

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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2023

Candid.



Warts and All

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"Failure is better than living too safe."
- Os Hillman

When I decided to leave The Saints Prison Ministry after 24 years as founder and executive director so I could do more speaking and writing, Job #1 (as Ford Motor Company used to say) was to come up with a name for my new ministry. Since my second book was titled *Difference Makers*, that was my first choice but alas, somebody had already beaten me to it. And so, after some brainstorming with others and soul searching with myself, I settled on Risk Takers for Christ. After all, I reasoned, how can you be a "difference maker" if you are not a "risk taker" first?

Twelve years later, I think I made the right call... or actually, God did when He led me to make that decision.

If making an eternal difference for God requires some sort of spiritual risk taking, why do so few people follow that course of action? I think there are two reasons. First, I think most people - sadly, Christians included - prefer to live quiet, unobstructive, and comfortable lives... and speaking from personal experience, there is

nothing comfortable about taking risks. Likewise, I am convinced that making an eternal difference and having a spiritual impact is a relatively foreign concept to most people, believers and unbelievers alike. It simply isn't on their radar screen.

On the contrary, they value family, career, and accommodations (their house, their car, their vacations) above making a spiritual contribution to the Body of Christ or to building God's kingdom here on earth. They may pray "Thy kingdom come" but, in reality, they aren't willing to lift a finger to make it happen.

And so, the battle is left to the "bulls in a china shop" like me and some other nonconformists that I know. We bumble and stumble our way through life, making more personal and ministry mistakes than you'd have thought possible, but with a heart that chases hard after God. Thankfully, He knows our weaknesses, sees our good intentions, and repairs the unintended damage we sometimes cause.

In other words, risk taking is messy and making a difference is an inexact science. However, they are my life's true calling, and I wouldn't have it any other way... warts and all.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him..." - Hebrews 11:6 (NJKV)



Straight from the Horse's Mouth

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

There is nothing like hearing it “straight from the horse’s mouth.” And so, this month, instead of sharing with you the wonderful things God is doing through our Living H2O Initiative basketball program for at-risk youth, I thought it wise to let you hear directly from the young men who attend our program.

We recently gave them each a three-question survey that asked them what they liked the best and what they liked the least about our program, as well as what changes they would make if they were in charge. Here are some of their answers...

The thing I like BEST about the Living H2O Initiative basketball program is:

“The privilege of playing basketball with fellow bothers and hearing the word/lesson at halftime.”

“That it is centered on Christ. This program reaches both young and old, and I love it.”

“The halftime.”

“The community and the positive message.”

“I love playing and having good conversations.”

“We get to meet different guys who may be going through a struggle and sometimes the best way to get to know more about them is by hooping together.”

“The opportunity to exercise consistently.”

“This program has brought me closer to a lot of people that I now call friends who I wouldn’t have met otherwise.”

“God is the center of the program.”

“That the people who run it love God.”

“I always get a chance to play.”

“We can hoop with snacks and water always being provided.”

“Clean games.”

“Giving out gift cards to people who played the best.”

“We are allowed to be who we are on the court.”

“The snacks and hooping.”

“Seeing friends.”

“How positive it is and how we learn about God.”

“That it exists.”

The thing I like LEAST is:

“When people take the games more seriously than the halftime.”

“That there are some that don’t respect this place as they should in their conduct.”

“Nothing, everything is good” (Five people said something similar).

“Arguing. We all need to improve that.”

“When people talk during the speaker.”

“People cussing and disrespecting the house of God.”

“Sitting for too long.”

“The complaining between games.”

If I was in charge, I would:

“Try my best to run the program like Pastor Dale.”

“Keep it the same. It’s a great program and you guys are doing a wonderful job here.”

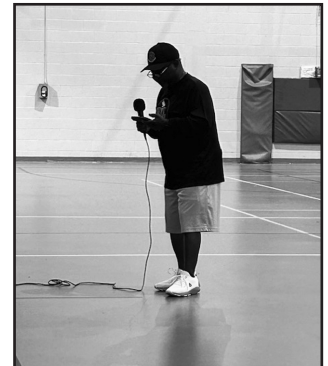
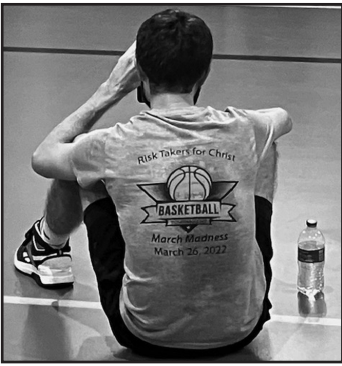
“Play full court, 5-on-5.”

“Have pizza every once in a while.”

“Do nothing different” (Seven more people said something similar).

So, there you have it. When given the chance to voice their opinions anonymously, our program participants gave us two big thumbs up!

Living H2O Initiative Photos



Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

Son, do you know how eagles teach their young to fly? From their home on the cleft of a high cliff, the mother decides it is time for them to fly so she literally pushes them out of the nest. Then she swoops under them, rescues them, carries them to new heights... and drops them again. That's a bit of a picture of how I also work with my sons and daughters. I thrust you into situations in which you feel totally helpless. You feel that you are in a free fall. But your perception is not totally accurate. You think I am not there, but I am. I make sure you do not fall to the ground. By placing you into a vulnerable place, you are forced to trust. You learn to fly. You go to new places with me. You begin to understand that I am your security. Like the eagle, you too were made to fly. And the process often begins with a traumatic experience as I kick you out of the safety of your nest.

"As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings, so the Lord alone led him, and there was no foreign god with him."

- Deuteronomy 32:11, 12

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**Midway Bible Fellowship
proudly presents**

**KENNY MUNDS
in CONCERT**

**"A Country Christmas"
Saturday, December 9,
2023 7:00 PM**



*****FREE ADMISSION*****

Kenny Munds served as the lead singer of Brush Arbor, a southern gospel group that won two Academy of Country Music awards in the 1970's. Under contract with Capitol Records, Kenny and Brush Arbor opened for such country music legends as Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, and Charlie Rich.

Alcohol and addiction brought Kenny's soaring career to an abrupt halt but, by the grace of God, he has been sober since 1990 and has dedicated his life to ministering to inmates in prisons across the United States.

Come hear Kenny's soaring vocals in this very special Christmas concert, sponsored by Midway Bible Fellowship. Free refreshments will be served.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

BROADWAY MELODIES

featuring
Edmund & Cathi Nalzaro

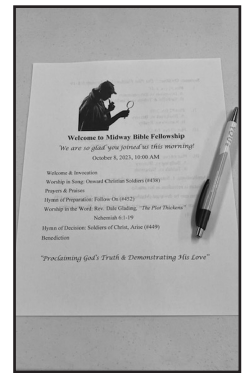
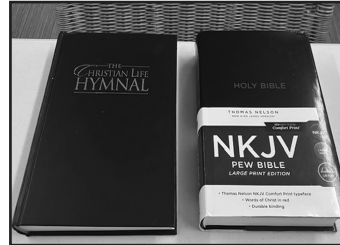


Friday, January 19, 2024
7 PM

***FREE ADMISSION &
FREE REFRESHMENTS***

Edmund starred on Broadway in Miss Saigon while his lovely wife Cathi provides the perfect harmony to His soaring vocals. Don't miss this spectacular musical revue, sponsored by Midway Bible Fellowship.

Midway Bible Fellowship Photos



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 uplift-
ing devotional
message each
weekday.*



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

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