

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

In this issue...

#17 is My Hero

Meet one of
Dale's heroes.

- page 2

Help the Stragglers

A devotional
message from
Alistair Begg

- page 3

Living H2O Photos

- page 4

Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Slip-Sliding Away

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President



The logo that I had designed for Risk Takers for Christ when we launched

the ministry in 2011 shows a man walking on a tightrope... or standing on a ledge, depending on your perspective. In either case, I wanted the logo to challenge my fellow Christians to take spiritual risks in order to live boldly for Jesus.

To “walk on the wild side,” if you will...

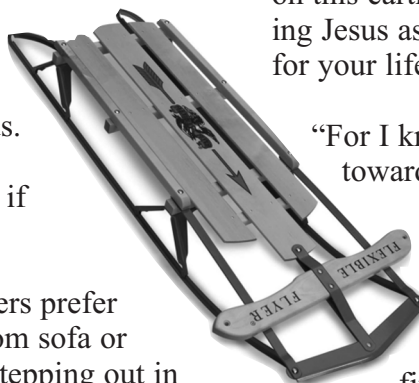
Unfortunately, many believers prefer the safety of their living room sofa or their Lazy-Boy recliner to stepping out in faith for the cause of Christ. Sadly, they fail to realize that the safest place to be is in the center of God’s will, whatever that entails and wherever that leads. They are also seemingly oblivious to the fact that God expects a return on His investment in their lives (see Matthew 25).

Still other people look at the RTC logo and envision how close they can get to sin without actually participating in it. That, my friend, is a very dangerous proposition. The slopes of sin are extremely slippery and before you know it, you may find yourself sliding down them faster than a Flexible Flyer sled on a snow-covered hill.

In 1977, Paul Simon recorded and released a

song titled, “Slip Slidin’ Away.” It became an instant hit and rose as high as #5 on the Billboard charts. Simon’s song dealt with the relationships between a man and his lover, a divorced father and his son, and a wife and her many regrets in life. It also speaks to the often-uncertain paths we travel in life, with most people just going through the motions because they are unaware of God’s ultimate plan.

My friend, don’t let your 70, 80, or 90 years on this earth “slip-slide away” without knowing Jesus as your Savior and His perfect plan for your life.



“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NKJV)



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



#17 Is My Hero

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

When I was a young boy, I spent countless hours playing wiffleball in my backyard... alone. My two older brothers weren't into sports, but I was a baseball fanatic. And so, I would simply play an imaginary game in my head, with my beloved New York Yankees taking on various other teams in the American League's Eastern Division.

If Roy White was "at the plate," I would hold my hands low just like he did and then take a healthy cut at the ball that I had tossed in the air. If I hit a line drive, that meant that Roy got a base hit. And if I hit a towering shot over the telephone wire, that was good for a homer.

Since Roy was a switch-hitter, I could bat from either side of the plate when he was up. The same goes for Horace Clarke, the Yanks' bow-legged second baseman. However, the rest of the Yankees were either righties, such as Thurmon Munson, or lefties like Bobby Murcer... and so, I alternated which way I swung.

Like most kids my age, I had one goal in life: to play Major League Baseball. And if I could suit up for the Bronx Bombers and play in the sacred baseball temple known as Yankee Stadium, all the better. Of course, I lacked the talent to play professionally and so, my aspirations soon switched to coveting a front office job with the Yankees, perhaps as their general manager.

Little did I know that one day I would be sharing the infield with a former Yankee! Not at the House that Ruth Built, but in prisons across the United States.

Back in the early 60s, a fellow named Warren Miller won a batting title in the semi-pro Rancocas Valley League in South Jersey. That achievement earned Warren a tryout at Yankee Stadium where he proceeded to have a good day, banging out three hits and fielding his position flawlessly. The Yankees offered Warren a minor league contract that day and soon, he was off to Johnson City, TN to play for their farm team in the Appalachian League.

In just 27 games that season, Warren batted .295 with a very respectable .427 on-base percentage. However, he dislocated his shoulder, and the Yankees released him. Thankfully, he was picked up by the Boston Red Sox and he split the following season in the New York-Penn

League between them and the Washington Senators.

Whereas Warren never made it to the Majors, he played the game I love at a level I can only imagine. But that isn't what makes Warren one of my heroes. Warren played the game with a passion similar to my own, diving for every ball and sliding hard into every base. In sports parlance, he "left it all on the field."

When Warren trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior, his approach to the game changed. No longer did he play for his own glory, but for God's. To remind himself of that commitment, Warren chose #17 as his uniform number since 2 Corinthians 5:17 is his favorite Bible verse.



When he was in his 60s, after having played softball in church leagues for many years, Warren joined the prison ministry I founded in New Jersey, The Saints Prison Ministry. We took an instant liking to each other based on a mutual respect and our passion for Jesus, the game of softball, and the Yankees.

