

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for* Christ

In this issue...

Miraculous Catch of Fish

A devotional message from Alistair Begg.

- page 3

Basketball Schedule

- page 3

Listening to the Father's Heart

A devotional message from Os Hillman.

- page 4

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.



A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

During the half-century that I lived in South Jersey, the average snowfall was anywhere between a dusting and a few inches. Until, that is, the winter of 2010-2011, when we received 24" of the "white stuff" in a single day. In fact, South Jersey got more snow that historic winter than Buffalo, NY... which is yet another reason why I am now a proud resident of Florida, where I shovel sunshine 12 months of the year.

Yes, snowfalls in New Jersey are usually a mile wide and an inch (or two) deep. Sadly, according to the results of a recent survey conducted by Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research, that also describes the state of Christianity in America today.

For instance, despite the fact that the Bible clearly teaches that we are all born with a sin nature (see Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:3; et al) 64% of evangelicals believe that "Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God."

Likewise, 53% of evangelicals agree with the statement that "Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature." And yet, Romans 3:10-12 states unequivocally that, "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who

seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Why are we so evil? Because as the aforementioned Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

Sounds to me like people - including self-professed evangelical Christians - are elevating emotions, experiences, and personal opinion above God's Word, which should be the final authority in all matters.



Just as troubling, the same 53% of evangelicals agree that "The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being." Hmmm... I guess they have never read Acts 8:29, where the Holy Spirit

speaks to Philip; or Romans 8:26, where the Holy Spirit intercedes for us; or I Corinthians 12:11, where the Holy Spirit has a will; or Ephesians 4:30, where the Holy Spirit can be grieved. The list goes on and on.

For Pete's sake, people... pick up your Bibles!

Perhaps the most troubling finding in the entire survey was that 47% of evangelicals believe that "God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam." For that to be true, Jesus would have to have been lying when He said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.

continued on page 2

A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep

continued from page 1

No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Likewise, Peter would have been mistaken when he said in Acts 4:12, referring to Jesus, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

You can make a case for God hearing the prayers of His chosen people, the Jews, but certainly not for Muslims who consider Jesus to be a prophet, no more and no less.

Here are some more disturbing survey results...

Despite Hebrews 10:25 warning Christians “not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together”, only 61% of evangelicals think that “Every Christian has an obligation to join a local church.” Meanwhile, just 65% believe that “God created marriage to be between one man and one woman.” Apparently, they never read Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Or, for that matter, Genesis 2:24, which reads, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Just as disconcerting is the finding that by a 54%-39% majority, evangelicals have been led to believe that “Christians should not allow their religious beliefs to influence their political decisions.” So what if Jesus commanded His followers to be “salt” (a preservative) and “light” (which exposes darkness) in Matthew 5:13-16?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon put it this way. “I often hear it said, ‘Do not bring religion into politics.’ This is precisely where it ought to be brought, and set there in the face of all men as on a candlestick.”

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, agreed. “I am puzzled by which Bible people are reading when they suggest that religion and politics don’t mix,” he said.

So did Albert Einstein, an admitted agnostic who still believed in a supreme being. “Those who believe that politics and religion do not mix, understand neither.”

And finally, there was Ronald Reagan, who said,

“Politics and morality are inseparable. And as morality's foundation is religion, religion and politics are necessarily related.”

Allow me to end on a positive, but somewhat confusing note.

Believe it or not, 100% of evangelicals said that “The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.” Pretty reassuring, right? Well, if that were true, how did they arrive at so many unbiblical answers to all the other survey questions?

The only other response that offered a glimmer of hope was when asked about the Holy Trinity, 98% of respondents agreed that “There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.”

I guess we should be thankful for small victories, but there remains a lot of work to be done to better educate Christians as to what the Bible actually teaches and how those fundamental truths should apply to every aspect of our lives.

