

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

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The Third Time May Be The Charm

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

August 30th is the day that I learn if I have any future in politics or if God is closing that door permanently. And to be quite frank, I am content with whichever option He chooses.

I first ran for political office in 2008 because no one else would. The congressional district in which I ran was so liberal that the 18-year Democrat incumbent had run unopposed in both 2002 and 2006. Since the last time a Republican was elected in that district was in 1972, I knew that my chances of winning were slim and none.

However, as a biblical and constitutional conservative, I felt compelled to run anyway for the sake of my three children. And despite losing in the general election after winning the GOP primary, I did better than any member of my party had in 35 years and earned the endorsements of all three major newspapers.

Two years later, I ran again and did even better, but still only won a “silver medal.”

Now, I am running for the third - and very possibly last - time. But this time is quite a bit different. First, I am running for a state position, not a federal one. And second, I am running in my adopted home state of Florida instead of New Jersey, where I was born and raised.

There is one other difference between my first two races and this one. Instead of running for the sake of my three children, I am

running for the sake of my three grandchildren. Yes, time does march on!

Simply put, I want a better future for them and I am willing to fight as hard as possible to see that they get it.

Once again, I am a decided underdog in this race, facing three wealthy opponents, two of whom are spending hundreds of thousands to win a part-time position that pays less than \$30,000. But being an underdog has its advantages, because I can say what I believe without worrying about the political ramifications.

Truth be told, I would still “speak the truth in love” even if I were the prohibitive favorite!

Another advantage to being an underdog is that if I win - and I honestly believe it’s possible - all of the political pundits from Vero Beach to Tallahassee and back will be astonished. My simple explanation will be that God, who so often chooses the simple things of the world to confound the wise, performed yet another miracle. From a purely political perspective, there will be no other plausible explanation.

But like the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12, I will gladly accept God’s judgment at the polls on August 30th. Paul prayed three times for a mysterious “thorn in the flesh” to be removed and each time, God said “No,” that His strength was made perfect in Paul’s weakness. And so, Paul accepted God’s sovereignty over his life and moved on... and I am prepared to do likewise.

The way I look at it, if I win the election, I

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Running at 70 MPH

by Christopher Glading, Program Director

"I am not discouraged, because every wrong attempt discarded is another step forward." - Thomas A. Edison

The other day, I was watching a National Geographic special on Africa's deadliest animals. One of the predators featured was the cheetah. I have always found cheetahs to be pretty amazing creatures. Though lesser in size than other big cats, the cheetah has been given wonderfully unique abilities.



In a chase, the cheetah averages speeds of 40 mph and can even accelerate to 70 mph in spurts. This makes it the fastest land animal on the planet. The cheetah's body is light and aerodynamic. A flexible spine empowers the cheetah to leap 25 feet in a single bound and its tail acts as a rudder for efficient turns. Such design enables the cheetah to overcome its prey.

Still, after its victory, the cheetah is left with yet another challenge. Its speed, though an advantage in the chase,

can become its downfall. The cheetah's heart must work incredibly hard, increasing the animal's body temperature to dangerously high levels. As a result, it must rest before feeding. During this time, both the cheetah and its prey are vulnerable to other predators, specifically lions. Exhausted from the chase, a cheetah will often have to forfeit its kill.

This common event in nature illustrates the discouragement we sometimes feel in life. Though we work hard, sacrifice much, and come ever close to achieving our goals, we are occasionally left with nothing to show for our effort. Yet, as the cheetah does not yield to defeat but hunts again, we too must push on. Failure is almost certain in the course of any endeavor. We cannot let it discourage us from continuing the pursuit of success.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9 ESV

My Favorite Father's Day Present

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Father's Day has come and gone, but I am still on Cloud 9 over the gifts I received that day.

My special day started with worshipping at Freedom Church followed by lunch at our house with my wife, our three kids and their spouses. It doesn't get much better than that right? Well, it did!

And I'm not talking about the new set of irons our kids bought me, yes the same ones that I used to record my first ever hole-in-one a few days later. And I'm not talking about being able to relax on the sofa and enjoy the final round of the U.S. Open on TV... although that was great, too.

Nope, the highlight of my Father's Day was a simple Facebook post I read that day.

I had received a Facebook "friend request" from one of the young men who attends our Living H2O Initiative on Thursday evenings. Of course, I clicked "confirm" and then scrolled down Tyler's homepage to see what his most recent posts had to say.

Imagine my surprise - and absolute joy - when I read the following words...

"Most people know that I have never believed in a god. Well, over the past few months I have been playing basketball on Thursdays at a church with wonderful people. Every Thursday they bring in someone well known and they speak about their testimony and what led them to Jesus. And over this time frame I have spoken with the pastor and the testimonies of these wonderful speakers have touched me in different ways. So I would like everyone to know that as of last night I have asked Jesus Christ into my heart. And to guide me through with everything I do. I am going to try and walk the path He would want me to live."

As I copied and pasted those words from Tyler's homepage onto this letter, I got goosebumps... again. And yes, my eyes welled up with tears... again.

When Tyler first started attending our Living H2O Initiative about eight or nine months ago, he had a bad attitude and a very large chip on his shoulder. It seemed like he was always ready to pick a fight with someone. But over the ensuing months, his attitude changed dramatically and he became one of the most supportive and cooperative young men there.

And then he came to Christ. Hallelujah!

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Be Zealous

by C.H. Spurgeon

Excerpted from Morning and Evening

If you would see souls converted, if you would hear the cry that "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord;" if you would place crowns upon the head of the Saviour, and His throne lifted high, then be filled with zeal.