Like I said earlier, Warren always played the game "all-out," which is exactly the way I tried to play myself. He also was a world-class needler, always ready with a good-natured jab for one of his teammates.

As a mediocre athlete who had to work harder than my teammates just to compete, let alone excel, I have received a few trophies and other accolades during my 40-year playing career. However, those awards pale in comparison with two compliments I received from teammates I greatly admired. One came from Bud Collins, the best softball player I've ever seen, who told me that - through lots of hard work - I had made myself into a good player. The other came from Warren, who told me that I had the quickest pivot on a double play of any second baseman he had ever seen.

Recently, Warren added a third compliment that meant the world to me, calling me the best and most knowledgeable coach he had ever played for. Thanks for your extremely kind words, #17!

Recently, Warren decided to "hang up his spikes" at the ripe old age of 82. Yes, that's right, Warren competed at a very high level at an age when most athletes are watching the action from the bleachers or their recliner. In fact,

continued on page 3

#17 Is My Hero

continued from page 2

in his very last at-bat in a prison game in Colorado in August, Warren delivered a clutch base hit to win the game. Atta boy, Warren!

Don't think for a minute, however, that Warren is retiring from serving God. Sadly, Warren had lost his first wife Diane to cancer several decades ago. His strong faith is what got him through that tragedy and God eventually brought his current wife Carol into his life. Seeking a new way to minister, Warren recently enrolled in the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors. His goal is to become a certified grief counselor, using biblical principles and scriptural truths to minister to people who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

That's not to say that Warren won't still be playing sports

such as pickleball and golf, where he routinely out drives me by 20 yards despite my 18-year advantage. Keep going - and growing - strong, Warren. You are an inspiration to thousands of inmates as well as to me and my two sons who also had the privilege of playing and ministering alongside you in prison.

"Now behold, as the LORD promised, He has kept me alive these forty-five years since He spoke this word to Moses, while Israel wandered in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old, still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out. As my strength was then, so it is now for war, for going out, and for coming in. Now therefore give me this hill country that the LORD promised me on that day, for you yourself heard then that the Anakim were there, with great and fortified cities. Perhaps with the LORD's help I will drive them out, as the LORD has spoken." Joshua 14:10-12 (BSB)

Help the Stragglers

by Alistair Begg

"They shall set out last, standard by standard."

- Numbers 2:31

The camp of Dan brought up the rear when the armies of Israel were on the march. The Danites occupied the hindmost place, but their position wasn't unimportant, since they were as truly part of the company as were the foremost tribes. They followed the same fiery cloudy pillar, ate of the same manna, drank of the same spiritual rock, and journeyed to the same inheritance. Come, my heart, cheer up, even though last and least; it is your privilege to be in the army and to fare as they fare who lead the expedition. Someone must be at the rear in honor and esteem, someone must do menial work for Jesus, and why shouldn't it be me? In a poor village among an ignorant peasantry or in a back street among degraded sinners, I will work on and take my assigned place at the rear.

The Danites occupied a very useful place. Stragglers have to be picked up on the march, and lost property has to be gathered from the field. Fiery spirits may dash forward over untrodden paths to learn fresh truth and win more souls to Jesus; but some of a more conservative spirit may be well engaged in reminding the church of her ancient faith and restoring her fainting sons. Every

position has its duties, and the slowly moving children of God will find their peculiar state one in which they may be eminently a blessing to the whole company.

The rear guard is a place of danger. There are foes behind us as well as before us. Attacks may come from any quarter. We read that Amalek fell upon Israel and slew some who were at the rear. The experienced Christian will find much work for his weapons in aiding those poor doubting, desponding, wavering souls who are slowest in faith, knowledge, and joy. These must not be left unaided, and therefore let it be the business of well-taught saints to bear their standards among the rear guard. My soul, watch tenderly to help the stragglers today.

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

Urgent Prayer Request

Please pray for Rev. Keith McCrea, our Director of Inmate Correspondence, who suffered a major heart attack recently and faces a long road to recovery.

In Loving Memory of
Ken "Preacher" Brooks
1939-2023

A tireless warrior for Christ who
ministered to bikers and inmates alike.

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, my desire for you is that whatever happens in your life, both good and bad, will be used to further the truth of my Son and our kingdom. In order for that to happen, you must see me in all of life, even when the enemy of your soul wins momentary battles. He may win a few, but we both know who wins the war. Knowing the final victory is mine will give you perspective on your life. And knowing my redemptive nature will allow you to see even your greatest challenges from my viewpoint. Follow my son Paul's example when he said he was confident that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6). I promise you I will complete my work in you. Remain yielded to me through every circumstance.

"But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel." - Philippians 1:12

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." - Romans 8:28

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

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.

Living H2O Initiative Photos



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.