

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for* Christ

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Platinum
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CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
ALLIANCE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

To the best of my knowledge, I have never taken a 5-hour nap in my life... before Sunday, August 2nd, that is. So, what made me so doggone tired?

Well, the day before, my alarm went off at 3:30 AM and I was off and running, showering, dressing, and gulping down a quick breakfast so I could pick my son Chris up at 4:30 AM. From there, we headed to the Vero Outlets - no, not to do some shopping, but to pick up four other basketball players and one nonplaying volunteer for a full day of prison ministry.

And when I say a full day, I mean a FULL day!

We headed across Route 60 in complete darkness and then up the Florida Turnpike for a couple hours before the sun started to peak over the horizon. Our destination was the Sumter Correctional Institution in Bushnell, which was built in 1965 and currently houses 1,551 minimum, medium, and maximum-security inmates.

After a quick stop at a local convenience store to buy juice and breakfast sandwiches, we arrived at the institution right on schedule and passed through security without any problems. Next came the long walk across the compound to the gym - the only prison

we play in that has an indoor facility - where a very talented (and well-rested) inmate squad was waiting for us.

Our team warmed up quickly and before we knew it, it was "game time". Despite only having one sub (me), we battled hard and managed to go into halftime tied at 23-23. Then it was time for the real reason for our visit: our halftime gospel presentation! I introduced our team and then handed the mic over to Rob Moore, our 6'5" center who was

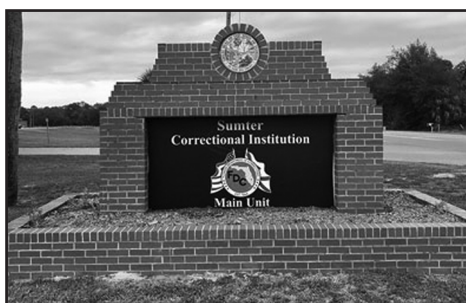
joining us for the first time since the Covid pandemic. Rob shared his personal testimony, talking about how God had blessed him with athletic ability as a young man which led to him developing a pride issue. It took some humbling during his

freshman year in college for God to replace sports as #1 in Rob's life.

After Rob was finished, Aaron Johnson took over and preached a powerful gospel message. When he offered an invitation to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior, two men raised their hands to do exactly that. Others, perhaps not wanting to be singled out in front of their peers, indicated they had made the same decision on their response card that we collected afterward.

The second half was just as tight, but when the inmate team built a seven-point lead with less than five minutes to play, things didn't look good. However, our never-say-die players dug deep and fought back, led by Marty

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A Midsummer Night's Dream

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Gradijan's 22 points. When the final whistle blew, the score was Risk Takers 46 - Sumter 45.

Tired and spent (the gym was extremely hot and humid with no air-conditioning and just a couple of fans), our team headed out for lunch and then returned 90 minutes later to face an even more talented - and much taller - team. They quickly went up, 15-2 and it looked like the game was going to be a real blowout. However, once again, our players refused to give up, narrowing the gap to three points and then to five, with Chris Glading pacing our offense with 18 points.

We wound up losing by about 12, but the way we played earned the respect of everyone in the gym.

As for the halftime gospel presentation during the second game, this time it was John Kebbel's turn to testify and my turn to preach. Several inmates made professions of faith in Jesus Christ, and many others rededicated their lives to Him.

Our long drive home was broken up by a dinner stop for pizza, wings... and wonderful fellowship! We pulled back into the parking lot 15 hours after our day had

begun. In between, I drove six hours... played in both games as needed... and preached once.

The next morning, I was back in the pulpit at Midway Bible Fellowship, preaching from the Gospel of Luke before heading home to rest. I laid down on the sofa and closed my eyes at 2:00 PM and didn't wake up until 7:00 PM that evening, almost time to go back to bed.

And do you know what? I can't wait to do it again!

Thanks for supporting our prison ministry team through your gifts and prayers!

