

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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Platinum
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Midway Bible Fellowship Celebrates 4th Anniversary

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"I hear you're a minister. Would you consider holding church services here in the clubhouse?"

That was the question a neighbor asked me as Deanna and I were walking our dogs at Midway Estates, the RV and manufactured home community that we had recently moved into back in November 2021. We hadn't planned on staying at Midway long-term, but after selling our house in Sebastian to move closer to our children and grandchildren in Vero Beach, Deanna had suggested that we try living in our 27' travel trailer for a few months until the housing market settled down. Due to the Covid pandemic, real estate prices were at an all-time high in our area as thousands of people were flocking there from the Northeast and buying homes sight unseen, often paying 10%-20% above the asking price.

After a month or two, we realized that we enjoyed the simpler RV lifestyle and so, we upgraded to a brand new 31' Jayco Jayflight and decided to "put down roots" at Midway. That's when our neighbor approached me with the request to start a church there. Deanna and I prayed about the idea, consulted some Christian friends and local pastors, and finally talked to the manager of the com-

munity. She couldn't have been more enthused and so, we ordered some Bibles and hymn books and sent out invitations to everyone in Midway Estates.

Midway Bible Fellowship, a nondenominational church plant with Baptist doctrine, held its first service on Palm Sunday of 2022. In addition to Deanna and me, there were five other residents and one friend from a neighboring community in attendance. We adopted



two slogans - "Biblical teaching, traditional hymns, casual dress" and "Proclaiming God's Truth and Demonstrating His Love" - as well as a theme verse, "Him we preach..." (Colossians 1:28).

Perhaps we should have also adopted Zechariah 4:10 as a second theme verse, because it says, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin."

Well, Midway Bible Fellowship just celebrated our 4-year anniversary on March 29th and as you can see from the photo on the next page, there were a lot more than seven people there. Actually, our attendance was 47 that day (not everyone is pictured because some people had to leave early).

We celebrated God's goodness that day by wearing our MBF t-shirts and enjoying a delicious catered Italian lunch after the service. What a wonderful day it was!

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Midway Bible Fellowship Celebrates 4th Anniversary

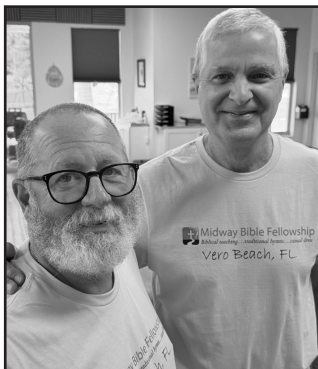
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My personal highlights were two ladies who came up to see me during the luncheon. The first one is a snowbird, and this was to be the last Sunday before she and her husband headed back north. “I just want to tell you how much we have enjoyed these services,” she began, adding that “we have learned so much and grown so much.” Then she broke down in tears before assuring me that they had already made reservations to return in the fall.

The second lady is a year-round resident along with her husband, and they both thanked me for the wonderful service and the delicious luncheon as they were leaving. Then, suddenly, she stopped and turned around. “I want you to know that you have changed my life,” she said.

“That’s all God,” I responded and she nodded in agreement.

I share those two stories for two reasons. First to say “Thank You” for supporting Midway Bible Fellowship through your gifts and prayers to RTC. There is no way we could have successfully planted our church without your help. Second, to be honest, there are times when I

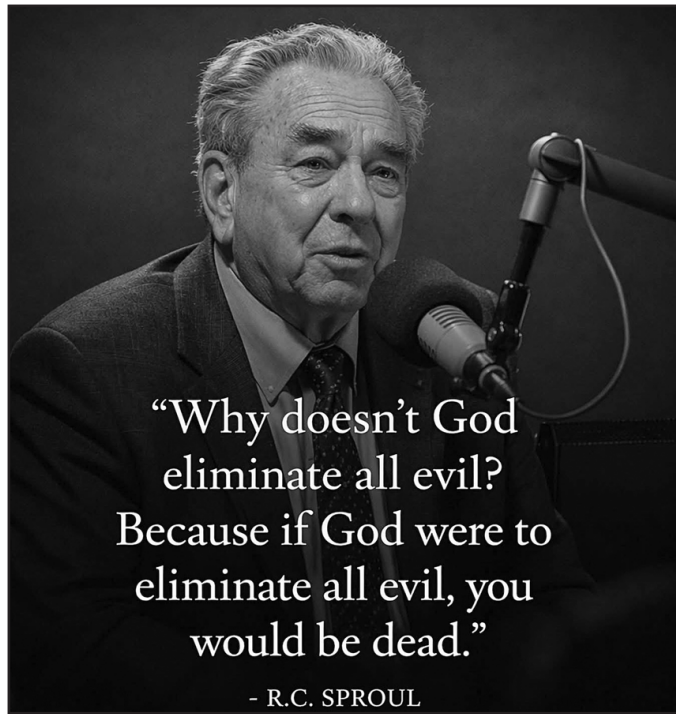
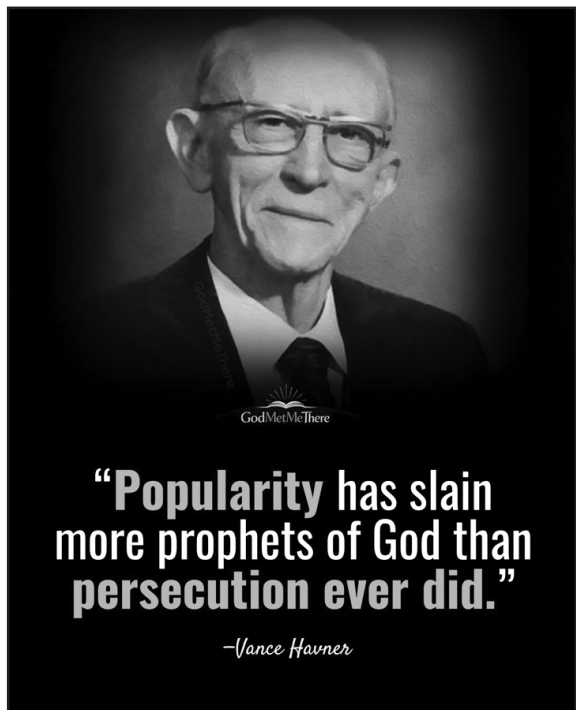