Please pray for our RTC Prison Ministry Basketball Team:

Charles Brown
Ellis Fernandez
Chris Glading
Dale Glading
Marty Gradijan
Aaron Johnson
John Kebbel *
Michael Kelley
Rob Moore
Bo Mosley
Steve Schwartz *

*nonplaying volunteer



Miraculous Catch of Fish

by Alistair Begg

“Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

- Luke 5:4

We learn from this narrative the necessity of human activity. The catch of fish was miraculous, but neither the fisherman nor his boat nor his fishing tackle were ignored; they all were used to take the fish. So in the saving of souls, God works by means; and while the present economy of grace shall stand, God will be pleased by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. When God works without instruments, He is glorified; but He has selected this plan of human involvement as being that by which He is most magnified in the earth.

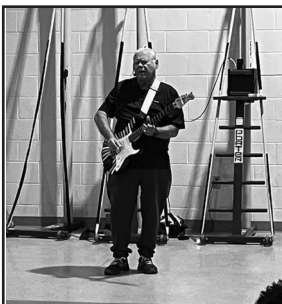
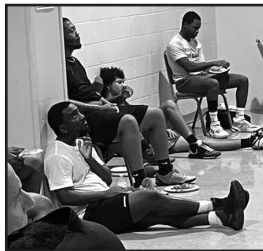
The means themselves can accomplish nothing. “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!” What was the reason for this? Were they not experienced fishermen going about their business? They were not novices; they under-

stood the work. Was the problem that they lacked skill? No. Were they lazy? No; they had worked. Did they lack perseverance? No; they had worked all night. Was there a lack of fish in the sea? Certainly not, for as soon as the Master came, they swam to the net in large numbers. What, then, is the reason? It is because there is no power in the means themselves apart from the presence of Jesus. Without Him we can do nothing. But with Christ we can do all things.

Christ’s presence confers success. Jesus sat in Peter’s boat, and His will, by a mysterious influence, drew the fish to the net. When Jesus is lifted up in His Church, His presence is the church’s power - the shout of a king is in the midst of her. “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”¹ Let us go out this morning on our work of soul-fishing, looking up in faith, and around us at the great opportunity. Let us work until the night comes, and we will not labor in vain, for He who tells us to let down the net will fill it with fish.

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

Living H2O Photos



Living H2O Initiative



Mondays from 6-8 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Vero

Join us for some Bible &
Basketball
Free Snacks Provided

RTC Prison Ministry Basketball Team Schedule



- ▶ November 1, 2025 - Polk CI, Polk City FL
- ▶ February 7, 2026 - South Bay CF, South Bay FL
- ▶ May 2, 2026 - Putnam CI, East Palatka FL
- ▶ August 1, 2026 - Sumter CI, Bushnell FL
- ▶ November 7, 2026 - 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/>

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, do you remember what I did through my son Joseph? He had a dream. He shared that dream with his brothers who I then used, yes, I used, to accomplish a plan which would eventually benefit him and my entire nation of Israel. Sometimes my plans take you through a time of hardship to subsequently bring about a greater good. In order for me to place Joseph next to Pharaoh, I had to allow him to go through the fires of preparation. I had to remove pride from his life. There in the dungeon, as a lowly prisoner, he became my vessel for demonstrating my power by interpreting dreams for a world leader. I can take someone from the prison to the palace in one day. I remind you that I can turn the tide of circumstances in the twinkling of an eye. And when I do, you will be able to say with Joseph, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive" (Gen 50:20). Are you willing to be part of my work to save many if it involves taking you through a difficult season? Son, know this: the latter shall be better than the former. Put your hope and trust in me to accomplish this.

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of

God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. And may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7, 10

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



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.

Shop and Give

Do you buy Christian books, Bibles, or gifts online? If so, Christian Book Distributors (www.cbd.com) is the absolute best place to shop. Even better, Christianbook will give back 4% of your purchase price to Midway Bible Fellowship, the church that Risk Takers for Christ planted in 2022.

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



Our Staff & Board Members

Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Rev. Larry "Chap" Lilly, Vice President

Christopher Glading, Director of Programs and Publicity

Rebekah Bailey, Director of Communications

Deanna Glading, Executive Assistant

Trustees: Rev. Tom Cox, 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.