

I checked. I didn't break anything. I didn't get hit by a car in the road... but I felt tears coming as I got up after having tripped on an uneven bit of unfamiliar road (I was in Dallas for work --- trying to get in a 12 mile run two weeks before my marathon). A driver stopped to ask if I was okay (I said yes and then he said, "Are you sure?" partly because I looked like I was going to cry and partly because I left a layer of skin on the road so there was blood)... What was playing in a loop in my mind was this prayer, "God let me be okay" and by okay, I meant let me be able to run 26.2 miles in two weeks¹. I didn't want to talk to the concerned Dallas driver; I wanted to not have to drop out after five months of training. One moment watching for cars and not looking at the road could mean all those months of getting up when I wanted to stay in bed and making sure I could get in long runs when my training schedule said to... all slipping away instead of preparing me to triumphantly cross the finish line. After a mile (walking repeating "Oh God, let me be okay, please let me be okay"), I conceded that not being able to run a marathon I trained for is possibly **not** the worst possible thing. I know lots of people with real problems. One spill, even if it sidelines me, does not count as a tragic event in the grand scheme of things. But I didn't even want to admit that the marathon might be out for me.

My incredibly understanding friend bandaged me up, got me ice packs and ibuprofen and said helpful things like, "You don't know anything for sure yet" rather than "Seriously? Of all the bad things that could happen, this isn't in the top 20 you realize." And as I was leaving the next day: "I know you know this," she said, "but if Jesus wants you to run a marathon in two weeks, you will".

Huh. While I believe Jesus cares about all sorts of things: big and small, I don't tend to think along the lines of Jesus wanting me to do something or Jesus wanting something to happen. Also, it's an eerily similar phrase to one that keeps being repeated at work: "Wow if God wants something to happen..." spoken in response to hearing the story of how someone ended up a Wycliffe volunteer and other minor miracles where God's hand is undeniable.

"This task of getting the gospel in an adequate way to every ethnic person is tremendous. There is but one solution. I'm sure that it isn't man, money, surveys, nor talk. They all have their place, but if the basis of it all isn't fervent, believing prayer, they are all in vain. And prayer should not only be the basis, but it should permeate and vitalize the whole work."
- William Cameron Townsend, founder of Wycliffe


In addition to banged up knees and missing patches of skin, I've become a red square instead of a green circle in Wycliffe's finance system (where green is good and red is not good). People had sent extremely generous gifts to cover medical bills for me, which masked the fact that I've lost some monthly support and also that my support quota increases each year. There's a good side to this: 2/3 of the people on my team are red squares and I didn't actually understand what it's like to be a red square instead of a green circle until I was one. Also, I'm recognizing that I have a bigger role in their support raising process than I believed before and that I need to schedule work appropriately. All the supported people on my team can't actually work a full time job and raise support on the side. They need devoted time to communicate with partners about the vision of Bible translation. (So you know how I am: I recognize this; I said, "Okay God, lesson learned, feel free to make me a green circle now". I don't think it actually works like that but I do need an additional \$460 in monthly support² between now and February). And this too falls in the "if Jesus wants" category... as does... EVERYTHING...

Stuff you can pray about:

- My Dallas team. I'm trying to figure out this management at a distance. Pray for creativity for me. And if you have advice about how to manage remote teams, that would be helpful...
- Jon, one of my Waxhaw team leading a phone system project. The project is unexpectedly funded (unexpectedly for us, not so much for Jesus). Pray for Jon and decisions and transitions.

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¹ Yes I did run 26.2 miles (picture me ridiculously pleased right now about completing marathon #2)
² Technically the amount needed is 457, not 460. I've rounded up because I didn't think precision was required (for \$3 per month more than I actually need) but in the interest of full disclosure...