fall into the trap of comparing our little church to much larger ones in the area... or become a little discouraged when I hear about parachurch ministries similar to Risk Takers for Christ that are busting at the seams financially and numerically while Deanna and I continue to lead very modest lives.

But then God reminds me that He is not concerned about the size of our church, our ministry, or our bank account. Instead, the only thing that matters to Him is whether we are being obedient and faithful to His calling on our lives.

Many years ago, I was privileged to tour Prison Fellowship’s headquarters in Lansdowne VA. Chuck Colson wasn’t there, but I did get to peek into his office and on his desk was a small plaque that read, “Faithfulness, not success.” I have remembered that quote and applied it often during my 39 years of ministry, the last 32 of which have been as a full-time missionary raising my own support.

There was one final note of encouragement that I received the week after our anniversary celebration, this time from a gentleman and his wife who attend MBF and are also snowbirds. He emailed me to say “thank you for welcoming us into your ministry. It was our greatest highlight during our winter stay at Midway Resort.” As you can imagine, his kind words blessed, encouraged, and humbled me greatly.



The Privilege to Speak of Christ

by Alistair Begg

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” - Ephesians 3:8

The apostle Paul felt it a great privilege to be allowed to preach the Gospel. He did not look upon his calling as a drudgery, but he entered upon it with intense delight. Although Paul was thankful for his calling, his success in it greatly humbled him.

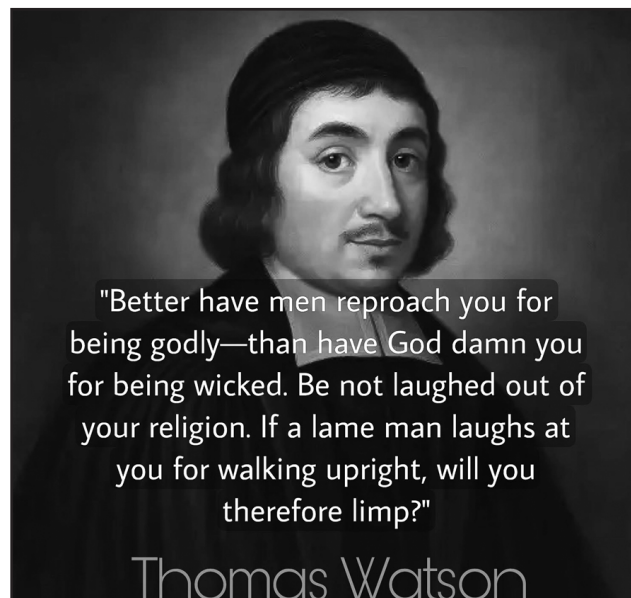
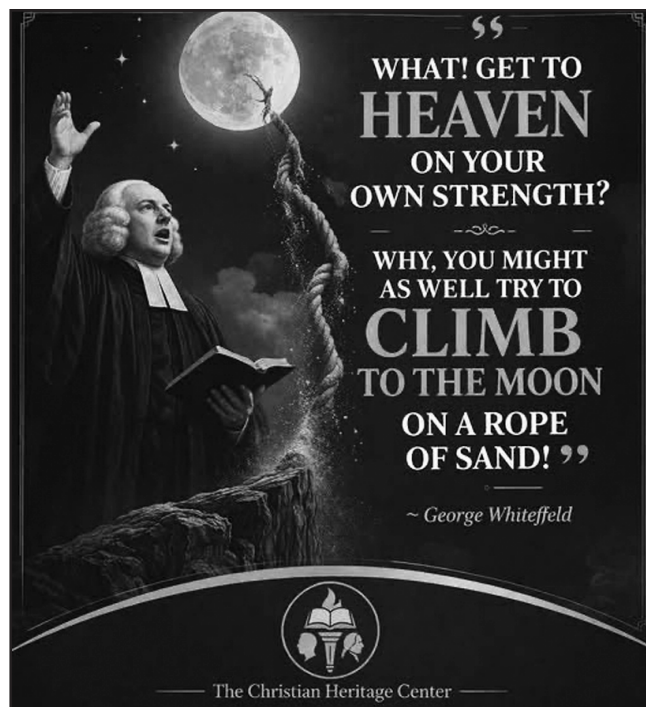
The fuller a ship becomes, the deeper it sinks in the water. Idlers may indulge a fond conceit of their abilities, because they are untried; but the earnest worker soon learns his own weakness. If you seek humility, try hard work; if you would know your nothingness, attempt some great thing for Jesus. If you want to feel how utterly powerless you are apart from the living God, attempt especially the great work of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ, and you will know, as you never knew before, what a weak, unworthy thing you are.

