



CHRIS A. GILLESPIE
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TEAM 413 – GRACERUNNER MINISTRIES

Chris Gillespie's story is one that will uplift your spirit and touch your heart. From one t-shirt to the largest ministry for endurance athletes in the world – Chris Gillespie calls TEAM 413 a miracle of God's grace. In 2003 Gillespie founded the non-profit ministry inspired by God's calling in his life. Even though he has had a very successful professional career in sports medicine, TEAM 413 is his passion – a labor of love for runners and other endurance athletes worldwide. Whether challenging others to walk a lap around a track or run a mile, change an attitude or improve a relationship, Gillespie shares a message of hope, confidence, perseverance, courage, and strength. His ultimate goal is to exhibit in his own life and to impart to others the truth of his life verse, Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Chris has done much in his 36-year career as a certified athletic trainer. He served in many capacities in sports medicine at Samford University from 1982-2013. He retired from the Birmingham, Alabama institution in July 2013 and spent one year as Director of Athletic Training Administration & Mentoring at the University of Georgia where he was responsible for special projects as well as rendering sports medicine care to UGA's athletes.

He has spoken at athletic training and sports medicine seminars from coast to coast. He has also served on numerous athletic training committees at the state, district, and national levels. He was president of the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association and the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association. In addition, Chris served as a member of the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Licensure Task Force and was a member and Vice-Chair of the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers for more than a decade. Chris was a member of the sports medicine team for track & field and the marathon at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

Among his many awards in the athletic training field are the National Athletic Trainers' Association Service Award, the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association District Award, the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association Educator Award, and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award. Chris was inducted into the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of

Fame in 2002 and the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 2008. The highest honor of his stellar career came in June 2012 when he was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame, an honor that exists to recognize the very best in the profession of athletic training.

Chris Gillespie's story is one of inspiration and hope. He shares his words of encouragement, God's grace, and overcoming trials to running groups, churches, sports teams, and at marathons speaker series across the United States. Chris is the author of *GRACERUNNER – FAITH ON THE RUN* and *GRACE-WORDS*. His third book, *A ROCK IN MY POCKET*, is expected to be completed in 2018.

A native of Pontotoc, Mississippi, Chris and his wife, Kiki, and their dog, Willie, now live in Seacrest Beach, Florida. Chris has three daughters, a son, and one granddaughter.

WHAT THEY SAY:

“Chris Gillespie is an inspiring person who has not allowed challenges keep him from achieving goals that only a few runners have achieved. He helps thousands of people improve the quality of their lives each year!”

Jeff Galloway
Olympian and World Renowned Running Coach

“Chris Gillespie and Team 413 bring something special to any race he is involved with. Whether it is an experienced, enthusiastic presence at the Expo, a knowledgeable and inspirational speaker, or a calming non-denominational service at the start-line, Chris is your man.”

Tracy Sundlun
Co-Founder, Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon Series

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