

THE ENQUIRER

Friday, May 2, 2008

He renounced drugs and took up running Good Things Happening



Clyde Robinson, 48, will be running in the Flying Pig marathon Sunday to raise awareness of those who need help.
The Enquirer/Joseph Fuqua II

When Clyde Robinson jogs through Over-the-Rhine and Downtown each day, he's running for more than exercise. It's because he is free of a drug problem, and because the running is a way of saying a prayer, thanking God for getting him out of a destructive lifestyle.

The 48-year-old Madisonville man, who will run in the Flying Pig Marathon this Sunday, said he is lucky to be able to run each day after all the cocaine and marijuana he did.

"The drugs put a lot of wear and tear on your body," said Robinson, who is in the City Gospel Mission's men's recovery program, Exodus. He has been in the program for five months.

He said he is running in the Flying Pig to help raise awareness for the homeless and for fellow recovering addicts.

Robinson said he started drinking at age 12, experimented with marijuana in high school and started using cocaine about age 26.

He stayed in pretty good physical shape, playing football at Woodward High School. He was a drummer in a band.

He attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music for one year.

He said he has been in and out of recovery programs for eight years, but believes this time he will reach his goal.

Reflecting on his life, he talks about being shot, stabbed, robbed, and thinks it is a miracle that he is still alive.

"Through all this, I always kept a job, working in a warehouse as a forklift operator and on an assembly line. I always stayed married. I think my wife saw something in me that I didn't see and I think God is molding me for a purpose

because I never drifted too far away from the church," he said. Robinson is a member of New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Carthage.

He speaks of submission and obedience to a spiritual life.

When he heads up Elm Street in his jogging suit with sweat pouring from his 6-foot-3, 225-pound frame, he said he says a silent prayer for that piece of freedom.

"I want to help others who were in the same situation and didn't make it out. But in order for me to help them, I have to make a commitment to myself," Robinson said.

The Flying Pig Marathon begins at 6:30 a.m. Sunday on Mehring Way, west of Elm Street.

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