



On Your Marks, Get Set, Go!

By Pastor Jeff



The Apostle Paul and the writer of the book of Hebrews both make the analogy between living the Christian life and running a race. (I Corinthians 9:24 and Hebrews 12:1). Not only can our entire Christian life be compared to a race, but there are also situations within our Christian lives that are “mini races.” For example, finishing school, a project at work, a home improvement, or a special spiritual mission can all be smaller races within the larger race of our Christian lives.

I believe that the Mountain View Church family all began to run one of these mini races this January. The goal that was set before us in 2015 was to have a successful launch of our church into the community. In last month’s letter, I addressed some questions about the launch. I just looked at it and it really excited me!

In preparation for our community launch Sunday, we have planned some professional advertising. We are doing two direct mailings to the closest 5000 homes to our church building. In addition, we have been working with Northwestern Press and the Times News planning a three week advertising campaign in these newspapers. These

steps will give us some blanket coverage but the real key for a successful community launch is YOU. Studies show that over 65% of un-churched people would attend church if a trusted friend invited them. That means you can have an incredible impact in the next six weeks leading up to the community launch Sunday. That is why we are beginning a formal outreach focus for launch Sunday, **“Each One Bring One.”** Think of the incredible impact you will have on the launching of our church if everyone in our Church family invited and brought a friend on September 27th! I want to help you be successful in this ministry of love to others by reviewing the three characteristics of a Contiguous Christian:

- **Concern** – Each of us must be gripped with the real need of those without Jesus. Jesus really died and rose again and unless your Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors put their personal faith in Jesus they will be under God’s wrath forever (John 3:36). So get alone with the Lord and ask Him to give you His concern for others.
- **Connect** – Identify your FRAN’S (Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors) who need Jesus. Hopefully, you have already done that and have been connecting with them in common neutral ground, building a relationship of trust and authenticating the gospel by your life.
- **Communicate** – As we get closer to the launch, it will be important for you to extend an invitation. I know that this can be a scary step. However, consider the alternative of your loved one away from Jesus. To help you with the invitation stage, I will be sending out one or two more mailings with some tips on how to invite. In addition, we will have some professional invitations for you to share with others.

We have a great joy, privilege and responsibility to be involved in a church plant that will have impact in lives right into eternity. So come along with me, lace up those running shoes and let us get into this race!