

# RACING FOR THE ULTIMATE VICTORY





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Kentucky Raceway Ministries (KRM) is the local chapter of the National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries and was founded in 2000. John Roberts and J.T. Marsh first became acquainted with one another through a Promise Keepers group and after seeing ministries in action at other tracks, they knew that the super-speedway being built in Gallatin County would need a ministry to fans also. Through their Promise Keepers group and with the support of the Ten Mile, Owen County and Whites Run Baptist Associations, John and J.T. founded KRM and began the process of building the ministry. When Kentucky Speedway opened in 2000, John and J.T. were in the parking lot ministering to fans.

A ministry that began with two men has grown and now has an average of over 200 what volunteers during a race event. Volunteers come from different churches all over the state of Kentucky as well as Ohio, Indiana and other states across the U.S. KRM now has ministry sites in the Ponderosa, Bourbon Street, Hawk's Landing, Millionaire's Row and the Infield Campgrounds. KRM also ministers to fans and Kentucky Speedway employees in and around the track through Guest Services, ADA Transportation, the Employee Welfare Team, Evangelism Team, and by providing Chaplains in the Grandstands and Fan Care Centers. KRM volunteers also provide a family centered place of rest and entertainment in the Kids Zone located in the Vendor Display Area during race events. If you ever need any help while visiting Kentucky Speedway, find someone in a yellow KRM shirt – we'll be happy to help in any way we can.

God continues to bless this ministry with opportunities to share His love both at the track and outside of the track through community events and partnerships with other ministries: Sunrise Children's Services, Timothy Cup Ministries, Speedway Children's Charities and National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries.



John Roberts

October 10, 1951 – December 7, 2013

Kentucky Raceway Ministries' co-founder John Roberts passed away on December 7, 2013. John was known and loved by many fans and staff at Kentucky Speedway. John was first introduced to Raceway Ministries while attending a race at Bristol Motor Speedway. He was excited to go back home and tell his wife Linda about attending a worship service at the track. After that encounter he discovered that tracks all across the country had active ministries that were meeting the spiritual and physical needs of fans attending races. Shortly thereafter the news came that a super-speedway would be built in Gallatin County. Through a Prom-

ise Keepers discussion about ways to minister to the community, John and co-founder J.T. Marsh set the wheels in motion to form Kentucky Raceway Ministries.

During this time, John was told that he would need a liver transplant. John was reluctant at first but after being told by a close friend that his vision for Kentucky Raceway Ministries would not come to life if he didn't have the transplant, John decided to go forward with the transplant. Kentucky Speedway opened in 2000 with John and J.T. present and ministering to fans in the parking lot. Through his leadership as a North American Mission Board, Mission Service Corps Missionary from 2004 – 2013, John led Kentucky Raceway Ministries to become a thriving ministry. In 2007 John was appointed Kentucky Speedway Chaplain as he continued to lead Kentucky Raceway Ministries.

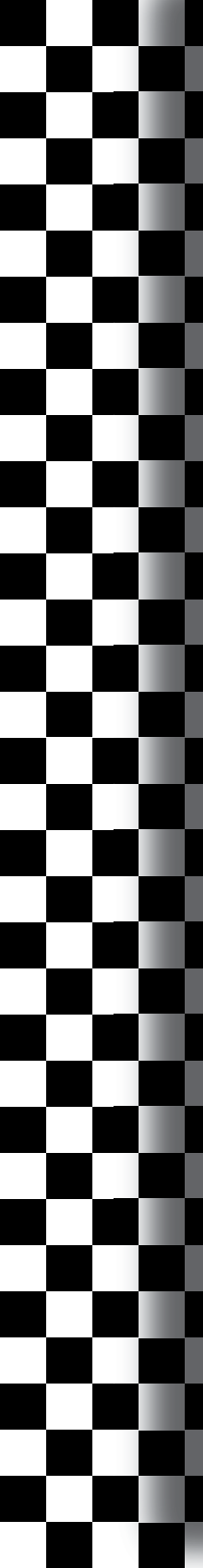
One of John's missions was to make sure all fans heard about his Savior, Jesus Christ and the changes Jesus had made in his own life. One of the ways this mission is able to continue is through the Bible you now hold in your hand. This Bible was made possible through gifts to the John Roberts Bible Memorial.



For as long as I can remember, I have had a close relationship with Jesus Christ. When I was 20 years-old, I started racing Stock cars. From the first day I got into a racecar, I knew this is what I wanted to

do for the rest of my life. I wanted to become a NASCAR driver, and I knew that with God all things are possible. After about eight races in a Crate motor pro-truck, I was given the opportunity to race a late model. Some people thought that I was moving up way too fast, but all of my life I have just gone with the flow and followed the steppingstones that God laid out for me; because, that is what I prayed for.

