

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship

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Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask you for your prayers and invite you to be part of my support team as I run the Indianapolis Mini-Marathon again this year. Making this run has become a statement for my life as I recover from my fight with cancer and the loss of my two sons. Yes, this run is a symbol for my life. God has called me to run His race and, no matter what has hit me, I still desire to willingly, faithfully, and passionately finish God's race for my life.

This year, I am dedicating my run to the memory of my friend, **Mike Burdette**. I came to know Mike about two years ago when his mother in law, Cathy, and his wife, Alecia, asked me to reach out to him because, he too was fighting a battle with cancer. Most of all, they desired him to turn his heart to God. I sensed the Holy Spirit telling me to go and keep going, so I began visiting or just calling Mike each week, sometimes more. None of my calls or visits were long, but all were touches of respectful, loving, and prayerful concern. I know what it is like to be around people when you feel sick and Mike always appreciated my sensitivity to his condition.

After over a year of visiting him at home and sometimes in the hospital, Mike finally began to open his heart to me, little by little. As time went on, he also began to get sicker and sicker. This past fall, Mike began attending our church as his health allowed. Finally, on the Sunday before Christmas, Mike came to worship and sat in the special chair we had put out for him. At the end of the service, I gave an invitation for people to trust Christ as their Savior, and Mike placed his faith in Jesus! The enclosed picture was taken at that service. Then, on January 6th God called my friend, Mike, home to heaven. His suffering and race was over. He is at peace.

I am dedicating my run to Mike and his memory. In fact, if you saw a picture of my run from last year, you will notice a red ribbon on my shirt. It has his name on it, because I ran praying for his healing and his salvation. God answered my prayers by giving him salvation and the ultimate healing He gives when we get to heaven.

Helping Mike was part of my race. As I race to honor God, I desire to continue to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith so they also will live lives that honor Him. Will you support me as I continue to run to win souls and make disciples? I pray you will.

All proceeds will go to the ministry of **New Beginnings Christian Fellowship** and will be used to reach people for Christ.. Please fill out the enclosed donation form and send your donation in the envelope provided. You may also donate on our web site at www.nbcf.us by clicking on the "Mini-Marathon Fundraiser." Finally, I want to thank you for your love, prayers, and support. I sincerely appreciate any support you can give.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jeff Russell