(See inmate prayer requests on page 4)



Cleanses

by Alistair Begg

"The blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin."
- 1 John 1:7

"Cleanses," says the text - not "shall cleanse." There are multitudes who think that as a dying hope they may look forward to pardon. Oh, how infinitely better to have cleansing now than to depend on the bare possibility of forgiveness when I come to die.

Some imagine that a sense of pardon is an attainment only obtainable after many years of Christian experience. But forgiveness of sin is a present reality - a privilege for this day, a joy for this very hour. The moment a sinner trusts Jesus he is fully forgiven. The text, being written in the present tense, also indicates continuance; it was "cleanses" yesterday, it is "cleanses" today, it will be "cleanses" tomorrow. This is the way it will always be with you, Christian, until you cross the river; every hour you may come to this fountain, for it cleanses still.

Notice, likewise, the completeness of the cleansing: "The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin" - not only from sin, but "from all sin." Reader, I cannot convey the exceeding sweetness of this word, but I pray that God the Holy Ghost will give you a taste of it. Manifold are our sins against God. Whether the bill be little or great, the same receipt can discharge one as the other. The blood of Jesus Christ is as blessed and divine a payment for the transgressions of blaspheming Peter as for the shortcomings of loving John.

Our iniquity is gone, all gone at once, and all gone forever. Blessed completeness! What a sweet theme to dwell upon as one gives himself to sleep.

*Sins against a holy God;
Sins against His righteous laws;
Sins against His love, His blood;
Sins against His name and cause;
Sins immense as is the sea -
From them all He cleanseth me.*

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

God Always Has the Last Laugh

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

“There was never a revival of religion without a revival of his opposition.” - C.H. Spurgeon

Throughout my four decades of ministry, one theme has remained consistent: every time God was preparing to do something great, Satan launched a preemptive attack.

The first such “shot across the bow” happened on January 20, 1994, just 19 days after Deanna and I entered full-time ministry. Gone was the financial safety net of a 9-to-5 job with a guaranteed paycheck and a 401k plan. On that miserable January day, our 2-year-old son Chris suffered a massive stroke that left him unable to speak, walk, or use his right hand.

Fortunately, God led us to one of only three pediatric neurosurgeons in the world who was trained in a new experimental procedure and - after undergoing eight hours of brain surgery at Children’s Hospital of Boston - any further strokes were avoided. Chris went on to earn varsity letters in three sports (with limited use of his right hand) while finishing second in his high school class. Today, he is happily married, a successful financial advisor, and actively participates in Risk Takers for Christ’s various ministries and sports teams.

A happy ending indeed, but Deanna and I were put on notice that stepping out in faith meant that we were now in “Satan’s crosshairs” and he was gunning for us.

In my previous ministry, which was based in New Jersey, we conducted multiple sports “crusades” each year that lasted five to eight days, allowing us to visit prisons in distant states like Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Without fail, the week before each trip, at least one of our players would suffer an unexpected family crisis. I am convinced that Satan knew that God was about to use our team to accomplish great things - reaching thousands of inmates with the gospel - and he was working overtime to try to derail our plans.

Other times, Satan would use bus breakdowns, prison riots, or inclement weather as roadblocks... but God always took what Satan meant for evil and used it for good (Genesis 50:20). I can just imagine how frustrated ol’ Lucifer must have been to see God have the last laugh time after time.

And so, my friend, please don’t be discouraged when you face physical or spiritual opposition. In many cases, it is an indication that you are on the right path. Just ask Charles Spurgeon, the “Prince of Preachers”...

“As soon as Ezra and Nehemiah began to work, Sanballat and Tobiah were stirred up to hinder them. What then? We are not alarmed because Satan hinders us, for it is a proof that we are on the Lord's side and are doing the Lord's work, and in His strength we will win the victory and triumph over our adversary.”

