

# Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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## Fit As a Bull Moose

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

*"The boy who is going to make a great man must not make up his mind merely to overcome a thousand obstacles, but to win in spite of a thousand repulses and defeats."* - Theodore Roosevelt

Teddy Roosevelt was born into extreme privilege, but he also experienced his share of trials in life. For instance, he suffered with debilitating asthma throughout his childhood, eventually overcoming the disease by intentionally living a physically strenuous lifestyle.

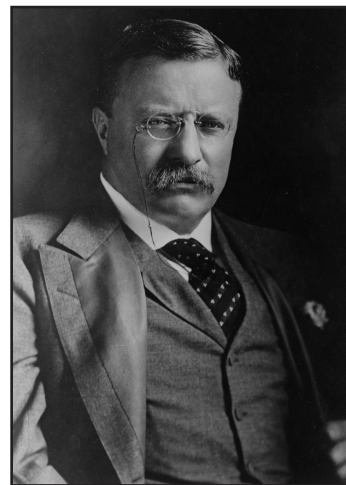
Then, on February 14, 1884, his first wife Alice died at age 22 from Bright's Disease, just two days after giving birth to their first and only child. That same day, his mother died. A grief-stricken Roosevelt wrote a giant X on that date in his diary along with these words, "The light has gone out of my life."

Overcome with depression, Roosevelt left his baby daughter in the care of his sister and sought refuge in the Dakota Territory where he hunted, fished, and became a rancher. However, when the severe winter of 1886-1887 wiped out his entire cattle herd and half of his \$80,000 investment (\$2.71 million today), Roosevelt returned to New York.

Over the next 13 years, Roosevelt served as

Police Commissioner of New York City, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Governor of New York, and Vice President of the United States. He also famously led the Rough Riders up San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. When William McKinley was assassinated in September 1901, Roosevelt became America's 26th President.

After serving the rest of McKinley's term and being elected in 1904 in his own right, Roosevelt chose not to run for re-election in



1908, endorsing his hand-picked successor William Howard Taft instead. Unhappy with Taft's policies and perhaps missing the limelight, Roosevelt sought the Republican Party's nomination in 1912, but narrowly lost to Taft. Undaunted, Roosevelt ran as the nominee of the Progressive or "Bull Moose" Party, finishing ahead of Taft but second to Democrat Woodrow Wilson.

During the 1912 campaign, Roosevelt was shot in the chest by a would-be assassin while in Milwaukee. The bullet tore through his eyeglass case and the 50-page speech in his coat pocket, lodging in Roosevelt's chest but not penetrating his lung. Against his doctor's advice, Roosevelt insisted on delivering his entire 90-minute speech with blood soaking through his shirt.

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## Tag-Team Evangelism

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

Back when I was a kid, Channel 48 (a UHF station in the Philadelphia area) used to broadcast live wrestling matches on Saturday afternoons. Among the headliners were Andre the Giant and Chief Jay Strongbow, but my favorite format was the tag-team matches. Basically, two wrestlers would face-off in the center of the ring, but if they ran into difficulty - instead of tapping out - they would simply reach out and touch their partner, who would then leap into the ring to offer assistance.

So, what does that have to do with our Living H2O Initiative?

Well, a few weeks ago, our guest speaker contacted me to say that he wasn't feeling well and wouldn't be able to come. Usually, I just fill in myself whenever we have a last-minute cancellation. However, I had just suffered a serious vertigo attack that morning and was still feeling a little "weak and woozy"... and so, I texted my son Chris to ask him to speak.

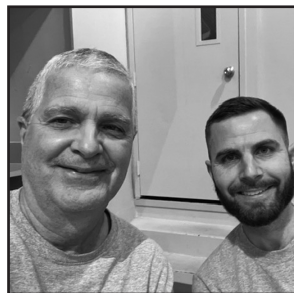
As God would have it, I felt well enough to attend our basketball program that evening. When I arrived at the gym, I asked Chris if he had something prepared to share with the 30 or so young men who were there. "Yes," he said, "but it will only take 3-4 minutes."

That quickly, my mind raced back to those Saturday afternoons watching pro-wrestling on TV and in particular, to those tag-team matches. "Great," I told Chris, "I prepared a very short message too, so we'll just tag-team it."

When it was time to break for our halftime gospel presentation, I told the group about our scheduled speaker's sudden illness and then turned the mic over to Chris. He did a great job using God's creation, particularly the various stars and planets, to illustrate His immense power. I took over from there and shared the brief message that God had laid on my heart.

Overall, it went off seamlessly and the response from the young men was extremely positive. Best of all, I was one very proud dad as I got to witness first-hand my son share God's truth passionately and effectively on very short notice.

Below are a couple of pictures that I took that night...



Thanks for standing with Chris and me as we share God's truth and His love every Monday evening to a gym packed with at-risk youth. Each week, we do our best to sow some spiritual seeds and to mentor these young athletes in their "teens and twenties" who have a void of positive male role models in their lives.

P.S. That experience reminded me of two familiar Bible verses...

*"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction."* 2 Timothy 4:2 (BSB)

*"Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope."* I Peter 3:15 (CEV)

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## Fit As a Bull Moose

*continued from page 1*

Roosevelt died in his sleep on January 6, 1919, of a pulmonary embolism at the age of 60. Thomas R. Marshall, who served as vice president under Woodrow Wilson, said that "Death had to take Roosevelt sleeping, for if he had been awake, there would have been a fight."

