

Take a Risk!

A monthly publication from Risk Takers for Christ

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Platinum
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2024

Candid.



The Forge

by Rev. Dale M. Glading, President

(SPOILER ALERT!!! *The Forge* tells the story of a young black man who, having graduated from high school, lacks any drive or direction. Instead of working, he sits at home and plays video games or "hoops it up" at the local playground with his friends. When his mother finally forces him to get a job and to start paying rent, the young man rebels and lashes out at everyone around him. However, a Christian business owner sees his potential and offers him a position with his company. He also offers to meet with the young man and mentor him. Through a painstaking process that takes several months - and a lot of love and patience on the part of his mother and his boss - the young man finally learns personal responsibility... and commits his life to Jesus Christ.)

Last month, a group from our church went to see *The Forge*, a feature-length film produced by the Kendrick Brothers. They are devout Christian filmmakers and some of their previous movies include *Facing the Giants*, *Fireproof*, *Courageous*, *War Room*, and *Overcomer*. I have seen several of their films and for my money, *The Forge* is their best yet... and I think our church members who went with Deanna and me would agree!

I laughed, I cried, and I got choked up at various points of the movie. Yes, the plot is that

powerful! But what affected me the most is that the main character resembled virtually every young man who we minister to on Monday nights at our Living H2O Initiative.

I was so moved by the movie's message - and identified so much with the main character - that the minute the lights went up I made a beeline straight for the manager. "Do you sell block tickets?" I asked him pointblank. He said yes, they come in blocks of 25. "I'll take two," I said, pulling out my debit card to pay the \$300 bill.



The following Monday night, I told the 35 young men who packed the gym for some "Bible and basketball" about the

movie... and its powerful message. I even asked them the same three questions the Christian business owner asks the main character in the film.

1. "In what ways do you want to grow in the next year?"
2. "What type of man do you want to be?"
3. "What do you want people to think when they see you coming?"

I told them not to answer me then and there, but to go home and think about it first. And then I made them two different offers.

"I want every one of you to go see this movie," I told them. "It's that good, and the message it shares is the same message we

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The Forge

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have been trying to convey to you ever since this program started 12 years ago.”

I then pulled a stack of free movie passes out of my pocket and told them that they could each have one (or two if they wanted to take a friend or their girlfriend). Then I added a second offer to encourage them to go see *The Forge*.

“And if you bring back your ticket stub from the movie,” I said, “I will reimburse you \$10 for your popcorn and soda.” Their eyes grew as big as golf balls at the offer.

No sooner did I finish talking, but I was surrounded by dozens of anxious basketball players, each one with their hand extended. Before I knew it, I had passed out more than 30 movie passes in less than five minutes!

The gym was closed the following Monday for Labor

Day, but when we reopened the following week, I asked how many of the young men had seen the movie. Quite a few hands went up and here were their responses.

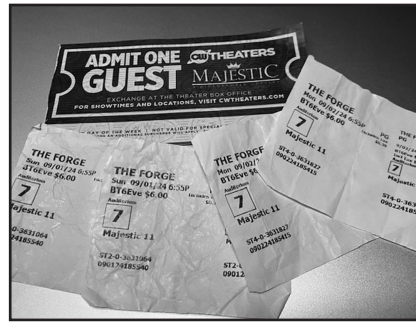
“It was really good,” “It was a lot better than I thought it would be,” and “I took my girlfriend and we both liked it a lot.” I proceeded to fork over \$10 bills to the ones who had remembered to bring back their ticket stub.

Two closing thoughts...

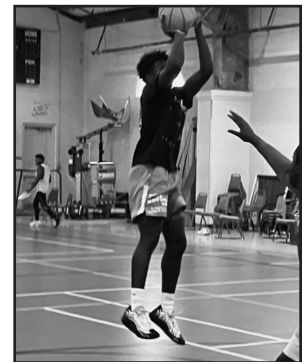
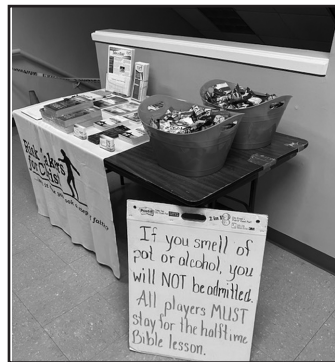
If you haven't seen *The Forge* yet, please do so and take some friends with you. Trust me, you won't regret it and neither will they!

Second, we were only able to make this generous offer because of your financial support of our ministry. To have a major motion picture reinforce the message that we have been sharing with these young men for more than a decade was a true blessing!

Please pray that the spiritual seeds we sow every Monday night - and that *The Forge* watered - will take deep root and bear much fruit.