“Hezekiah appointed military commanders over the people and gathered the people in the square of the city gate. Then he encouraged them, saying, ‘Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged before the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater One with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.’ So the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.” 2 Chronicles 32:6-8 (BSB)



9th Annual Olde Hickory Golf Classic

Saturday, September 26, 2026
Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach FL
8 a.m. shotgun start

(Registration, Continental Breakfast & Driving Range Open at 7 a.m.)

The Olde Hickory Golf Classic is the most unique charity golf tournament on the Treasure Coast! It features a Par-3 hole where golfers get to use 100-year-old hickory-shafted clubs and retro balls designed to 1920's specifications. There is also a Putting Contest using hickory-shafted putters.

Best of all, it's all for a great cause! All tournament proceeds benefit Risk Takers for Christ and its Living H2O Initiative, a sports outreach to at-risk youth in our community.

Registration includes greens fees, cart, range balls, continental breakfast, boxed lunch, player pack, door prizes, and silent auction. Prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 foursomes, as well as the winners of the Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive contests. Golfers will also get the chance to win a trip for two (airfare and hotel included) to play Pebble Beach Golf Links or to attend the 2027 British Open at St. Andrews.

Tournament price is \$125 per golfer / \$480 per foursome. Deadline to register is Monday, September 21, 2026.

To register your foursome (or individual golfers), mail names and full payment to Risk Takers for Christ, PO Box 651421, Vero Beach FL 32965-1421. You can also register online at www.risktakersforchrist.org and pay with PayPal or by credit card.

For sponsorship opportunities, please email dale@risktakersforchrist.org or call 772.539.1826.

Dale's Secret Sauce

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"When you begin to rest in knowing that God will accomplish His purposes in you, you will no longer be driven to understand everything He directs you to do."
- Os Hillman

If you have a Type A personality...
If you are a control freak...
If you are a perfectionist...
If you are a worry wart...

Then I have a suggestion for you, because I am definitely guilty of being the first three and my simple solution has worked wonders for me.

Are you ready? OK, here it is, my "secret sauce"...

"...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 (BSB)

I adopted Philippians 1:6 as my life verse as a young believer and it has ministered to me thousands of times over the past 50 years... and here's why.

1. God began the work in me. It wasn't my idea, it was His.
2. No matter what I "see" when I look in the spiritual mirror at my all-too-imperfect reflection, God declares His work in me to be good... and who am I to argue?
3. God promises to complete that work and so, the pressure is on Him and not me. What a relief!

I pray that you will find as much comfort and peace from the 25 words packed in that one single verse as I have over the past half century. Meanwhile, here are a couple of other verses to meditate on...

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life." Ephesians 2:10 (BSB)

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." I Peter 2:9 (BSB)

Inmate Prayer Requests from Sumter

Robert - for my uncle "Poncho", who was murdered

Christopher - to be strong in Christ

Willie - for my wife, Tina; health and prosperity; spiritual curses to be removed from my life; and for my son, Dalven, who is incarcerated

Cephas - pray for those who are lost, that they will come to the light and true saving knowledge of Jesus Christ

Raymond - pray that one day I'll walk out of this prison alive

Artwan - to be the man God has called me to be

John - to pass my GED and be a better me

Macajaih - for God to show me my purpose in life

Norman - rededication to Christ and reconciliation with family

George - for my daughter, Brandi and her addiction, and my mom's health (Marilyn)

Jorge - for all my children (Jorge III, Dominick, Benteny and Jade) to know Christ

Bachat - pray for my son, age (12)

Anthony - that Jesus keeps waking up His people and that we keep showing His love

Nova - pray that I get released and my life sentence gets overturned... and that I follow Christ when I go home

Richard - my family and children, that their foundation remains in Christ

Mark - that I find a good Bible-based church upon my release on August 29th

Tony - to stay strong in the Lord Jesus Christ

Cornelius - for revival for the entire Department of Corrections

Tony - for restoration with my family, and also for my great niece, Hallie, that she will give her life to Christ

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