After about 10 late model races, I got the opportunity to try out for the Richard Childress Development Team in the NASCAR Camping World Series West. Again, most people thought I was getting in way over my head, but I had faith that this is where God was taking me. After qualifying 4th in my first NASCAR event, I was signed as primary driver for the 2009 season.



There was only one thing getting in the way, sponsorship dollars. My family didn't have the funds to get me into the series, so we had to go find a sponsor. We signed the contract knowing that God would prevail like he always does. Weeks went by and all we were getting were rejections. Throughout this time, although it was naturally tough, I tried not to be worried and knew that it was in God's hands. My dad always told me that God comes through in his timing. Well, my dad was right; God came through in a BIG way. He brought GodSpeaks.com and the foundations behind it. GodSpeaks.com started off with billboards with catchy sayings like, "life is short, eternity isn't." The main goal of this outreach is to get people thinking about God on a daily basis. Now, they want to give the 75 million NASCAR fans the opportunity to come to Christ.

To sum it all up, if you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and stay obedient to His Word, He will show up in your life in such a big way. When God is in it, there is no stopping it. If you are reading this, and you want to know Jesus in a closer way, go to [GodSpeaks.com](http://GodSpeaks.com) and talk to someone in the community. Or, go to [blakekoch.com](http://blakekoch.com) and contact me; I would love to help!

# JOE GIBBS

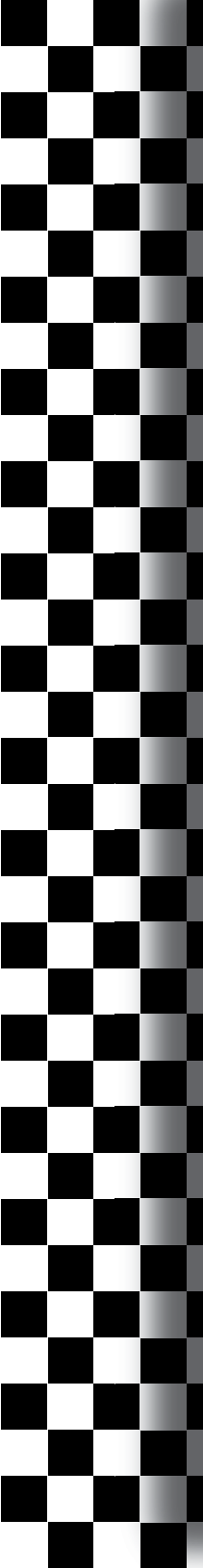


As I grew older, I found that there were other things the world wanted me to believe. One was that you only have one life to live, and then you die. Because of

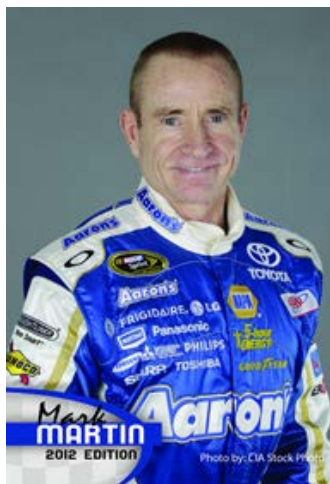
that, you should do your own thing - whatever it takes to live a happy and successful life. As my coaching career took off, I bought right into the world's game plan. I wanted to be a head football coach. In my eyes that would give me all the things, like money and prestige, I wanted and thought I needed. It became an obsession, I wanted to be a head coach more than anything in life.

I bounced around from one assistant job to another, and in 1972, while coaching at the University of Arkansas, God put me together with a small, unassuming, Sunday School teacher from Fayetteville. His name was George Thar-





el, and I was intrigued by him - as much by his life as his teaching. He was a man at peace with himself and with God. Being driven was one of my strengths, but I envied people who could relax and enjoy life. By looking at his life, I started to see that there was another game plan besides the world's. God's plan was not based on money, position and winning football games. God was only concerned with me having a right relationship with Him. And even though I had become a Christian as a nine-year-old, I had never made God a priority. George helped me see that, and so one night in church I went forward and confessed in my heart, "God, I've known you since I was nine years old, but I have not been living for you. Tonight, I want to rededicate and commit my life to you." As I began to live that out, it became evident that my life was different. Some of the changes were immediate, but others have been a process.



