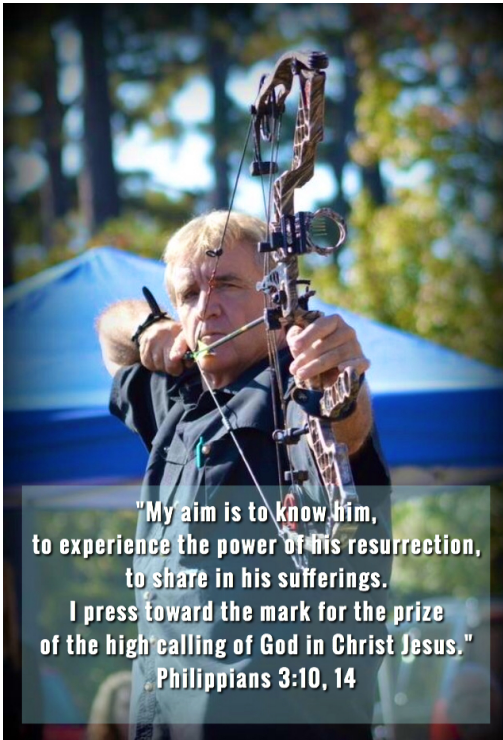


## HIT THE MARK 2017

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING - \$7,000 GOAL!



"My aim is to know him,  
to experience the power of his resurrection,  
to share in his sufferings.  
I press toward the mark for the prize  
of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 3:10, 14

It was 7:03 AM on the morning of the giant outdoor worship service we call "Cross Sunday & Fallback Festival" when I saw Brian's facebook post. I had been up late the night before. Then I drifted, barely in and out of sleep, all night long. My mind was on fire with vision after vision of my sermon's impact.

Brian grew up in our church and loves Jesus. However, he has had a lot of tough life circumstances in the last few years. The truth is that I deeply love him and have worried about him. In the span of one year, I stood before our church and in front of his family and friends to bury his father and his grandfather. I loved and shepherded them both in our church. I cried too.

Brian is a truly amazing young man. He is someone who has been hurt, made mistakes, paid consequences,

but now just needs a break. I was so excited when he recently got a new job and could begin to really build his life. I know that God is able to finish His powerful work in Brian's life! Here's his post from early that Sunday morning:

I was the first one to comment... **"I got you."** I immediately saw the *dot, dot, dot* as he was typing... **"Let's go to church"** was his reply.

November 5 at 7:03 AM · 👤

Well....just got dropped off at work because I am supposed to work everyday of the week. But guess what? Not today! I am completely stranded as usual. But this wont be happening much more because im definetly improving my quality of life but until that work pays off, i am accepting hero applications. Holla at me, Pull up pull up pull up!!!



After I picked up Brian, the rest of the morning was a blur of powerful worship, an explosive message, and a miraculous response to the altar call. **You know how good God is, right? There was Brian**, right in the middle of it all when the altar was flooded with people looking for answers and to be ignited with new life!

When Bill Williams drew his bow earlier on *Cross Sunday* and let his arrow fly over the congregation - **HE HIT THE MARK!** I was stunned. But more than that, I was inspired. We've all got to draw our bows in life if we're ever going to hit our own mark. We've got to tighten our grip, pull with all our might, strain against the tension, aim with true

vision, and release our pointed purpose. **You've got to bend your bow of blessing if you ever want to experience a release of worship and soul satisfaction.**

We can hit the mark together. Draw your bow with me Church. *Our budget "lack" this year is not God's "limitation."* When you prayerfully pull, you'll be putting your hand and heart on the line for people like Brian. *He's worth it! God is worth it, and the vision of RiverTown Church to transform lives into the likeness of Jesus Christ is worth it!*

\*You can give every sunday, or online at [www.rivertownchurch.com/onlinegiving](http://www.rivertownchurch.com/onlinegiving). Use the one-time donation function to give by bank account (lowest fee), credit card, or debit card. Just mark your giving envelope on Sunday, or select "Hit The Mark Christmas Offering" as the fund for your designated online gift.

Let's Hit It Church!  
God's Got This!  
Pastor David Rathel,