

Risk Takers for Christ



*...moving believers from the
sidelines to the front lines*

5-Year Report

2011-2016





Dear Friend:

Happy Birthday to us!

That's right... Risk Takers for Christ just turned five years old in September. Although Risk Takers was first formed in March 2011, we were incorporated on September 26th of that year and received our letter from the IRS granting us full tax-exemption status less than four months later.



With five years of ministry “under our belts,” Risk Takers is among a very select group of non-profit organizations - and businesses, for that matter - to survive its first five years. In fact, more than half of such “start-ups” fail in their first year and an estimated 80% fold within 18 months according to Forbes magazine.

What has enabled Risk Takers to beat such long odds? First and foremost, a complete reliance on God’s leading and providence. Second, lots and lots of prayers. And third, we have worked tirelessly to make sure that our friends, prayer partners and financial supporters received as much “bang for their buck” as possible.

The enclosed Five-Year Report provides a brief overview of Risk Takers for Christ’s activities since 2011 as well as an inside look at how God accomplished so much in such little time (and yes, with such limited resources). I trust that you will take a few minutes to read the report and marvel at God’s goodness to us as a ministry.

He alone is to be praised!

In HIS service and yours,

Handwritten signature of Dale M. Gladfng

Rev. Dale M. Gladfng
Founder / President

“There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.” - Aristotle

“A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.” - John A. Shedd

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.” - T. S. Eliot

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.” - George Eliot

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bo lines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.” - Mark Twain

“Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear.” - George Addair

“Only those who play win. Only those who risk win. History favors risk-takers. Forgets the timid. Everything else is commentary.” - Iveta Cherneva

“Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.” - Helen Keller

“Living at risk is jumping off the cliff and building your wings on the way down.” - Ray Bradbury

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I...I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” - Robert Frost

“Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.” - Robert F. Kennedy

“Progress always involves risk. You can't steal second and keep one foot on first base.” - Robert Quillen

“To win without risk is to triumph without glory.” - Pierre Corneille

“A man would do nothing, if he waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with what he has done.” - Cardinal Newman

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.” - Robert Louis Stevenson

Since September 2011, Risk Takers for Christ has conducted the following ministry activities...

- ❖ An estimated 200 Living H2O Initiative outreaches to mostly minority at-risk youth throughout Indian River County.
- ❖ More than 100 prison events - featuring sports teams, musical groups and power lifters - in over 50 different correctional institutions in five states and two countries.
- ❖ Preached more than 80 sermons in dozens of churches, schools, campgrounds, and homeless shelters throughout the Eastern U.S.
- ❖ Conducted 10 Dare 2B Daring men's conferences in six churches in four states.
- ❖ vHeld six revival meetings in various churches throughout the Mid-Atlantic States.
- ❖ vCoordinated five racial reconciliation events along the Treasure Coast.
- ❖ vPublished 60 "Take a Risk" newsletters and more than 1,000 daily devotional messages.
- ❖ vConducted dozens of live radio interviews and authored scores of newspaper editorials on various subjects.

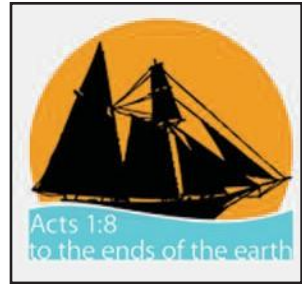
That's a total of roughly 1,500 Risk Takers events or ministry outreaches in our first five years... or 300 per year... or almost one per day!



Our Programs

Missions

We believe that one of the best ways for church members to become true “Risk Takers for Christ” is for them to leave their spiritual comfort zones in order to more boldly share their faith. For this reason, Risk Takers for Christ conducts numerous short-term mission trips every year. Some are to prisons across America, others involve inner-city ministry. Still others focus on rural areas of our country where poverty runs rampant and the spiritual needs remain great. Risk Takers for Christ also provides speakers for mission conferences, challenging believers to consider whether or not God would have them to fulfill the Great Commission as career, bi-vocational or short-term missionaries.



Dare 2B Daring Men's Conferences

Dare 2B Daring men's conferences are designed to encourage Christian men to become the husbands and fathers that God created them to be. Risk Takers speakers will share inspiring messages meant especially for men and the unique challenges they face. The men in your church will be motivated to lead their families, churches and communities by becoming true Risk Takers for Christ.



Living H2O Initiative

Three of America's Top 10 Most Dangerous Cities are in Florida. The Sunshine State also boasts more than a dozen of the Top 100.

How can inner-city neighborhoods be reclaimed by law-abiding citizens, making them once again safe for families to live in? Since most law-breakers are in their late teens and early twenties - and the average age of a prisoner in the U.S. is 22 years old - reaching America's youth is a critical piece to solving the inner-city puzzle.



Our Living H2O Initiative is designed to create opportunities to share the gospel - and God's love - with young men through basketball. Risk Takers volunteers visit area basketball courts to compete with at-risk youth, offering them free bottles of cold water and sports-themed evangelistic tracts.

By engaging in spiritual conversations, Risk Takers volunteers are able to share their faith and recommend local churches to attend. Staff members as well as guest speakers also share their testimonies and/or gospel messages each week.