Say what you want, but Teddy Roosevelt lived a very full life and overcame every obstacle that was thrown at him. With God's help, may you and I be overcomers too.

*"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 (NKJV)

*"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith."* I John 5:4 (ESV)

# You CAN Go Home Again

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

“You Can’t Go Home Again” was a novel written by Thomas Wolfe and published posthumously in 1940. The title phrase soon became part of the American lexicon and was considered proof that once you leave home - or someplace where you once put down roots - you can never go back because times change and so do people.

But guess what? You CAN go home again... and I have proof!

One of the keys to our Living H2O Initiative is establishing mentoring relationships with the young men who attend our program. Many of them come from fatherless homes and lack a positive male role model in their lives, so we try to provide the spiritual guidance, encouragement, and direction they so desperately need.

One young man that we met about six years ago is named Jonathan. My son Chris and I encountered him and his friend Yadi at the outdoor basketball courts at Schumann Park in Sebastian. Over the next several years, we played two-on-two with them - or three-on-three if their friends Lance or Conner were there - and we only lost once. But far more importantly, we established a strong bond that continued to grow as we transported Jonathan from his home in Sebastian to our indoor program in Vero Beach.

Eventually, Jonathan graduated from Sebastian River High School and moved to Orlando to seek a better paying job and so, we lost touch for a couple of years. Until, that is, he showed up at our Living H2O Initiative a few weeks ago. Jonathan was in town to visit some friends and relatives, but at the top of his To-Do list was to seek Chris and me out.

As you can imagine, I was thrilled when Jonathan walked into the gym, and I gave him a big hug. Although I rarely play basketball on Monday nights anymore because the gym is so crowded and I don’t want to take playing time away from anyone else, I made an exception this time around. Chris, Jonathan, and I teamed up with another player and it was just like old times.

You can see from the pictures how much Jonathan has grown physically since we first met him, but he has also

matured into a fine young man... and I couldn’t be prouder of him if I tried.



I could say the same thing about LJ, who stopped by the gym for some “Bible and basketball” recently while on leave from the Army... or Zach, who graduated high school and now works for the sheriff’s department but tries to attend our Living H2O Initiative as often as his schedule allows.

As Frederick Douglass famously - and very accurately - said, *“It’s easier to build strong children, than to fix broken men.”*

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## Welcome Aboard, Tom Cox!



Rev. Tom Cox was unanimously elected to the Risk Takers for Christ board of trustees last month. Pastor Tom has been close friends with RTC President Dale Glading for more than 20 years. He also has a long history of being involved with Risk Takers, having participated in our South Carolina Prison Project in 2012 and our Kenyan Prison Project in 2014, as well as serving as a keynote speaker at two RTC Bible Conferences in 2018 and 2019.

Tom Cox is a native of Roanoke, Virginia and a proud graduate of the University of South Carolina (Go, Gamecocks!). He received his Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando where he also did doctoral work. A veteran of more than 40 years of full-time ministry, he has served churches in Alabama, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and North Carolina. Before his ordination as a PCA Teaching Elder, Tom invested 14 years in campus ministry. It was during that time that he met and married Kelli, who is originally from Michigan. The Coxes have two grown children.

Tom is also Pastoral Mentor for the Presbyterian Church of Sierra Leone through West Africa Reformed Mission. In addition, he helps coach churches through *Flourish Coaching*.

# Your Heartbeat or Your Weariness?

by Alistair Begg

*“For this child I prayed.”*

- 1 Samuel 1:27

Devout souls delight to reflect upon those mercies that they have obtained in answer to prayer, for they can see God's special love in them. When we can name our blessings Samuel - that is, “asked of God” - they will be as dear to us as this child was to Hannah. Peninnah had many children, but they came as common blessings unsought in prayer. Hannah's one heaven-given child was far more precious, because he was the fruit of sincere pleadings. How sweet was the water that Samson found at “the spring of him who called.”<sup>1</sup>

Did we pray for the conversion of our children? How doubly sweet, when they are saved, to see in them our own petitions answered! Better to rejoice over them as the fruit of our pleadings than as the fruit of our bodies. Have we asked the Lord for some choice spiritual gift? When it comes to us, it will be wrapped up in the golden cloth of God's faithfulness and truth and will be doubly precious. Have we sought success in the Lord's work? How joyful is the prosperity that comes flying on the wings of prayer!

It is always best to get blessings into our house in the legitimate way, by the door of prayer; then they are blessings indeed, and not temptations. Even when prayer is not speedy, the blessings grow all the richer on account of the delay; the child Jesus was all the more lovely in the eyes of Mary when she found Him after having searched for Him. What we gain by prayer we should dedicate to God, as Hannah dedicated Samuel. The gift came from heaven; let it go to heaven. Prayer brought it, gratitude sang over it - let devotion consecrate it. Here will be a special occasion for saying, “Of Your own I have given to You.” Reader, is prayer your heartbeat or your weariness? Which? t

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



## 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

## 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.*

## Living H2O Initiative



Mondays from 6-8 p.m.  
First Baptist Church of Vero

Join us for some Bible &  
Basketball  
*Free Snacks Provided*

## Our Staff & Board Members

Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

Rev. Larry “Chap” Lilly, Vice President

Christopher Glading, Director of Programs and Publicity

Rebekah Bailey, Director of Communications

Trustees: Rev. Tom Cox, Steve Salis, Steve Schwartz

Advisory Council: Robert Bartosz, Steve Schoch

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