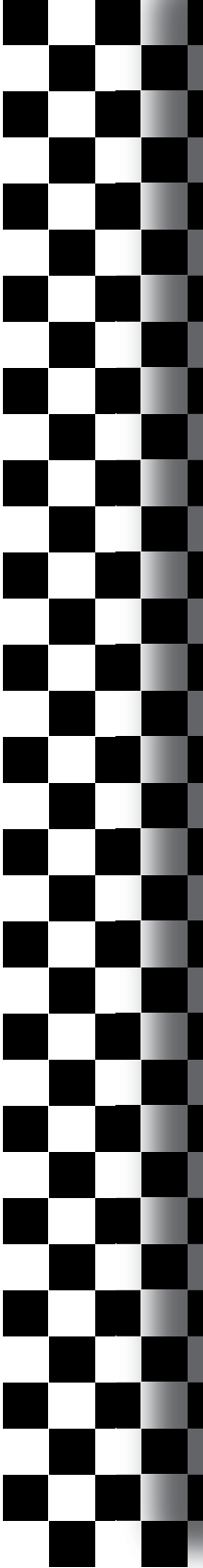
Five-foot-six-inch, 130-pound, iron-pumping, fast-walking, hard-driving, fast-talking dynamo, Mark Martin was once the David to auto racing's Goliaths.

But he dropped the giants enough that now he is one of the big boys - physical stature aside, of course. "Mark

is pretty tightly wound," said Max Helton of Motor Racing Outreach, a ministry to racecar drivers, crews and their families.

"I'm not normal," Martin says. At 6 a.m., he's lifting weights. Shortly after lifting weights, Martin is in the garage. But which garage? He drives on two circuits - Sprint Cup and occasionally the NASCAR Nationwide Series. Most Sprint Cup drivers don't run anywhere close to a full Nationwide schedule - it's too demanding, and the fame and money (he's won more than \$18 million) is in Sprint Cup. But Martin is the all-time Nationwide leader with more than 30 wins.

"As a young adult I had a lot of trials, a lot of tough times, disappointments and frustrations," Martin said. "Some people have a lot of things to go through to gain experience and mature. It was a situation where I was in (church), and I was out, and I was in and I was out. Which was a start to a spiritual relationship, but it wasn't enough. My lifestyle wasn't the type that allowed for much of a relationship. And



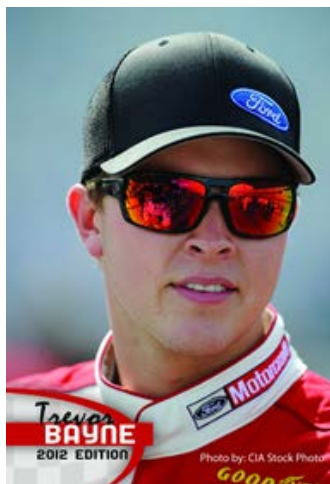
we didn't have the luxury of Motor Racing Outreach at the racetrack, which made it much more difficult."

The turning point came through tragedy - Martin lost a close friend in racing eight years ago. The death of Clifford Allison caused Martin to carefully consider his future, his eternal future.

"When I lost that person, it totally changed my life because it made me realize... what is the most important thing in life," Martin said. "I'm not sure if this person was prepared, and I decided right then and there that I was going to be ready in case something was to happen to me. I couldn't put that off. I needed to be ready. If something was to happen to me going to, from or during any racing event, or going to the grocery store for that matter - my concern is what happens to me after that. That's a lot more important to me today than when I was a kid or in my teens."

Martin re-dedicated his life to Christ, making certain that he knew Jesus Christ personally. He didn't do it merely as an eternal life insurance policy, however. "I also needed the strength of the relationship, the strength it gives to deal with all the things that are important in life," he said. "Having that relationship has made life more manageable."

With his fresh commitment came a change of lifestyle, Ernie Irvan, Martin's best friend in racing, said. "Years before, he'd party a lot, and he wasn't as focused as he is now," Irvan said. "He'd just as soon party as race. Now, he has fun within the Christian life. He's more focused on what his goals are. He knows what God has in store for his life." By Victor Lee

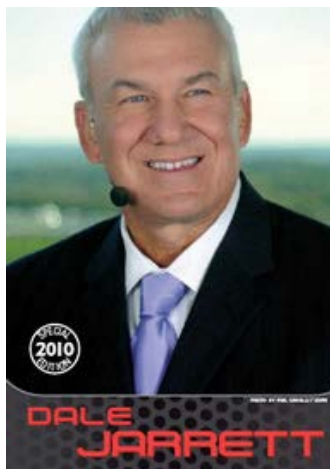


I began my racing career in go-karts at the age of five. After eight years, I moved to the Allison Legacy Race Series and then to the USAR Hooter Pro Cup Series Southern Division.

In 2008, I raced in the NASCAR Camping World East Series; and in 2009, I made my first Nationwide Series start at Bristol Motor Speedway. In 2011, I won the Daytona 500 - my first attempt at that race. Nevertheless, the biggest thing I ever did was surrender my life to Christ. That's the reason I'm here.

