

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Square Pegs & Round Holes

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"It is not our job to create our own plans. It is not our job to hold on to the way things used to be. It is our job to join God in what He is doing." - Rev. Greg Sempstrott

Have you ever tried to pound a square peg into a round hole?

After 24 years as founder and executive director of The Saints Prison Ministry, I relocated to Vero Beach FL along with Deanna and our three (then single) children, to launch Risk Takers for Christ. My desire was to spend more time speaking and writing, gifts that I believe God gave me and that He wants - and expects - me to use for His glory.

However, within a year or so, I was once again leading sports teams into prisons throughout Florida, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Kenya. God blessed those trips, sometimes even more than when I was with the Saints, but it became harder and harder to recruit enough players to staff our basketball and softball squads. And so, we made the difficult decision to discontinue the prison ministry aspect of Risk Takers for Christ and to focus on our core outreach to at-risk youth, the daily devotionals that we publish, and our new church plant, Midway Bible Fellowship.

Today, 12 years after leaving New Jersey, guess what I am doing? That's right... speaking and writing! God has also allowed me to

keep my hand in sports ministry through our Living H2O Initiative, but the majority of my time is spent exercising the communication skills that He gave me.

Funny how that works out, isn't it? Even though we tend to take detours in life - me, more than most - He always manages to reroute us and to get us to our final destination... right on schedule.



"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps."
- Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

"Behold, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert." - Isaiah 43:19 (BSB)

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
- Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

 **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



Virtue on Vacation

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Do you remember the first days back to school after a long summer vacation? As a kid, there was the anticipation and excitement of seeing your friends again mixed with a sense of dread at knowing that you were about to be given an endless stream of homework assignments... followed by tests, quizzes, book reports, and term papers.

For professional educators, the challenge was to reinforce what was learned the previous year - much of which was forgotten or at least misplaced during those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" - before forging ahead to new subject matter.

I use that all-too-familiar educational scenario to call attention to what has happened to virtue in America. Generations ago, there was a respect for authority as children obeyed their parents and students listened to

their teachers. All a pastor or a policeman needed to do was glance in your direction and you sat up straight and minded your P's and Q's.

Meanwhile, the elderly were respected and consulted for their vast storehouse of knowledge and wisdom. Neighbors looked after - and cared for - neighbors and an almost tangible sense of community was commonplace from the rural plains to small-town America... and yes, included inner city neighborhoods, too.

Fast forward to today and, unless you live in the deep south, "yes sirs" and "yes ma'ams" have gone the way of the Edsel, iceboxes, and the rotary phone. Young men, who once were trained to offer their seat to a woman or a senior citizen, now sit while others stand. Profanity, once relegated to men-only conversations, is now used indiscriminately in mixed company with the gals giving as much as they are taking, sometimes more.

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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.

The Benefit of Affliction

by Alistair Begg

"I said in my prosperity, 'I shall never be moved.'"
- Psalm 30:6

Give a man wealth; let his ships bring home continually rich treasure; let the winds and waves appear to be his servants to carry his vessels across the bosom of the mighty deep; let his fields produce abundantly; let the weather be kind to his crops; let uninterrupted success attend him; let him stand among men as a successful merchant; let him enjoy continued health; allow him with braced nerve and brilliant eye to march through the world and live happily; give him the buoyant spirit; let him have a song perpetually on his lips; let his eye be ever sparkling with joy - and the inevitable consequence of such an easy life to any man, even though he may be the best Christian who ever breathed, will be presumption. Even David said, "I shall never be moved"; and we are not better than David, nor half so good.

Brother, beware of the smooth places of the way; if you are treading them, or if the way be rough, thank God for it. If God should always rock us in the cradle of prosperity, if we were always enjoying good fortune, and there were no clouds in the sky, and no bitter drops in the wine of this life, we would become intoxicated with pleasure, and we would dream that we were standing - and stand we should, but it would be upon a pinnacle; like the man

Virtue on Vacation

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However, being an eternal optimist, I refuse to believe that America has reached the point of no return. In fact, return is exactly what we need: a return to God, a return to civility and mutual respect, a return to common courtesy and common decency, and a return to the Judeo-Christian principles that once made us great... and can do so again.

No, it won't be easy and no, it won't happen overnight. After all, it took liberals, progressives, and Saul Alinsky acolytes multiple decades to upend and unravel what our Founding Fathers built and weaved together. However, as the sign on Ronald Reagan's desk said, "It CAN be done!"

If we are willing, if we are diligent, and if we are true Americans. After all, virtue isn't gone... it simply took an extended vacation.

asleep upon the mast, each moment we would be in jeopardy.

We bless God, then, for our afflictions; we thank Him for our changes; we extol His name for losses of property; for we feel that if He had not chastened us in this way, we might have become too secure. Continued worldly prosperity is a fiery trial.

Afflictions, though they seem severe,
In mercy oft are sent.

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

Listening to the Father's Heart

by Os Hillman

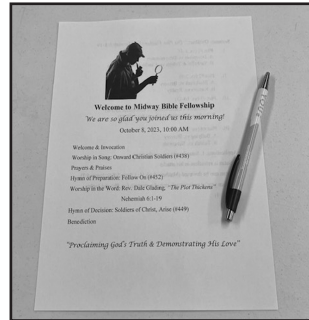
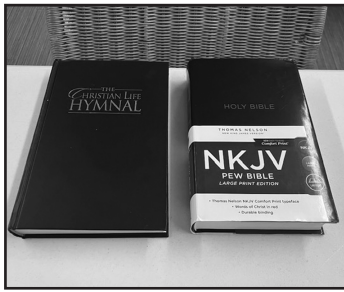
Son, I want you to know that what you are doing during your brief time on earth is going to determine the level of responsibility you will have in my eternal kingdom. Some think that we will be sitting around singing Kum Ba Yah and twirling our thumbs. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There will be cities to manage. It will be a new and different world. There is no marriage in heaven, but you will be with your loved ones (Mt 22:30). There is also an inheritance waiting for you, to reward your work done on earth (Col. 3:23-24). So you see, my son, what you do now does matter. But the fruit that comes from your life must be done with a motive to glorify me. Otherwise your works could be burned up. Remember - it's not about performance. It's about abiding in me (Jn 15:1-3). Draw near. Stay close. Do this, and you will fulfill all I have in mind for you.

And he said to him, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities." - Luke 19:17

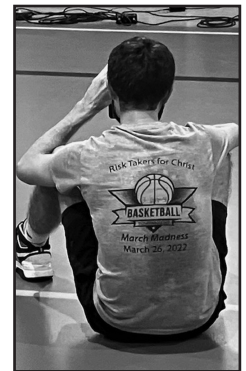
"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is." - I Corinthians 3:12-13

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Midway Bible Fellowship Photos



Living H2O Initiative 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 uplifting devotional message each weekday.

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