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Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for* Christ

Risk Takers *for* Christ
...moving believers from the sidelines to the front lines

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Platinum Transparency 2026
Candid.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

A Tribute to Larry "Chap" Lilly

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"A brother's sympathy is more precious than an angel's prestige." - C.H. Spurgeon

Just like you, dear reader, I have had my share of ups and downs, peaks and valleys in my life. It seems like when you are enjoying one of those mountaintop experiences, you are surrounded by people and everyone wants to be your friend. However, when things hit rock bottom - and it's you under that pile of rocks - true friends are few and far between.

Enter Larry "Chap" Lilly.



I first met Chap when our prison ministry softball team came to play and minister at his institution in Georgetown, Delaware. We had arranged our visit through the prison's recreation director, not through the chaplaincy department, and so I was surprised when Chap greeted our team in the parking lot. Not only did he stay with us throughout our visit that day, he even took a few swings at the plate.

By the next season, Chap was wearing our team's uniform and traveling with us to prisons throughout the MidAtlantic States. It was great having an experienced prison chaplain on our team, and it sure didn't hurt that Chap was an excellent hitter and a slick-fielding first baseman, too.

Over the next 20 years, Chap continued to travel with our softball team as we expanded to minister in prisons as far away as Colorado, the Pacific Northwest, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and even Canada. Many times, Chap and I would room together on these trips and we also stayed at each other's homes frequently. I became close to his family, and he became like an uncle to our three kids.

"You're the brother I never had," Chap would often tell me.

One year, on a prison ministry trip to Michigan, my son Matt developed a case of vertigo. I felt torn, having a responsibility to him as his dad but also to our team as manager and executive director of the ministry. Without hesitation, Chap volunteered to stay back at the hotel with Matt until he recovered, even though it meant missing four softball games and an entire day of ministry.

Then there was the time I was struggling with a personal issue. Without me even asking, Chap made the 3-hour drive from his house to mine, spent a few hours talking and praying with me, and then drove back home that same day. And when my previous ministry was holding a farewell event for me, which actually felt more like a public execution, there was Chap again… right by my side.

It's no wonder that when God called me to relocate to Florida to launch Risk Takers for Christ, I asked Chap to join me as vice president, a position he still holds 15 years later. Together, we have conducted men's conferences, revival meetings - and yes, prison

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My God Shall Provide

by Os Hillman

"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

Have you ever gone through a time of complete dependence on God for your material needs? Perhaps you lost a job and could not generate income on your own. Perhaps you got sick and could not work. There are circumstances in our lives that can put us in this place.

When God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt through the desolate desert, they had no ability to provide for themselves. God met their needs supernaturally each day by providing manna from Heaven. Each day they would awake to one day's portion of what they needed. This was a season in their lives to learn dependence and the faithfulness of God as provider. By and by, they entered the Promised Land. When they did, God's "supernatural provision" was no longer required. "The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan" (Josh. 5:12). In both cases God was the provider of the need.

For most of us, we derive our necessities of life through our work. Like the birds of the fields we are commanded to go out and gather what God has already provided. It is a process of participation in what God has already provided. Sometimes it appears it is all up to us; sometimes it appears it is all up to God. In either case we must realize that the Lord is our provider; the job is only an instrument of His provision. He requires our involvement in either case. "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your forefathers, as it is today" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

Acknowledge the Lord as the provider of every need you have today. He is a faithful provider.

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A Tribute to Larry "Chap" Lilly

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ministry trips - throughout the eastern U.S.

I am sure that I have had a guardian angel (or two) around me more than a few times in my life, such as the two car crashes in my early 20s that should have been fatal, but there have been just as many times when a 6'3" left-handed hitting first baseman wearing #27 on his uniform had my back… and I am forever grateful.

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17 (NKJV)

RTC Receives Grant

The Exchange Club of Indian River recently awarded Risk Takers for Christ a $1,000 grant to continue our Living H2O Initiative, a weekly basketball program for at-risk youth. Program participants receive a safe place to recreate, mentoring by positive male role models, and a weekly gospel message. Free snacks and Christian literature are also provided as well as gift cards for players who demonstrate a good attitude, sportsmanship, and teamwork.



Olde Hickory Golf Classic Sponsor

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Check out photos from the event on the next page!

A Salvation to be Dreaded

by Alistair Begg

"Do not be conformed to this world."

- Romans 12:2

If there is any possibility of a Christian being saved while he conforms to this world, it can only be so as through fire. Such a bare salvation is almost to be dreaded as much as to be desired. Reader, would you like to leave this world in the darkness of a desponding deathbed and enter heaven like a shipwrecked sailor climbs the rocks of his native country? Then allow the world to squeeze you into its mold and refuse identity with Christ or to bear His reproach. Would you like to have a heaven below as well as a heaven above? Do you want to comprehend with all saints what are the heights and depths and to know the love of Christ that passes knowledge? Would you like to receive an abundant entry into heaven? Then do not live as a friend of the world.

If you would attain the full assurance of faith, you cannot do so in communion with sinners. If you desire to be on fire for God, realize that your love will be dampened by the cold rain of a godless society. You cannot become a great Christian, you can never be a mature believer in Christ Jesus while you give in to godless maxims and modes of life. It is incongruous for an heir of heaven to be a great friend with the heirs of hell. It has a bad look when the servant is too intimate with the king's enemies. Even small inconsistencies are dangerous. Just as small thorns make great blisters and little moths destroy fine clothes, so little frivolities and little indiscretions will rob your testimony of a thousand joys.

Professing Christian on the fence, you do not know what you are losing by your conformity to the world. It cuts the tendons of your strength and makes you crawl when you ought to run. So for your own comfort's sake and for the sake of your growth in grace, if you are a Christian, be a Christian, and be a marked and distinct one.

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

Pics from our 9th Annual Olde Hickory Golf Classic

















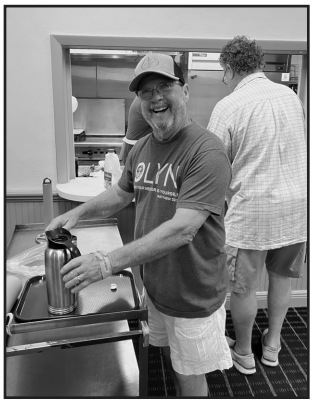
Pictures from our "Pancakes for Prisoners" breakfast and silent auction















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