



run with a mission

Dallas Baptist University's Baptist Student Ministry director Chris Holloway is an avid runner. It is a hobby that motivates and excites him. As the BSM director, missions is also something that drives Chris and is close to his heart. After taking over the BSM post in January, Chris recognized a unique opportunity that might allow him to combine both of his passions.

Having been on several mission trips with DBU's BSM in the past, Chris knew that creative fund-raising is essential to success. He also knew that Fort Worth's Cowtown Marathon was approaching at the end of February.

So Chris started thinking about the possibilities. At first he hoped that he could convince 10 students to run the Half Marathon (13.1 miles) portion and raise some support along the way. Chris figured that if each student could find 10 people to sponsor them, paying around \$1 per mile, then perhaps each student could raise around \$130.

The original goal was \$1300. Chris guessed that was a lot to hope for since the BSM had not attempted anything like this in recent years. What actually happened when project "Run with a Mission" became a reality turned out to be a great surprise.

Students kept signing up to run and

add their support—soon DBU faculty and staff were adding their names as well. To the BSM's tremendous excitement, 38 total members of the DBU family wanted a chance to participate.

Hoping their "13 for 13" plan would still work, each runner began looking for their sponsors who would pay \$1 for each of the 13 miles ran. Again, the BSM was met with surprise.

"During this whole process the Lord showed us that He is not bound by our goals," Chris explained, "and we found that people were more generous and gave more than we expected."

In the end, the team of 38 people raised \$5,540 to help DBU students to go on summer missions.

"It was an amazing experience knowing that I was involved in an event that would be supporting the spread of the gospel," stated Lauren Moore, DBU alumna and Resident Director of the Crowley Complex.

"Having competitively run during high school, running had been about me in the past, but training for this event refocused my purpose in it—to do everything for Him, not myself."

What started out as a small idea resulted in big lessons learned for DBU students, faculty, and staff who were involved.

"I didn't really feel like I was doing

anything special to help at first," explained DBU senior Jeremy Stalford.

"Usually it's hard to feel like I'm helping if I'm not the one actually going, but when race day came and I learned how much money we'd raised, I really felt like we'd accomplished something pretty big."

The BSM is hoping that next year they will be able to provide even more money for student missionaries, and as for Chris, he has learned that his own plans cannot outdo God's work, even on his best day.



Chris Holloway