



“Facing disappointments, failures, and closed doors,” Kim Leathers tells me, “I couldn’t help but feel insignificant and worthless.” This young mom of five year old Kyla said she felt lost in her new Cape May home, and “...missing everything we moved away from...” Kim and her family came from Staten Island about a year ago and she was feeling trapped in this “unfamiliar territory”, she says, and “I was praying for an opportunity to come up.” “For my husband and my daughter,” she says, “things seemed to fall into place...” However, for Kim, she only felt misplaced; as if she this new house had no room for her. The aches and pains of trying to adjust and adapt to her new surroundings was as if her muscles were being pulled from their tendons, like a workout gone bad.

Kim is a runner. She not only loves competing in races, but, as she tells me, “I truly believe God designed me to run.” So getting up every morning means Kim is out running. This was the only daily routine she managed ‘unpacking’ from her recent move.

“The winter dragged-on,” she says, “but I continued to run outside on my own as much as possible...but it just wasn’t the same.” You see, after relocating, Kyla started school. That meant Kim lost something else in the move, her running partner. Kim tells me, “the weirdest and most ridiculous thing is that I love running while pushing my daughter...Ever since she was six months old I have strapped her in the stroller and she has come along with me for the “ride” as she calls it...These morning runs and rides became routine, a way of life for both my daughter and I...the stroller came close to logging more miles on it than our car!” Kim continues, “The fluid motion of the wheels along the pavement and her company was something I missed more than I can describe.”

Kim’s prayers for finding a “comfortable balance” in her new life, as she says, were as constant as her daily jogs. This was one ‘marathon’ she was not quite prepared to win. Although she took along her favorite things when they moved, it seemed she had left a part of her heart behind. The new home was dressed with their familiar belongings, however, somewhere between New York and New Jersey a piece of her had been left behind. She has struggled with “feeling invisible” she says, and it was as if her best pair of running shoes had been missing.

Kim recently found a thought that had managed to travel with their move. “I’ve lost my purpose in life,” she said. Kim had so carefully packed the boxes, so how did ‘this’ get here? Every box had a place in her home, but there was no “put this in the \_\_\_\_ room” written on this thought. Why couldn’t it just have been left in the moving truck!

Her faith was like an aerobics instructor, pushing her through every day until she broke that final sweat and lugged this thought through the front door of God's house. It was more exhausting an experience than her last race. The Lord helped her open it, as if pulling back the packing paper it had been wrapped in. Lifting it out, the Lord showed her why this 'box' had to come along with their move. He wanted Kim to run the streets of Cape May. The Lord was reminding her of the stranger who stopped her, on one of her runs on the Staten Island boardwalk, a year prior to their move. This man said to her, "I've watched you every day for months out here running, pushing your daughter in that stroller and I lost 75 pounds because of you." He continued, "I told myself if she can push that stroller, which is practically bigger than her, every day, than I could do it too."

"The biggest lesson this man taught me," Kim said, "was that sometimes we may feel insignificant, small, and meaningless...but someone is always watching us...I felt blessed this man shared this with me in passing...It proved that sometimes just doing something you love in your everyday routine can help and change someone around you." Kim may still have some 'unpacked boxes' left in her heart from the move, but she is confident the Lord will be at her side, helping her open each one. He has given her an "everyday routine" in running, she says, that can touch other people's lives.

"There is nothing I love more than starting the day with an early morning run. Mentally and physically, running has become a major part and priority in my life. I think it defines many parts of me...running is a common bond that brought my husband and I together," she tells me, "...Now that the sun and warmth is back, Kyla has been cruising along with me in her blue 20-inch wheel "ride", like old times...I hope and pray that maybe I will inspire someone along the roads of Cape May now."

In Christ, Kim has obtained an inheritance, even on the streets of Cape May, as Ephesians 1:11 says, "being predestined according to the purpose of Christ, who works all things according to the counsel of His will..." He has specifically designed Kim to run and she is His workmanship, according to 2:10, "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that (Kim) should walk in them", or in her case, He prepared her to *run* in them!