

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.



Stop Wringing Your Hands... and Do Something

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

"Now is the time for feats of faith and valiant exploits." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"If not you, who?"

"If not now, when?"

Every American - and every Christian - should ask themselves these two very important questions each morning as they look in the mirror to brush their teeth and comb their hair.

The sad truth is that the America we once knew is slipping further and further away. In fact, it is in danger of disappearing completely - and forever - from our national landscape, going the way of the passenger pigeon and the ivory-billed woodpecker, both now extinct. While a modern-day Nero fiddles in the White House, the Judeo-Christian foundations on which our great country was built are being burned to the ground. In their place are values which are not only foreign to the American way of life, but also the polar opposites of the biblical and traditional ones we once held near and dear.

The forced redistribution of wealth... two genders being replaced by more than 120 different variations... the union of one man and one woman for life being discarded in favor of same-sex marriage and no-fault divorce...

the sanctity of life everywhere - and especially in the womb - giving way to abortion on demand as part of a woman's "reproductive rights." Burning and looting in the streets under the false guise of legitimate protest. And so it goes... on and on and on.

Meanwhile, 80,000 souls die and enter a Christ-less eternity every day. Read that again... and weep.

What is a Christian in America to do in the face of such matters? Well, here are a few simple suggestions...



Pray... pray harder... and pray harder still. Then as God directs, take bold and decisive action. Maybe He would have you run for public office or

write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper. How about teaching Sunday School, leading the youth group at church, or volunteering for a local pro-life organization? Voting for the most God-fearing, Constitution-revering candidates helps, too.

Don't get discouraged, my friend. There is still time to turn the tide if Christians and conservatives band together. Remember, both the buffalo and the bald eagle were once on the endangered species list. Today, they fly and roam free across wide swaths of our fruited plain.

"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

- Esther 4:14 (NKJV)

Don't Give Up! Somebody DOES Care!

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Sociologists love to divide people into different categories, each with its own distinctive label. For instance, Baby Boomers like me were born between 1946 and 1964. Next came Generation Xers, born from 1965 to 1980; followed by Millennials (also known as Generation Y), born between 1981 and 1996. Zoomers or Generation Z came next, from 1997 to 2012; after which came Generation Alpha from 2013 to the Present.

Got that?

Last week, I heard an interview with a serviceman who was trying to explain why the U.S. military is having a hard time meeting its recruitment goals. In fact, he even wrote a book about the current enlistment crisis titled, "We Don't Want You, Uncle Sam". I guess it was a take-off of the old "Uncle Sam wants YOU!" recruitment posters that were popular during the two World Wars.

One of the more startling - and disturbing - points he made was that the second leading cause of death for Millennials is suicide. (Further research on my part shows it to be #3, behind accidents and heart disease).

How can that be? After all, people of that generation are between 27 and 42 years old, what most of us would consider the prime years of life. And yet, thousands of Millennials consider their lives to be so painful or so meaningless that they end them prematurely each year.

What makes 50,000 Americans kill themselves every year and another 1.7 million attempt to take their own lives? According to the aforementioned serviceman, one of the biggest reasons is a sense of loneliness and isolation. Yes, even in this age of social media where virtually everyone is linked by a cellphone, a laptop, and/or a smartwatch, people feel so alone that they are tempted to commit suicide.

You may have thousands of "friends" on Facebook, but very few people with whom you physically interact every day. Likewise, you may have a million or more "followers" on Instagram, but you don't feel loved and appreciated.

So, what's the solution?

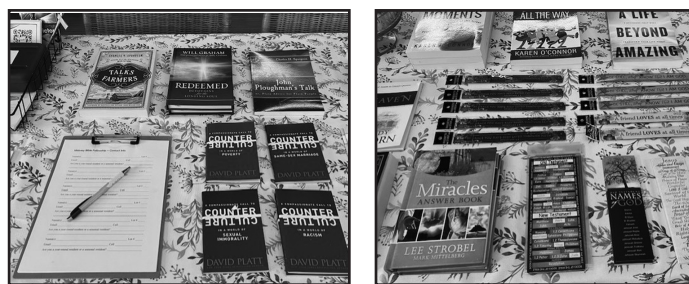
Whereas they are no easy answers, I think we need to convey to people that they have an inherent worth simply because they have been created in the very image and likeness of God Himself (see Genesis 1:26). They also need to be told that God loves them unconditionally (see John 3:16) and that He has a wonderful plan for their lives (see Jeremiah 11:29-31).

