

From The Church Awakening, by Chuck Swindoll:

A number of years ago, a young man who excelled at the sport of high diving was training to compete in the upcoming summer Olympics. He chose a university where his skill could be perfected through a fine coach and excellent facilities. What he didn't plan on, though, was that his roommate would be a strong, outspoken Christian.

As the weeks passed, the roommate faithfully shared with him about his need for the Savior, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for his sins. The diver, however, showed no interest in spiritual things. His only passion? Winning a gold medal. Yet inwardly, on occasion, he did feel disturbed about what he heard. He came to realize he had never considered life beyond death. And while he never shared the growing struggle with anyone, the consciousness of his sin became more and more of a burden.

Unable to sleep one night, he arose and took a walk across campus to the indoor pool where he trained. To clear his mind, he decided to practice some dives. A large roof of glass panes covered the university pool, and the full moon that night provided enough dim light for him to make his way to the ten meter diving platform. While struggling with his burden, he stripped down to his swimsuit and climbed to the top. He walked to the edge, turned around, and stretched out his arms, preparing to dive. Before he jumped, his eye caught a glimpse of his own shadow – cast on the wall by the moonlight. He paused and stared at the silhouette...it was his own human shadow forming the shape of a cross.

Just then a custodian flipped on the lights to the pool and yelled to the diver not to jump! The diver looked down in horror to see that the pool had been drained that evening. As he stood there, he realized that he had missed death by a split second...and that the cross he had seen had saved him. He knelt on that platform and released his burden to God, believing in the One who had died on the cross for him.

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