Living H2O Photos



The Kenyan Konnection

by Rev. Dale Glading, President

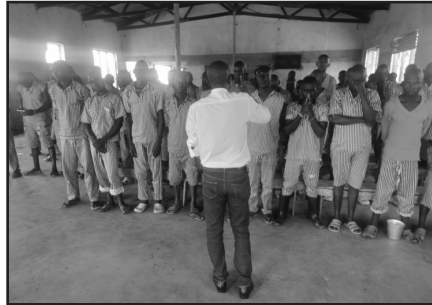
Back in 2014, I led an RTC mission trip to Kenya. Our six-man ministry team consisted of two pastors, two power lifters, a high-ranking corrections official from South Carolina, and me.

Over the course of 10 grueling days - not including the flights from Orlando to Detroit to Amsterdam to Nairobi and back again, as well as traveling hundreds of miles on bumpy dirt roads - we ministered to an estimated 5,000 men, women, and children in 10 different prisons and one orphanage... including one of only two maximum-security institutions on the entire African continent.

The most heartbreaking aspect of the trip was visiting a women's prison and seeing young children there. In Kenya, if a woman goes to prison and she has a child under the age of four, the child is incarcerated with her so as not to break the maternal bond (and allow for breastfeeding).

Since that life-changing trip, the prison officials in Kenya have invited us back many, many times and I would very much like to return someday if time, money, and health allow. However, in the meantime, my wife and I have continued to support two very effective ministries there as often as possible. One cares for women

and children in prison, sharing the gospel with them but also demonstrating God's love by providing food, powdered milk, diapers, and other necessities. That ministry also distributes food to the hundreds of street children in Kakamega.



The other ministry distributes Bibles to prisoners and is in the process of building a much-needed orphanage. They have already purchased the land and erected fences, and are now preparing to start construction as soon as the funds become available.

Risk Takers for Christ would like to offer YOU the opportunity to partner with us as we partner with these two vibrant ministries. And so, we are setting up a separate RTC checking account that will be earmarked exclusively for supporting these two organizations. Risk Takers will issue tax-deductible receipts and also cover the international wiring fees.

If you would like to contribute to our Kenyan Konnection Fund, send your check to Risk Takers for Christ, PO Box 651421, Vero Beach FL 32962 and write "Kenyan Konnection Fund" in the memo portion. You can also donate online at <https://www.risktakersforchrist.org/partner--donate/> or by scanning this QR code.



Belief or Unbelief

by Os Hillman

"...Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." - Romans 4:3

You can be a believer yet act as though there is no God. Whenever you fret over life circumstances, you immediately demonstrate unbelief. Whenever you move out of fear or anxiety, you believe a lie about God's nature.

Each day your actions affirm or convict you of your belief system. It reveals who the central focus of your life really is - you or God. It reveals who you place your ultimate trust in - you or God. It is one of the great

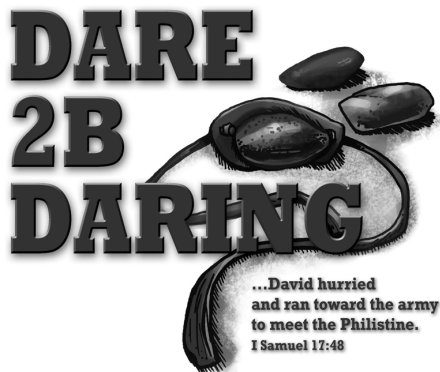
paradoxes for believers. One day we can believe Him to move mountains. The next day we can question His very existence.

- ◆ Peter believed God and walked on water.
- ◆ A sick woman touched the hem of His garment and was healed.
- ◆ A Canaanite woman believed and freed her daughter from demon-possession.

In what circumstances do you act as an "unbeliever"? Ask God to increase your level of trust so that your actions match up with one who believes every day.

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Men's Conference & Sports Memorabilia Show



**Saturday, November 16, 2024
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Sebastian Church of God
281 Delaware Ave.,
Sebastian FL 32958

Cost: \$30 for men, \$15 for students (includes continental breakfast, all workshop materials, and a conference t-shirt)

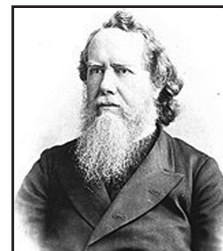
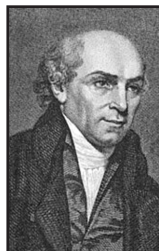
To register: Call/text 772.539.1826 or email dale@risktakersforchrist.org

Church History 101: Ministers, Martyrs, and Missionaries

Midway Bible Fellowship
1950 S US Highway 1, Vero Beach

The last Sunday of every month at 5 p.m.

All welcome... Free pizza!



Living H2O Initiative



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

Join us for some Bible & Basketball
Free Snacks Provided

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.



Midway Bible Fellowship

Proclaiming God's Truth & Demonstrating His Love

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & donuts
9 a.m. - Worship service
1950 S US Hwy 1, Vero Beach FL

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
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