



DAVE KISTLER

### "Pressing for the Prize"

With each passing day, I carry a growing burden to reach my generation with the glorious, life-changing gospel of our Savior. To accomplish this, I am convinced that we must think Biblically, act aggressively, and minister creatively, or we'll have no significant impact on the world in which we live. If twelve men, empowered by the Holy Spirit, could turn their world "upside down" with the gospel, we dare not settle for mediocrity in our evangelistic efforts. The gospel message and all its power is available to us today! All we need is a heart willing to let God lead, a mind open to creative suggestions from God's gracious Spirit, and a hide tough enough to handle the criticisms that will inevitably come, if we have the audacity to think outside the current ministry paradigm.

I thank the Lord for men like Ron Brindisi, who are committed to personal integrity, a fundamental stance when it comes to the truth, but are willing to enter the arena where lost men congregate in order to present Christ. I trust that you will double your prayer efforts for this venture into the racing community. It is our desire (both Ron and me) to have our car ready to run at the beginning of the 2010 season (if not before). The following article (by Ron) will encourage your heart with the open doors he has already and expose you to his intense passion to reach those who are involved in the sport he loves....

*"As several of our prayer partners know, I have had the privilege over the last several years to witness, pass out Bible-based tracts, play my trombone, and speak at chapel services to racers and crew, fans and track officials. It is a thrill for me to be able to share the Bible message of Hope in the sport I love. My prayer, each time I go to the track, is for me to be open and to (God willing) know why I was supposed to be there...God has been good! After each day's work at the track, almost without fail, I can look back and see God at work in one instance or*



*another...This is just thrilling to me that God allows me to experience His hand touching people...*

*I received a call not long ago that a Nitro Top Fuel Dragster Team (These cars cover the quarter mile track in 5.8 seconds at 250 mph) was short a crew member and wondered if I would fill in and go to Indy...I had peace that I should go; however, what I would experience would touch me deeply and teach me a great lesson...The track at Indianapolis hosts two meets in particular that many consider the "Super Bowl" of drag racing and this event was one of them...*

*The crew met and we started down the road...We were about an hour down the road and a tire blew on the trailer...So you guessed it...We were out in the sweltering heat thrashing to change the tire and all that goes with it...cars whizzing by, uneven ground, etc...Finally it was done after much effort!*

*With the delay we needed to drive straight through so we would not miss our pit parking time and set-up... About 2AM there was uneasiness in my spirit so I sat up and it was not 1 minute later that a BIG deer... I mean BIG...charged the truck and trailer sticking its horns through the window where my head was just laying on a pillow!! (I am so grateful for God's still small voice and protection) It then hit the truck skirt and wheel well shattering the fiberglass!! It then slid down the side of the transporter and hit the corner of the trailer so hard that it moved the trailer back about 1 foot where it impacted!! It sounded like a bomb going off!! Talk about a wake up call!! We were all wide awake for the rest of the trip!! When we pulled into the track we looked like we had repainted one side of the transporter red!!*



*With little sleep and some problems with the fuel system we worked all day and into the night...A couple of us had some food that did not agree with us so we did not sleep much the next night, shivering in bed from fever and chills waking up soaking wet...We wore # 50 sun block but the sun still chapped and burnt us...We then encountered many problems with the car...A driver and tuner were flown in, much money spent by owner and sponsors...We were down to one last attempt to qualify... Then it all came together... we qualified number 6!! I cannot describe the feeling that this brought to the team after overcoming many challenges.*

*Then it hit me like a ton of bricks... This trip was for me... I needed the ministering.... It was like an audible voice from the Lord... Men are willing to go*

*to great lengths for the corruptible crown... Am I willing to persevere for the harvest? The Lord reminded me not to give up when the going gets tough... This trip turned out to be so rewarding... I trust this story is a blessing and encouragement to you...*

*Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

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