Although the apostle thus knew and confessed his weakness, he was never perplexed as to the subject of his ministry. From his first sermon to his last, Paul preached Christ, and nothing but Christ. He lifted up the cross and extolled the Son of God who bled on it. Follow his example in all your personal efforts to spread the glad tidings of salvation, and let “Christ and him crucified” be your ever-recurring theme.

The Christian should be like those lovely spring flowers that, when the sun is shining, open their golden cups, as if saying, “Fill us with your beams!” But when the sun is hidden behind a cloud, they close their cups and droop their heads. So should the Christian feel the sweet influence of Jesus. Jesus must be his sun, and He must be the flower that yields itself to the Sun of Righteousness.

Oh, to speak of Christ alone - this is the subject that is both “seed to the sower and bread to the eater.” This is the live coal for the lip of the speaker, and the master-key to the heart of the hearer.

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Forgiveness Ensures Freedom

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

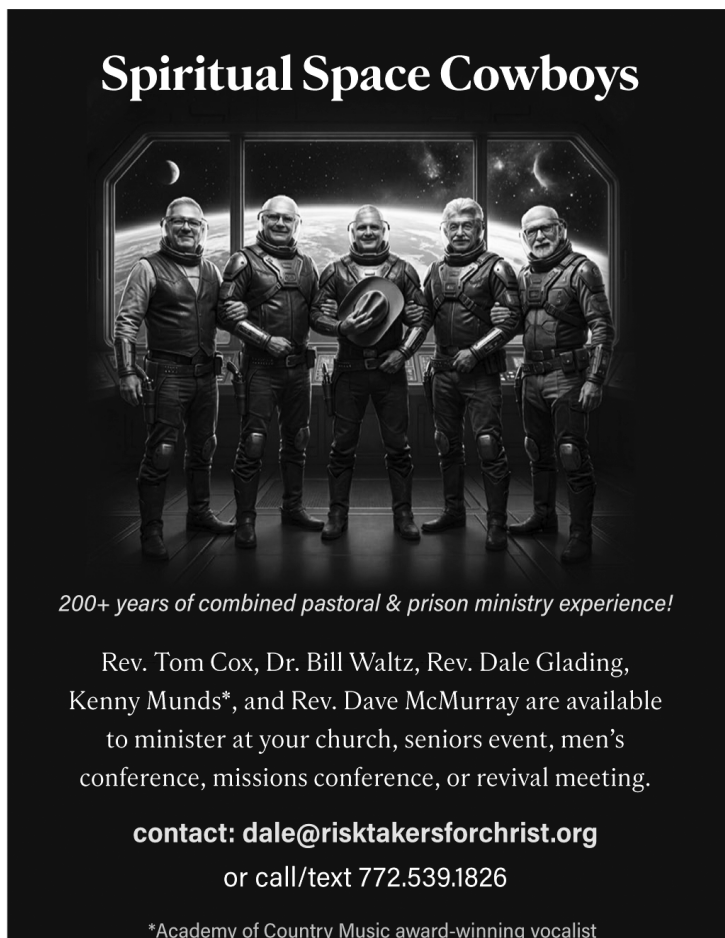
In business and life the opportunity to harbor bitterness for a wrong suffered is great. We are given plenty of opportunities to grow bitter from relationships that bring hurt and pain. The writer of the Hebrews passage above admonishes us not to miss the grace of God so that we won't take up bitterness as a response to life's pain. He cautions us against this because he knows that a bitter root grows and grows until it eventually defiles many others through a wake of bitterness. If bitterness is allowed to take root, we become imprisoned to it. God's grace will no longer have as great an effect in our lives. We become ineffective, insensitive, and spiritually dead. We can even become physically ill from it. God does not live in bitterness. He lives in grace. He has provided grace for every person to walk in.

One day I was challenged to deal with an individual who hurt me terribly. I was faced with a decision. Would I choose bitterness, or would I choose grace? Oh, how my natural tendency was to choose bitterness. But God provided the courage to choose grace. With that grace came freedom - a freedom to love and even accept the person who was the source of such pain.

This is the real place where Christ's power is most revealed. We cannot live without His supernatural grace. Are you in need of grace today? It is there for the receiving. It will take courage to accept it and walk in it. This will be your step to freedom.

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*Academy of Country Music award-winning vocalist

RTC Prison Ministry Basketball Team Schedule



- ▶ May 2, 2026 - Putnam CI, East Palatka FL
- ▶ 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:
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