new one on true bedrock or to add a second story gym on top of the existing structure. “Just make a decision,” I counseled them to no avail.

Deanna and I relocated to another town in 2007 and started attending a church closer to home, so I don’t know what happened to the fellowship hall or the ever-widening crack. However, I do know what will happen to America if we do not return to God and our founding Judeo-Christian principles. Simply put, the cracks in our foundation will continue to widen until we wind up on the dustbin of history.

The Privileges of Mercy

by Alistair Begg

“There is therefore now no condemnation.”
- Romans 8:1

Come, my soul, think about this. Believing in Jesus, you are actually and effectually cleared from guilt; you are led out of prison. You are no longer in chains as a slave; you are delivered now from the bondage of the law; you are freed from sin and can walk around as a free man - the Savior’s blood has procured your full acquittal. You now have a right to approach your Father’s throne. No flames of vengeance are there to scare you now - no fiery sword; justice cannot strike the innocent. Your disabilities are removed.

Once you were unable to see your Father’s face; now you can. You could not speak with Him; but now you can approach Him with boldness. Once there was a fear of hell upon you; but now you have no fear of it, for how can there be punishment for the guiltless? He who believes is not condemned and cannot be punished.

And more than all, the privileges you might have enjoyed, if you had never sinned, are yours now that you are justified. All the blessings that you would have had if you had kept the law are yours, because Christ has kept it for you. All the love and acceptance that perfect obedience could have obtained belong to you, because Christ was perfectly obedient on your behalf and has imputed all His merits to your account, that you might be exceedingly rich through Him who for your sake became exceedingly poor. How great the debt of love and gratitude you owe to your Savior!

A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear with Your righteousness on,
My person and offerings to bring:
The terrors of law and of God,
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior’s obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view

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

Lookin' for Love

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"I was lookin' for love in all the wrong places, Lookin' for love in too many faces, Searchin' their eyes, Lookin' for traces of what I'm dreaming of. Hoping to find a friend and a lover, I'll bless the day I discover another heart, Lookin' for love." - Johnny Lee

"Lookin' for Love" was written by Wanda Mallette, Bob Morrison, and Patti Ryan and recorded by country singer Johnny Lee. It was released in 1980 as part of the soundtrack for the movie, "Urban Cowboy," starring John Travolta and Debra Winger.

Although more than 20 country singers had rejected the song, Lee's recording soared to #1 on Billboard's Hot Country Singles chart, #5 on Billboard's Hot 100, and #4 on the Cash Box Top 100. At 3 minutes, 37 seconds, "Lookin' for Love" was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America.

If you asked me what is the #1 thing is that people all across the world are looking for, it would be love. True, unconditional, all-encompassing L-O-V-E. I guess that's why in Barlett's Familiar Quotations, there are seven pages devoted to the topic, more than virtually any other subject.



My friend, there is only one place you and I can find true love that never fails nor diminishes with time. John 3:16 tells us "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus is the epitome and the very essence of God's love. If you haven't done so before, I urge you to trust Him as your Savior today. Unlike worldly lovers, He promises to never leave you nor forsake you (see Hebrews 13:5).

I have been blessed beyond words to enjoy the love of my beautiful bride for the past 38 years and counting. I also have six children - three by birth and three by marriage - as well as six grandkids and scores of faithful and loving friends. And yet, the one true lover of my soul is Jesus.

Instead of looking for love in all the wrong places, try looking for Him in the pages of Scripture and at a local Bible-believing, Bible-teaching church. He's not hard to locate and in fact, He promises that you will find Him when you seek Him with all your heart (see Jeremiah 29:13).

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." - John 16:13 (NKJV)

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, I know you desire to understand everything I do - however, that is not really possible. Someday you will see my glory in the things you cannot reconcile in your heart. Jacob could not understand why I removed his favored son Joseph for thirteen years and allowed such hardship in his life. He could not see my saving hand hovering over his family. He could not see my strategic placement of Joseph next to Pharaoh. He could not appreciate my foresight in handpicking one of the few men that could pass the tests of adversity and become a savior and spiritual provider for a nation. He could not imagine his boy becoming a ruler and "father to Pharaoh" (Gen 45:8). The problem, son, is your vision is like seeing through a dimly lit mirror. You cannot appreciate

what I am doing in your life right now. Do you remember how a construction site is very messy and it is impossible to visualize what is being built in the early stages? The same is true of how I work in a life. The life I use for my purposes is often a mess at different stages. That messiness becomes the strength of your calling as I do my work in and through you.

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." - 1 Corinthians 13:12

"Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox." - Proverbs 14:4

Reprinted by permission from the author. To learn more, visit <http://www.MarketplaceLeaders.org>

Living H2O Initiative Photos



Risk Takers for Christ



**3-on-3 Tournament
March 30, 2024**

- Limited to first 8 teams (no subs except for injuries)
- Double elimination, two-game guarantee
- Gym opens at 8:15 AM, tournament begins at 9:00 AM
- Cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place teams
- Free t-shirt for all participants
- Continental breakfast and snacks provided

SIGN UP TODAY!!!

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

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts

10 a.m. - Worship service

1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

Our Staff & Board Members

Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Rev. Larry "Chap" Lilly, Vice President

Christopher Glading, Director of Programs and Publicity

Keith McCrea, Director of Inmate Correspondence

Rebekah Bailey, Director of Communications

Trustees: Rev. Dave Daniel, 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.