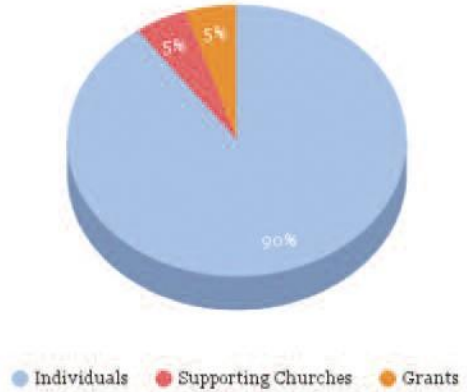
Revival

Risk Takers for Christ is equipped to conduct revival meetings throughout the United States and Canada. Realizing that only the Holy Spirit brings about true revival, Risk Takers speakers deliver inspiring messages that are sure to challenge your congregation.



How We Are Funded

Depending on the number of ministry events planned and their scope, our annual budget has fluctuated between \$72,000 in 2012 and \$133,000 in 2014 (the year we conducted a 14-day, 10-prison mission trip to Kenya). On average, our budget has hovered around \$100,00 most years.



The vast majority of our annual income comes from individuals (90%); with another 5% coming from supporting churches and 5% from grants/foundations.

How We Allocate Our Resources

Our annual expenses for our most recent fiscal year (2015), were allocated as follows: 53% for staff salaries and benefits; and 47% for direct program services such as prison trips, men's conferences and our Living H2O Initiative. Since we pay no rent or utilities, our overhead costs are kept to an absolute minimum.



This allocation of expenses is well within the optimum guidelines of both the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and the Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU).

How You Can Support Risk Takers for Christ

1. *With your prayers!* Much of Risk Takers ministry is conducted in dangerous settings, whether it is behind prison walls and barbed wire fences or working with at-risk youth in the community. We covet your prayers for safety, stamina and above all, S-O-U-L-S.
2. *With your participation!* With only one full-time employee, one part-time staff member and one contract employee, Risk Takers for Christ is heavily dependent on volunteers. For instance, all of our prison ministry teams are comprised of unpaid volunteers. And you don't have to be an athlete to participate! We have an ongoing need for non-playing volunteers to set up our portable sound system, greet and pray with inmates, distribute gospel literature, share personal testimonies and preach God's Word. Our Living H2O Initiative could also use many more playing and non-playing volunteers.
3. *With your provision!* Because we minister to people - such as inmates and at-risk youth - who cannot support us financially, we depend exclusively on God's people to fund our various outreaches. Monthly supporters are desperately needed in order to provide a regular cash flow and one-time or periodic givers are also deeply appreciated. All gifts to Risk Takers are 100% tax deductible under IRS law.

“If Christians around the world were to suddenly renounce their personal agendas, their life goals and their aspirations, and begin responding in radical obedience to everything God showed them, the world would be turned upside down. How do we know? Because that's what first century Christians did, and the world is still talking about it.”

- Henry T. Blackaby,
Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda

Our Vision for the Next Five Years... and Beyond!

At Risk Takers for Christ, we believe that we have only started to “scratch the surface” of what God can do - and desires to do - through our ministry. As such, our board of trustees has laid out the following goals for 2017-2021 and beyond, should our Lord tarry in His return.

Prison Ministry Outreach:

1. **To expand our prison ministry trips from monthly to twice per month**, alternating between basketball and softball. Increasing the number and frequency of trips will allow us to reach even more of Florida’s 100,000 inmates with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 2. **To broaden our prison ministry outreach** to include gospel concerts and alternative sports such as soccer, volleyball, flag football, and power lifting. We also hope to incorporate more sedentary recreation activities such as chess tournaments in order to evangelize the growing elderly population in prison.
 3. **To introduce our Dare 2B Daring men’s conferences** to the Florida Department of Corrections. The #1 common denominator among inmates is the lack of a positive male role model. Since the vast majority of male inmates are fathers and 95% of all inmates are eventually released, prisoners need to be taught how to properly lead their families and to be productive citizens - and witnesses for Christ - on the outside. Proper parenting and passing on one’s faith are keys to breaking the cycle of crime in which the children of inmates are 7-10 times more likely to be incarcerated than the children of non-offenders.
 4. **To conduct a minimum of one prison ministry trip outside of Florida per year.** America has more than 2.2 million inmates housed in over 5,000 different correctional facilities, so the mission field is indeed “white unto harvest.”
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Living H2O Initiative:

1. **To maintain our current schedule of two local Living H2O Initiative events per week** in Vero Beach, one outdoors at South County Park and one indoors at First Baptist Church.
2. **To expand the Living H2O Initiative to include 1-2 venues in North County** (Sebastian and Fellsmere).
3. **To implement a mobile Living H2O Initiative team** to focus on Fort Pierce, one of Florida's most troubled cities.

Dare 2B Daring Men's Conferences:

1. **To conduct quarterly Dare 2B Daring men's conferences**, at least one of which will be held on the Treasure Coast of Florida and one out-of-state.
2. **To introduce our Dare 2B Daring men's conferences** within the Florida Department of Corrections (see above).

Racial Reconciliation Events:

1. **To continue hosting and coordinating an annual Racial Reconciliation Conference**, a Multi-Cultural Worship Service and a Faith & Justice Symposium in Indian River County.
2. **To spearhead racial reconciliation efforts beyond the Treasure Coast** and hopefully, to other states.

Revival Meetings & Wake Up America Bus Tours:

1. **To accept as many invitations as possible** within Florida and throughout the U.S. to revive the Body of Christ and to urge Americans to return to our Judeo-Christian founding principles.
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