For, under God, the way of the world's conversion must be by the zeal of the church. Every grace shall do exploits, but this shall be first; prudence, knowledge, patience, and courage will follow in their places, but zeal must lead the van.

It is not the extent of your knowledge, though that is useful; it is not the extent of your talent, though that is not to be despised; it is your zeal that shall do great exploits. This zeal is the fruit of the Holy Spirit: it draws its vital force from the continued operations of the Holy Ghost in the soul.

If our inner life dwindles, if our heart beats slowly before God, we shall not know zeal; but if all be strong and vigorous within, then we cannot but feel a loving anxiety to see the kingdom of Christ come, and His will done on earth, even as it is in heaven.

A deep sense of gratitude will nourish Christian zeal. Looking to the hole of the pit whence we were digged, we find abundant reason why we should spend and be spent for God. And zeal is also stimulated by the thought of the eternal future. It looks with tearful eyes down to the flames of hell, and it cannot slumber: it looks up with anxious gaze to the gloried of heaven, and it cannot but bestir itself. It feels that time is short compared with the work to be done, and therefore it devotes all that it has to the cause of its Lord.

And it is ever strengthened by the remembrance of Christ's example. He was clothed with zeal as with a cloak. How swift the chariot-wheels of duty went with Him! He knew no loitering by the way. Let us prove that we are His disciples by manifesting the same spirit of zeal.

Servant Leadership

by Os Hillman, TGIF Today God Is First Volume 2

"Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt 20:26-28).

A rider on horseback, many years ago, came upon a squad of soldiers who were trying to move a heavy piece of timber. A corporal stood by, giving lordly orders to "heave." But the piece of timber was a trifle too heavy for the squad.

"Why don't you help them?" asked the quiet man on the horse, addressing the important corporal.

"Me? Why, I'm a corporal sir!" Dismounting, the stranger carefully took his place with the soldiers.

"Now, all together boys - heave!" he said. And the big piece of timber slid into place. The stranger mounted his horse and addressed the corporal.

"The next time you have a piece of timber for your men to handle, corporal, send for the commander-in-chief."

The horseman was George Washington, the first American president.

Whenever someone mentions your name does the word "servant" come to their mind? Jesus modeled servanthood to twelve young men and changed the world. If you want to see others become servants you must model it yourself. George Washington was a great example of a Christian leader who was a great soldier and servant to those he led. No wonder God used this great servant to establish a new nation.

Moses was also a great leader of men. The Bible says that Moses was the most humble man on earth. That is why God could use him to lead hundreds of thousands out of slavery into the Promised Land.

Pray that God makes you a great humble servant leader of others.

Reprinted by permission from the author. Os Hillman is an international speaker and author of 15 books on workplace calling. To learn more, visit <http://www.MarketplaceLeaders.org>"

Praying for Prisoners

by Judy Morgan, RTC Prayer Partner

Have you ever been so angry that you've said something cruel to hurt somebody? Then the Holy Spirit convicted you of your sin and you confessed it?

Some anger can result in unconfessed sin and into uncontrollable rage. Wouldn't you think that prisoners could fall victim to Satan's temptations without being committed to Jesus Christ? Jesus says in Ephesians 4:26, *"Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath."* Verse 27 says, *"Neither give place to the devil."*

One of the prisoners recently wrote *"Pray that I will pray before making major decisions and that I will listen."* Perhaps we could benefit too from his request. Sin has many consequences and the prisoners can attest to that. You can be encouraged to know that your prayers have a profound effect on these prisoners. One wrote *"I just need prayer. I've been saved since November, 2015. I used to be the head of a gang but I gave that all up for Christ."* This was written by a prisoner who now is following Christ and I'm sure having a positive effect for Him.

In the same chapter of Ephesians verses 31, 32 says *"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."*

Let us pray for the prisoners to put aside any pent up anger and replace it with a commitment to follow Jesus. Will you join me in prayer?

Our Staff & Board Members

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My Favorite Father's Day Present

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We have seen some remarkable growth in some other young men who are involved in our program. Larry, one of the best all-around players, recently got baptized and has been sharing about Jesus with anyone who will listen. And River, who used to carry a chip on his shoulder almost as big as Tyler's, is usually waiting outside the gym when we pull up because he is so anxious to go inside.

Working with at-risk youth is some of the hardest evangelistic work I have ever done, because their hearts - even at such a young age - are often rock hard. Because they come from broken homes and dysfunctional families, they have put up walls to protect themselves from additional hurts... and simply to survive.

But it is also incredibly rewarding, because over a period of time, God's Holy Spirit can penetrate those hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). Just ask Tyler!

The Third Time May Be The Charm

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get to serve God in Tallahassee. If I lose, I still win because I get to serve God in Vero Beach. How cool is that!

But in the meantime, I plan to take advantage of every opportunity to share my faith along the campaign trail. Running for office gives a Christian an elevated platform from which to talk about Jesus and for those bold enough to seize that chance, I highly recommend it.

Editor's Note: Win, lose or draw, Dale intends to continue serving as President of Risk Takers for Christ.

Upcoming Risk Takers Events:

- ◆ August 13: Softball at Marion CI
- ◆ September 10: Basketball at Martin CI
- ◆ September 24: Dare 2B Daring men's conference at Southside Baptist Church, Dover DE
- ◆ September 29: 4th Annual Racial Reconciliation Conference, Vero Beach FL

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