

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers *for Christ*

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a ministry partner
in Kenya.

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Two Encouraging Ladies

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

At the close of our Sunday church service a few weeks ago, I shared the news that - for medical reasons - Deanna and I would be selling our trailer and moving from Midway Estates. "I have had eight vertigo attacks in the past three weeks," I told our congregation, "one of which was so severe that I wound up in the ER."

"Deanna has done a lot of research," I said, "and she found that one of the worst things for someone battling vertigo is living in an RV. So, we are going to be moving into a CBS (concrete block) house.

"But it's just a couple miles down the road," I assured them, "so we will continue attending Midway Bible Fellowship and I will still be your pastor."

There were some nodding heads as I shared my announcement because they had seen first-hand a serious vertigo attack that I had back in November where I got so dizzy and nauseous that I vomited (repeatedly) during a service.

But it wasn't their kind affirmation that stuck with me the most. Rather, it was the quiet but very sincere words of a lady who approached me after the service. She is a nurse and maintains a grueling schedule that includes working a lot of nights.

"Thak you for the first hour of peace I've had all week," she said with a smile. I was so

touched by her kind words that I gave her a big hug and thanked her for the encouragement.

But God wasn't done encouraging me because that same week I received an email from a woman in Kenya. Here is an excerpt in her own words...

"Hallo Brother Dale. I want to introduce myself... I am Emily, whom you once ministered over to me while I was in prison in Bungoma. I was imprisoned being accused for having murdered my husband. The investigation has gone over now it is 25 years."

"It was one time when you visited Bungoma Women Prison [in 2014] together with Pastor Joseph, and I was among those people who obeyed you when you made the altar call. You told me that the God whom I serve He will save me. Truly, and you laid hands upon me, and indeed from that time I have seen Him working workings, and by His Hands I was released from prison yesterday."

"I still remember the days of your visit and how you could be of a blessing to us, especially the women and the prisoners... Your coming to Kenya made me a miracle that being released is great."

Emily went on to share how she has been ostracized by her family and friends because of her alleged crime and she has no place to live, nothing to eat, and - although she is willing to work - no one will hire her.

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James Onunga's Fingerprints

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

"Whatever we touch, we leave fingerprints." - James Onunga

Fingerprints are impressions left on surfaces by the friction ridges on the finger of a human. They are detailed, unique, difficult to alter, and durable over the life of an individual, making them suitable as long-term markers of human identity.

The composition of fingerprints consists of water (95%-99%), as well as organic and inorganic matter. Just like snowflakes, no two human fingerprints are identical. That is one of the main reasons why law enforcement agencies use fingerprints as forensic evidence in criminal investigations. The first such instance occurred in Argentina in 1892, when police discovered a bloody fingerprint on a door frame and analyzed it to identify the murderer. By 1896, police departments around the world were collecting and maintaining fingerprint files.

Some of the earliest uses of fingerprinting date back to 1000 BC when fingerprints were used in place of signatures on official documents in China, Babylon, Persia, and Nova Scotia. In 1686, a professor at the University of Bologna named Marcello Malpighi concluded that all fingerprints have common patterns, including arches, loops, whorls, and ridges. By 1823, a Czech professor named Johannes Evangelista Purkinje had identified nine different such patterns.

I have never seen James Onunga's actual fingerprints and yet, they are all over Kenya. He is a high-ranking prison

official, but he spends much of his time ministering to the men at the institution where he works, preaching and providing them with Bibles and toiletries. James is currently raising money to build an orphanage in western Kenya and Risk Takers for Christ has been privileged to support his efforts.

Here are some more words of wisdom from brother James Onunga...

"As we touch other's lives, we leave our identity. Life is better when you are happy; but life is at its best when others are happy because of you. Be faithful in touching other's hearts, be an inspiration. Nothing is more important and worth practicing than being a channel of God's blessing. Nothing in nature lives for itself. Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit. The sun does not shine for itself; and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Jesus did not sacrifice for Himself. Living for others is a rule of nature. We were all born to help each other. No matter how difficult the situation you find yourself in; still do good to others."

