

SOMETHING TO MAKE THE MILES GO BY QUICKER

Scripture References

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

This past June, I ran in the Mayor's Marathon in Anchorage Alaska for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Just before the race was to start, my son Nolan sent me a text saying Phil 4:13. I knew exactly what it said and was glad to get the encouraging word before I tackled my first attempt at completing a marathon. I was definitely nervous as it neared the starting time for the race and I paced anxiously around the parking lot where the race was to begin.

Soon we were off and I was trying to remember all of the advice that people had given me in the months leading up to this race. I tried to settle into a comfortable pace and was glad when I saw the first mile marker. It wasn't long before I saw a runner ahead of me and he had Phil. 4:13 written on the back of his shirt. I made it beside him and said my son sent me that verse in a text this morning. We talked for awhile as we ran along the beautiful course. I shared with him that one of my favorite verses was from Isaiah and I quoted 40:31 for him.

I noticed more and more runners had Philippians 4:13 on their shirts. One runner even had it written on his calf muscles where they usually put your race number or age group in a triathlon. As I approached each one (I have to admit some were passing me) we would talk about the scripture and mention other ones we liked to say. I even saw one shirt that was from Team413 and couldn't wait until I arrived back at the hotel so I could find out more about that group.

As each of these runners shared a few moments with me as we ran, we shared a fellowship and what a particular scripture had meant to us. And you know what, the miles seemed to go by quicker as we talked. Nolan was right, I could finish the marathon with the help of Christ.