

Inaugural Jesus run a success

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

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DANBURY — With Bob Bowden of Lake Jackson in the lead and cancer survivor Petra Osteen finishing up with a pack of almost 70 walkers and runners, the Community Baptist Church of Danbury netted \$4,200 for the building fund in the inaugural Run for Jesus 5K.

The older Bowden, 48, outfoxed and outdistanced a younger pack of runners who sprinted out fast at the start of the race.

“I knew they took off too fast,” said Bowden. “I said, ‘I hope you guys know where you’re going. I’m following you.’ I took the lead at about a half mile, and the course was marked well with a lot of volunteers to help with directions.”

Bowden finished the 3.1-mile route around Danbury in 20:36, a 6:39 average mile pace. Bowden progressively built his lead and put a 2:14 gap between himself and second overall runner Reagan Norris, 14, a Danbury Middle School student, who finished in 22:50, a 7:22 mile pace.

“I was ahead of him for about a minute,” said Norris. “He came up. I didn’t slow down; he got faster and opened it up, and I couldn’t catch him.”

Bowden received a “Run for Jesus” bag for first in the 40 and older category, and Norris received a bag for first in the 13 to 39 category, as did the other top



Cancer survivor Petra Osteen finishes up her walk in the Run for Jesus 5K Run/Walk.

four finishers in the race.

Kelly Collard, Jared Brimage and Dan Walsh finished in 22:58, 23:41 and 24:44 in third through fifth place, respectively. Colleen Tribble, 32, finished sixth overall in 26:35 to garner first place in the open women’s competition in 26:35, an 8:35 mile pace.

Tribble, an Angleton sixth-grade teacher, finished her first run since having a baby seven months ago. She was unavailable for comments after the race.

Finishing 46 seconds behind Tribble and eighth overall, Tyler Blackwell, 10, earned first place in the 12 and under boys’ competition. Blackwell finished

his first 5K race in 27:21, an 8:49 pace.

“It was fun, and I was in the front at the beginning,” said Blackwell. “I fell back in the first mile. They were too fast.”

Challenging her mother, Meagan Harvey, 12, finished 14th overall and first in the girls’ 12 and under bracket in 29:03, a 9:22 pace. She outdistanced her mother, Traci Harvey, by 4:37 at the finish line.

“I told my mother I was going to beat her, and I did,” said Harvey. “I slowed down because a mile is the most I have ever run. The last two miles I jogged and ran my hardest in the stretch.”

Finishing her first race



Amy Plander presents Bob Bowden for finishing the Run for Jesus first overall and first in the 40 and over male category.

since back surgery a year and a half ago, Peni Green, 41, a sixth-grade teacher at Angleton Middle School, finished 18 overall and first in the women's 40-plus category in 30:31, a 9:51 pace.

"It felt great. I was pleased with my time," said Green. "I enjoyed the theme of

the race. It's inspiring to run for a cause you believe in, and the church needs our help."

Walking for the church that has supported her through her recovery, cancer survivor Petra Osteen, 44, just a year after her diagnosis, finished the 5K distance in 1:03:40. Runners and

walkers lined the street of the finish line to applaud her and to cheer her on. David Smith, pastor of the Community Baptist Church, heralded her as "The one with all the heart" as she neared the finish line.

"It was a God thing," said Olsteen. "The church members have been my rock."

Church members Amy Plander and Michaela Norris came up with the idea of a run/walk as a fund-raiser.

"We were thinking about a different kind of fund-raiser," said Plander. "We go to races, so we thought of this. I was really pleased at the turnout. We didn't know what to expect."

Custom Air served as the primary sponsor for the race, with Phillip's Café, George Flynn, White Dove Daycare and Palms Funeral home, as well as 15 other local businesses, contributing toward the event.

Like Plander, Pastor Smith was pleased with the area response to the event.

"We had a great response from our sponsors and those who came out to run and walk."