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to the family of faith." Galatians 6:10 (BSB)

Editor's Note: If you would like to support James Onunga's efforts as well as those of Joseph Kinuthia, who ministers to female prisoners and street children in Kakamega, Kenya, please make your check payable to Risk Takers for Christ and write "Kenyan Konnection" in the memo portion. You can also give online at <https://www.risktakersforchrist.org/partner--donate/>



God Is Really Moving at Our Living H2O Initiative

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

I first met Jimmy (not his real name) at South County Park, a local basketball court where some serious “ballers” hang out in the evening, eagerly testing their skills against the best players in Indian River County. My son Chris and I would challenge him and another player to a game of two-on-two... or we would team up with him to play 3-on-3 or even 4-on-4.

Jimmy is an excellent ball handler and has deadly aim behind the three-point arc. He is also very quiet and withdrawn, usually responding to questions or comments with a simple nod of his head. I got the impression that he was battling some inner demons.

Eventually, Jimmy started coming out to our Living H2O Initiative on Monday nights at First Baptist Church, where the “cream of the basketball crop” come to display their ability each week. Because of his talent, Jimmy was often one of the first guys picked to play. But even there, he was softspoken, even sullen, and would generally arrive and leave alone.

A few weeks ago, Jimmy stopped by where I was sitting on his way out of the gym. He said a few words and I just smiled back, because I couldn't hear what he was saying. Finally, Chris said, “You're talking into his bad ear” so Jimmy sat down to my left and restarted the conversation.

I was expecting him to simply wish me a Merry Christmas before leaving but instead, Jimmy proceeded to pour out his heart to me. “The message you shared tonight really spoke to me,” he began. “I've started reading my Bible and getting rid of all my vices, but it's hard,” he added.

“That's because God has started working in your life,” I told him, “and Satan isn't happy about that.” I then shared with him some similar experiences in my own life when God had to deal with me harshly but lovingly in order to strip me of my pride.

“My life verse is Philippians 1:6,” I told Jimmy before reciting it to him. “God has begun a good work in you,

and He promises to complete it... so the pressure is on Him and not you.”

“You just need to trust and obey Him as best you can,” I said before adding, “He has a perfect plan for your life, Jimmy.”

“Yes, I know,” Jimmy replied, referencing Jeremiah 29:11.

“That's very true,” I said, “but He also says two verses later that ‘You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.’”

“God wants all of you, Jimmy,” I told him before adding, “I couldn't be more excited for you!”

Jimmy told me that he has been watching church online, so I encouraged him to find a good church to attend in

person and offered to recommend a few. I also suggested that he surround himself with good influences that will build him up and not tear him down... and Jimmy nodded in agreement.

As our conversation drew to a close, I asked Jimmy one final question. “Can I pray for you?”

“Sure,” he responded and so, we proceeded to pray right there in the gym in front of all his peers, oblivious to our surroundings.

“I'll be praying for you,” I told Jimmy... and I have.

I invite you to join me in asking the One who has begun a “good work” in Jimmy to “carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

(As we met a center court to close the night in prayer, a different young man offered to lead us in prayer. “But first,” he asked, “is it OK if I share a word of testimony?” Of course, I said “Yes” and he proceeded to share about how he has been wrestling with God and finally decided to rededicate his life to Him. “It's all about faith,” he told the other players, “and if you haven't given your life to God, I encourage you to do it tonight.”)



Two Encouraging Ladies

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Lord willing, I will be partnering with a prison chaplain in Kenya who also ministers to street children to provide Emily with some financial assistance. In the meantime, I will be praying earnestly for her and encourage you to do the same.

These two experiences reminded me of the following Bible verses...

“Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again.” Ecclesiastes 11:1 (BSB)

“Let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 (BSB)



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 Photos



Living H2O Initiative



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

Join us for some Bible &
Basketball
Free Snacks Provided

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