



Madison Baptist Association

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

THURSDAY,
APRIL
06,
2017

I saw a very touching story one day while watching television. It centered around the family of Rich Donnelly who, in 1992, was the third-base coach for the Pittsburg Pirates. His 17-year-old daughter Amy, one of four children, had been diagnosed with a brain tumor that year and was undergoing regular chemotherapy treatments at a hospital in Arlington, Texas. The doctors believed she had only 9 months to live. So when the Pirates made the play-offs that year, Amy travelled to Pittsburg to see game 5 of the NLCS with the Atlanta Braves. She and her friend, Cindy Sample, had a wonderful time at the game and the Pirates won. After the game, she was sitting in the backseat of the car as her dad drove the family home. During the game she had noticed that her dad would often crouch down, cup his hands and shout to the runner at second base. She had wondered what he was saying to his players. So she leaned forward in her seat and asked, “Dad, what are you telling those guys? The chicken runs at midnight?” Her dad replied, “What? Where did you come up with that?” Amy just laughed, for she had no idea where that phrase came from. But it became an often repeated statement, a family motto, in the Donnelly household though no one knew what it meant.

Before game 7 at Atlanta, the deciding game of the NLCS, Amy called Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and left a message for her father. It simply read: “The chicken runs at midnight.” The message was written down on a piece of paper and given to her dad, who had it in his hand in the dugout before the game. Second baseman Chico Lind saw the message, and when he was introduced and ran onto the field he said, “The chicken runs at midnight” to the other Pirate players lined-up along the third base line. The Pirates lost a nail biter, 3-2, and the Braves went to the 1992 World Series. Amy died at the age of 18, in January of 1993, and the phrase “The Chicken Runs At Midnight” was etched on her tombstone.

Four years later, in 1997, her father Rich was the third-base coach for the Florida Marlins. This time Rich’s team defeated the Braves in the NLCS and made it to the World Series against the Cleveland Indians. About mid-season the Marlins had acquired a new player for their team, second-baseman Craig Counsell. He was given the nickname “The Chicken” because of the way he flapped his arm (like a chicken wing) before swinging the bat, and also his skinny legs resembled those of a chicken. In the seventh and deciding game of the World Series in Florida, Counsell was on third base with two outs in the bottom of the eleventh inning of a tie game. The Marlins batter hit a single up the middle and Counsell came running home with the winning run. In the joyous Marlins celebration that followed, Rich’s son Tim (a Marlins bat boy and on the field with his dad) noticed that the clock next to the scoreboard read just a couple of minutes past midnight. “Dad,” he said with tears streaming down his face, “The chicken ran at midnight, the

chicken ran at midnight!”

As I have thought about this story, all kinds of truth/application has come to mind. I see in this story the brevity of life, and that life is “just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.” (James 4:14) I see the importance of family, and spending time with the ones you love for no one is guaranteed tomorrow on this earth. The song “Midnight Cry” comes to mind, which emphasizes the return of Christ. I also think of all the lost people around us and abroad, and how we as Southern Baptists can best reach them with the “good news” of Jesus Christ before He comes again. As we approach Palm Sunday and Easter, may we be vividly reminded of the Savior who died on our behalf and rose again that we might experience a most glorious victory! “But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

Your Director of Missions,
Charlie

- Apr 11 MBA Bible Drills (Whitesburg)
- Apr 13 Minister’s Conference (10:30 AM)
- Apr 16 Easter Sunday
- Apr 17 MBA Closed
- Apr 22 VBS Clinic (Farley, 8:30 AM, *pre-registration required*)
- Apr 24 MBA Executive Board Mtg (10:00 AM)
- Apr 27-May 9 Romania Summer Mission Trip
- May 11 Minister’s Conference (10:30 AM)
- May 11-13 ESL Teacher Training, MBA

Minister’s Conference
Thursday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.
 The guest speaker will be **State Missionary Lee Wright (ALSBOM)** and the topic will be ***How to Protect Your Church from Sexual Misconduct.***
 Fellowship and lunch will take place after the conference. Lunch will be provided for \$5 per person.
 We hope to see you there!

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

rocket city

 missions

 changing one house and one life at a time!

Rocket City Missions is a ministry of Madison Baptist Association.

Save this VBS date!

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

*new clinic schedule! **new venue!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED! <http://tinyurl.com/>

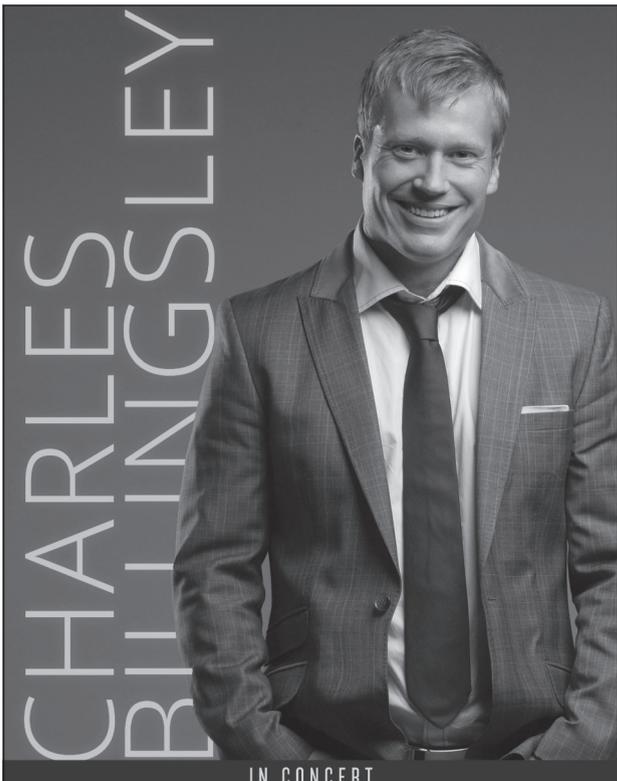
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

T A S K F O R C E

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 4th go to nationaldayofprayer.org or contact the NDP Task Force Madison County Coordinator at ndp.madisonco.al@gmail.com.



CHARLES GLESELEY
IN CONCERT

WHERE: **Willowbrook Baptist Church** 7625 Bailey Cove Rd. Huntsville, AL 35802
WHEN: **Thursday, June 15, 2017 @ 6:30pm**
Tickets: \$20 per person
Tickets available at the Madison Baptist Association. Group rates are available; call 256-536-0015 for info.

Madison Baptist Association, Inc.
 Dr. Charlie Howell, Executive Director of Missions
 Rev. Ron Lynch, Church Ministry Director
 Regina Berry, Financial/Administrative Assistant
 Denise Panter, Receptionist/Publicist/Clerk
 2318 Whitesburg Drive S, Huntsville, AL 35801
 Web Site: www.madisonassociation.org
 Phone: 256-536-0015 ~ Fax: 256-536-0017
 Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday
 Closed on Fridays