

RUNNIANITY THE BIRTH OF A NEW FAITH

Omnipresentville, Earth, 4.58pm

Former self-described atheist, Michael Kavanagh, has founded a new religion. With the catalyst of turning 33 years old during the week, Kavanagh was forced to reflect on his own spiritual beliefs, finally electing to found his own religious group - The Church of Runnianity.

"So there I was, out for a jog on the morning of my 33rd birthday. I had the recollection that Jesus had been crucified and then rose from the dead at the same exact age I just turned. So I guess I kind of suddenly felt a real spiritual awakening or 'calling.'

Kavanagh did not take on the formation of his new Church lightly. "I decided some research was required. My parents sent me to a Catholic school and so I knew a little about fishes, wine, miracles and rising from the dead, but my knowledge of other religions was pretty thin."

Approaching a few colleagues, Kavanagh was able to glean a few insights from some of the more traditional religious groups. Friend, Christian and fellow runner Scott Westcott suggested that, even though Kavanagh continues to struggle with injury concerns, God does in fact exist.

"I just kind of assumed if there was a God, then he wouldn't let my Achilles continually blow out - I've been a pretty good bloke. Surely I don't deserve the number of overuse injuries I've had over the last few years?"

"I emailed Nouredine Morcelli 'cos I know he's a devout Muslim. He said some stuff about Allah, some wandering Arab called Mohammed and something about not eating for several weeks. When I asked him if the fasting helped him reach race weight, he didn't respond..... maybe my second email didn't get through?"

Kavanagh also tried to contact the Masons, "I couldn't find the door into their building", and the Mormons, ".....that was a confusing day. I kept being told Mr Smith was over in the house next door every time I rang a door bell. I'm still not sure if Mr Smith even really exists - but I met a lot of lovely Mrs Smiths!"

"As for the Jehovah's, that's just not going to

by Michael Kavanagh

work for me 'cos the Sunday long run simply can not be done on a Monday".

Finally, through what appeared to be sheer coincidence or possibly even divine intervention, Kavanagh received the spiritual guidance he was looking for. "I was hanging for a drink at about the 28k mark of a fairly arduous training run out in the sand covered hills of Stromlo. I reached the summit of Dairy Farmer's Hill, and there standing before me was Jesus. He wasn't exactly as I expected; a bit grey and furry, big ears, very powerful hind legs..... But when he spoke, I knew it was him."

He kept saying "trials of miles, miles of trials....." I knew instantly my new faith had been staring me right in the face the whole time. So when I got back home, I started ringing all my running friends - I didn't bother with non-runners as clearly they are not among the chosen and are going straight to hell - and told them

Kavanagh contemplating his new revelation



I ❤️ NY

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about our new religion Runnianity."

And to think all this time I had my bible, Tim Noakes Lore of Running, sitting right next to my bed! Well I'll be darned"

Kavanagh plans on achieving official acknowledgement of Runnianity through the next Census. "Like that whole Jedi Knight thing a couple of years back, if we can get enough runners to put down 'Runnian' as their official religion, we will be accepted as a mainstream faith. Until then, I encourage all runners to follow the teachings of prophets like Mona and Deek..... and of course, Clohessy!And Run On." **R4YL**

Ed Note: As a first visit to the confessional, Michael Kavanagh would like to officially apologise for any quotes he may have slanderously made up from Mark Gorski. "Gorski is an absolute champion - I refer to him as 'Fingers of God Gorski'. He is one of the best masseurs going around and a genuine, thoughtful and dependable friend. Any quotations I may have falsely labeled him with in the last issue of R4YL were just that - fabrications."

"People need to read my commentary as though it's the Bible - some of it may be true, some may be fictional - but true or false, it's intention is to provide messages and lessons in the hope that we can all find our own Holy Grails..... 1,000 apologies Gorsk."

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