Instead, our schools and our society at large send the same relentless - and demoralizing - message that we are merely highly-developed apes which, in turn, evolved from some primordial soup eons ago. God, if He does exist, is a detached and ambivalent Supreme Being or energy source who doesn't know me let alone care about me. Of course, that is a lie, because the God of the universe is so concerned about us and what is going on in our lives that He knows the exact number of hairs on our head (see Luke 12:7). Not only that, but He wants to have a personal relationship with us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

That truth - and that Truth alone - will convey purpose and a sense of significance to Millennials and every other generation. We just need to share it with them before it's too late.

(If you are struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts, please let someone know... and don't stop there. Call or text the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 988. I would also suggest that you read the following Bible passages about God's infinite and boundless love and care for you (Matthew 6:25-34; and Romans 8:35-39).

Midway Bible Fellowship Photos



Bad News

by Alistair Begg

"He is not afraid of bad news." - Psalm 112:7

Christian, you ought not to be afraid of the arrival of bad news; because if you are distressed by such, you are no different from other men. They do not have your God to run to; they have never proved His faithfulness as you have done, and it is no wonder if they are bowed down with alarm and cowed with fear. But you profess to be of another spirit; you have been born again to a living hope, and your heart lives in heaven and not on earthly things. If you are seen to be distracted as other men, what is the value of that grace that you profess to have received? Where is the dignity of that new nature that you claim to possess?

Again, if you should be filled with alarm like others, you would no doubt be led into the sins so common to them under trying circumstances. The ungodly, when they are overtaken by bad news, rebel against God; they murmur and maintain that God has dealt harshly with them. Will you fall into that same sin? Will you provoke the Lord as they do?

Moreover, unconverted men often run to wrong means in order to escape from difficulties, and you will be sure to do the same if your mind yields to the present pressure. Trust in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. Your wisest course is to do what Moses did at the Red Sea: "Stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD." (Exodus 14:13). For if you give way to fear when you hear bad news, you will be unable to meet the trouble with that calm composure that prepares for duty and sustains in adversity.

How can you glorify God if you play the coward? Saints have often sung God's high praises in the fires, but when you act as if there were no one to help, will your doubting and despondency magnify the Most High? Then take courage and, relying in sure confidence upon the faithfulness of your covenant God, "Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

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, there is a kingdom principle you have learned that I want you to share with my sons and daughters. When you are thrust into a time of great adversity and pain, the only way to heal is to begin to focus on others. Staying focused on yourself internalizes your pain. Your healing comes as you go outside of yourself. This is an unnatural response to pain. But I can assure you this is the only path to true healing. Continue to sow into others during these times. You will find joy returning to your life.

He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. - Ps 126:2

... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." - Matt 20:28

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Wisdom from C.S. Lewis

When it comes to a question of our forgiving other people, it is partly the same and partly different. It is the same because, here also, forgiving does not mean excusing. Many people seem to think it does. They think that if you ask them to forgive someone who has cheated or bullied them you are trying to make out that there was really no cheating or no bullying. But if that were so, there would be nothing to forgive.

They keep on replying, "But I tell you the man broke a most solemn promise." Exactly: that is precisely what you must forgive. (This doesn't mean that you must necessarily believe his next promise. It does mean that you must make every effort to kill every taste of resentment in your own heart - every wish to humiliate or hurt him or to pay him out.) The difference between this situation and the one in which you are asking God's forgiveness is this. In our own case we accept excuses too easily; in other people's we do not accept them easily enough.

BROADWAY MELODIES

featuring
Edmund & Cathi Nalzaro

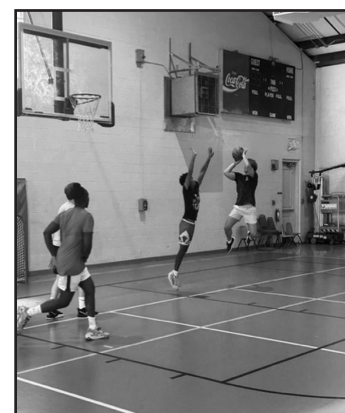


Friday, October 13, 2023
7 PM

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.

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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