



# Madison Baptist Association

THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY  
09,  
2017

“Assisting churches in fulfilling their mission, and providing them opportunities for fellowship and to work together in advancing the kingdom of God”

One day, after the death and resurrection of Christ, seven of Jesus’ disciples went fishing (John 21). They fished all night and caught nothing. At daybreak they spotted a “stranger” on the beach who said to them, “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch.” They did as He said and caught a large quantity of fish. At that miraculous moment, John realized that the “stranger” was Jesus and told the other disciples that it was Him. This prompted Peter to dive into the sea and swim ashore to get to Jesus as fast as he could. Little did Peter know that he would soon be diving into the depths of discipleship through a series of probing questions from the Lord. After Jesus and these seven disciples had breakfast together, Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” Simon, do you love me more than these disciples? The word Jesus used for love (Greek ‘agapao’) means to “cherish.” It is the highest form of love and calls for total commitment. Simon, do you love me first and foremost, more than your closest friends, your fellow-disciples and fishing buddies? Wow, now that’s a question for us today, Jesus’ disciples. Do we love Jesus more than our closest friends? Is He first and the most prominent person/thing in our lives, including our hobbies, interests, or job? Well, Peter responded to this penetrating question like perhaps most of us would. He said, “Yes Lord; You know that I love You.” And I believe that Peter meant it; he loves the Lord. But it is interesting that Peter used a different word for love (Greek ‘phileo’) than Jesus did, a word which means to “have affection for.” Jesus’ word (agapao) is the verb form of agape, a word we are all familiar with as describing an unconditional, sacrificial love. Agape love is used in Scripture of God’s love to men (I Jn. 4:9; Rom. 5:8). This is the love of God that draws us to Him and calls for a loving response. We are to love God, love one another in the body of Christ, and love the lost who are without salvation. For we have been called to care, saved to serve, and blessed to be a blessing. We, like Peter, are being drawn by the Holy Spirit to love God and others with the highest form of love. It involves more than liking or having affection for the Lord and others. Jesus said, “AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.....You SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF..... (Mark 12:30-31). We are to love the Lord, and love others with a sacrificial love that gives of itself for the benefit of others. When Peter answered Jesus’

question (which was repeated twice more), Jesus lovingly replied, “Tend My lambs.” Jesus had a work for Peter to do, an assignment. Peter’s love for Christ and others would be the springboard for accomplishing his ministry. Peter had to first get it set in his heart and mind that He loved God if he was to follow Him and accomplish His will on earth, even if that journey into discipleship led to martyrdom (which, for Peter, it did). We too must love the Lord with all our heart and love others as ourselves if we are to be the church God desires for us to be. This must be determined in our hearts and minds in order to accomplish the work that God has for each of His disciples to do. Charlie, do you love Me more than these? Billy, do you love Me more than these? Kathy, do you love Me more than these?

Your Director of Missions,  
Charlie

- Feb 9.....Minister’s Conference (10:30AM)  
Mark Wakefield (ALSBOM) “Church Security”
- Feb 12..... Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- Feb 13-19 .....Focus on WMU
- Feb 14..... Happy Valentine’s Day!
- Feb 14..... Minister’s Tax Conference (Decatur First)
- Feb 20..... President’s Day (MBA Closed)
- Feb 26.....RA Racers (Huntsville First,  
Registration @ 1:00 PM)
- Feb 27-28 ..... State Evangelism Conference  
(Pelham First)
- Feb 28..... Ministers’ Wives Luncheon (Pelham First)

only \$150 per student! space limited register soon!

changing one house and one life at a time!

Rocket City Missions is a ministry of Madison Baptist Association.

**Mission Opportunities for 2017**

**Rocket City Missions**  
Week #1 June 18 — 23, 2017  
Week #2 June 25 — 30, 2017

**Williamsburg, Kentucky Mission Trip**  
July 16 — 20, 2017

**Romania Summer Missions**  
April 27—May 9, 2017

Mark your calendars now — more information is available at the MBA!

**Save these VBS dates!**

**Director’s 101 Meeting**  
Thursday, March 23  
6:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.  
@ the MBA

**VBS Clinic**  
Saturday, April 22  
8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.\*  
@ Farley Community Church\*\*

\*new clinic schedule! \*\*new venue!

**A CALL TO FORGIVENESS**  
MEN’S CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 10, 2017  
Lindsay Lane Baptist Church  
1300 Lindsay Lane • Athens, AL

**SPEAKERS:**

- Joel Carwillo, pastor of First Baptist Church of Athens
- Tim Anderson, pastor of Church of Christ Baptist Church
- Dusty McLemore, pastor of Lindsay Lane Baptist Church

Tickets on sale at FBC, CBC or LLBC offices • Register online @ [lindsaylane.org](http://lindsaylane.org)  
Dinner @ 5pm | \$20 per person | 6:30pm Conference  
*But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25-26*

**Annual RA Racers**  
**FBC Huntsville (600 Governors Dr)**  
Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> Registration: 1PM; Race: 2 PM

If you’d like to find out more details about Royal Ambassadors and the RA Racers or the RA race please call **Dwight Sisk** at 256-714-2401.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
TASK FORCE

**National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 4, 2017**

The mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture.

To learn more or to organize a prayer event on May 4<sup>th</sup> go to [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org) or contact the NDP Task Force Madison County Coordinator at [ndp.madisonco.al@gmail.com](mailto:ndp.madisonco.al@gmail.com).

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Closed on Fridays