The Daytona 500 win was great; but it does not define me, Christ defines me. However, that win gave me a platform and voice to speak to people about my faith. Coming across the checkered line first defines you as a winner; but off the track, there is a lot more to it than that. When we surrender control to God, he can do way more than what we could ever imagine.

# DALE JARRETT

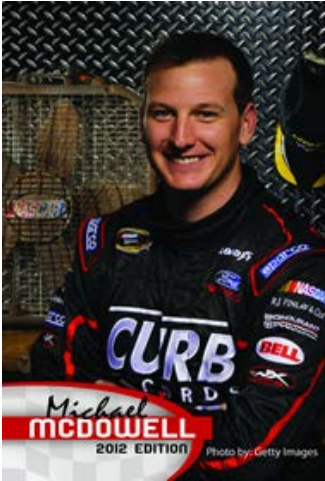


I grew up in a Christian home, my parents made sure that we were in church, but as I grew up I got side tracked and didn't live my life as I should. But things changed when I started driving for

Joe Gibbs, here was and is a man that is very strong in the Lord and his influence on me helped get my life back to where it should be. My wife and I dedicated our lives to the Lord and we know that our children are growing up in a Christian home and that they have Christian friends. There's a lot of different ways to live your life but there's only one right way and that's to live for the Lord.

It is my faith in the Lord that has gotten me through the loss of Dale Earnhardt. I believe Dale is in a better place, we are all going to that better place when you have Christ in your life. It's that faith that gets me through, knowing Dale had a wonderful life and that he believed in Christ.

# MICHAEL MCDOWELL



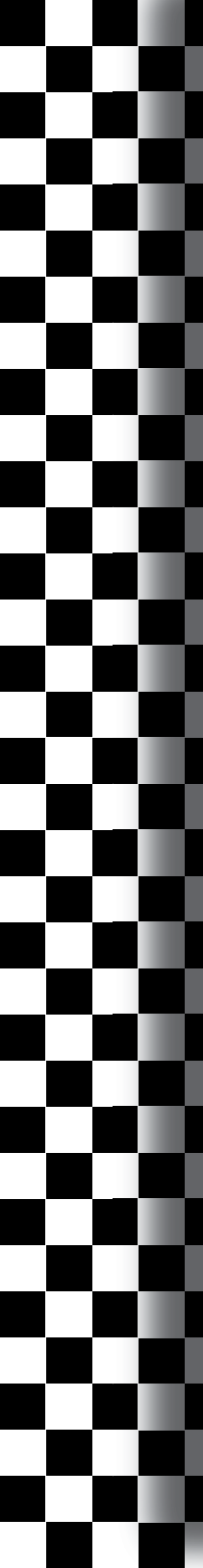
The way I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal savior was a unique one. I did not grow up in a religious family; I never went to church for anything other than weddings and funerals. I always felt God's presence but I never

knew what it meant.

I met my wife Jami and we started spending time with her Uncle Deano and Aunt Kym, they were fun to be around and they invited us to their Church a few times. I really didn't put much energy into it though. During this time I was working hard trying to make it in Racing, I had no money so I spent a lot of time coaching kids and adults in go karts.

I worked for Ron Huber he was a great man of faith. Ron was a big part of Motorsports Ministries and was heavily involved with other great organizations. I spent a lot of time with his grandson Andrew; we would go to the track every week and I would mentor him. Ron put a lot of trust in me and he was a great friend of mine as well as an employer.

I always thought he was very special person who treated his family, friends and employ-



ees with love and integrity. I remember always thinking there is something different about this man and it was his love to serve and honor God. When he passed away I was devastated, but little did I know that God had a plan to use Ron and his passing to open my heart.

Tom Barnett another close friend, employer and a man of faith challenged me at Ron's funeral about my life. He asked me if I thought Ron was in heaven and I obviously said yes and then he asked me if I was to die today would I go to heaven. I paused and really didn't know. I started evaluating my life style, my heart, and who I really wanted to be.

Then as a little time went on my wife and I were at a Church with Jami's Aunt and Uncle again. The pastor was speaking about forgiveness and no matter how much junk we have had in our life's that we could start a new life today. I thought to myself, man that would be nice a second chance to have all my sins washed away, to be forgiven and start over and I did that day that second. My faith has brought me through a lot of struggles as well as great times of joy and peace.

I could not imagine being married with a child and not knowing Jesus Christ as my lord and savior. The greatest gift is to know that I am not alone in this world and that God has a plan and a place in his kingdom for me and my family.



*I can do all things through Christ who  
strengthens me.*

*Philippians 4:13*



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