



Mike Taylor

Personal/professional: age 53, married to Allison for 30 years, two children – son Chris is married with two daughters; our daughter Catherine has been married two years. I began preaching the Gospel 35 years ago in Missouri, then in Georgia, Alabama, and planted a church in Anaheim Hills, CA. In the mid-90's I worked locally with Larry Burkett, Christian Financial Concepts, and in that role co-authored 10 books and workbooks – some still in print – *Money in Marriage*, *Hope When It Hurts*, for instance.

I currently am the interim pastor at Westside Baptist Church in Gainesville, and work with the Chattahoochee Baptist Association to organize new churches in Hall County.

Running history—totally burned out on running in high school –our football coaches punished with running—swore I'd never run again. I decided to run the Peachtree in 2007 before I got too old – it was such a rush, I have run 16 races since then. I'm a competition/endorphine “junkie” that keeps me coming back to the starting line. Love to journal my race results at www.athlinks.com and recommend that site to all runners.

Goals – persevere at running, in spite of arthritis in my feet; run a qualifying time for the Peachtree each year. I've run six 10K's and only broken 55:00 once. I am contemplating the half-marathon in Atlanta this Thanksgiving – just not sure my feet can take it. Running has helped me drop 30 lbs. and I'm totally off blood pressure medicine.

Favorite race – the Peachtree, followed by the Strong Legs in Atlanta.

Favorite places to run – love to get the sauna room hot at First Baptist Family Life Center and then run in place as long as I can stand it – I love a good sweat. I like to run the mile square around Brenau; Riverside Drive; my neighborhood, and Price Road/Thompson Bridge early on Saturday mornings.