



Winter 2011

WILL THE MUSIC CHANGE AT ABC?

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT, BY DR. ALTON BEAL

At the end of the 2010–11 school year, another important transition took place at Ambassador Baptist College. After twenty-two years of leading the music department at Ambassador, Dr. Don Scovill stepped down as the music chairman and was replaced by his son Todd. In 1995, the Lord brought Mr. Todd Scovill to ABC from a thriving local church music ministry. Upon his arrival, he led the college chorale to begin our yearly tradition of singing excerpts of Handel's *Messiah* as a part of our Thanksgiving festivities. Visitors from the surrounding area are amazed that a college of our size is able to do such a quality presentation of this familiar and classic literature. Mr. Scovill's training in the instrumental realm has been invaluable in assembling various instrumental groups and ensembles. I believe that Mr. Scovill will continue the strong foundation that has been laid by his father through the years and will build upon it.

In light of this transition, will the music change at ABC? I am sure that Mr. Scovill will do some things differently than his father. When a church gets a new pastor, the new pastor usually does not preach exactly like the former pastor because they are different personalities. They may use a different approach in their sermons. Their ministries have different strengths, yet their philosophy is the same. I am confident that this is true of the Scovills. **While the faces of leadership have changed, our philosophy of church music will not.**

Since day one, ABC has had what has been commonly labeled as a **traditional and conservative style of music**. The terms *traditional* and *conservative* are not confined to time, but rather to style. The church has been blessed with good music that was written in the 1800's and continues to be blessed by music that is written in 2011. The issue is

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Dr. Ron Comfort

An Interview with Mr. Todd Scovill



Q: When did you trust Christ as your Savior?

A: I was saved at the age of fifteen.

Q: What are some of your earliest recollections of your dad leading music when you were a child?

A: My earliest memories of him leading music are from when I was three or four years old.

Q: Do you play any instruments?

A: I primarily play trumpet and piano; I also occasionally play the trombone, French horn, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, and baritone.

Q: Why/How did you decide to go into music ministry?

A: I enjoyed the experience of coaching/helping individuals get another level of music experience. While I was in college, I had to "fill in" for Dad on Sundays when he was away. I loved the response of people singing and the fine choral sound from church choir. God then began to open doors of opportunities to minister in music—I knew He was leading me to pursue this path.

Q: What training did you receive for your music ministry?

A: I did my undergraduate work at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, receiving a degree in Music Education. My graduate work I did at Pensacola Christian College, receiving a degree in Church Music Ministry.

Q: How/Where did you meet your wife?

A: I met Brenda at college—my roommate pointed her out to me. She and I sang together in college choir.

Q: What is your favorite hymn and why?

A: "And Can It Be"—it has an uplifting melody with a rich Biblical text.

Q: Could you list a couple of your favorite choral pieces?

A: "Come Praise the Lord with Me"; "The Beatitudes"; *Lauda Anima*.

Q: Before coming to ABC, what music ministry experience did you have?

A: I served for sixteen years in elementary/secondary music education and music ministry in several local churches, working with adult choirs, children's choirs, and orchestras.

Q: How has your father influenced you through the years in music?

A: He has influenced me through music lessons, personal Biblical counsel, personal music coaching, singing and playing duets together, and instrumental or vocal groups.

Q: What would you consider to be your strengths in the area of music?

A: I enjoy taking an unconventional combination of instruments and make a music arrangement sound presentable, and I love taking groups of singers/instrumentalists and helping them meet their potential in music repertoire.

Q: Tell us about your family.

A: Brenda and I have been married for thirty-two years; our anniversary is July 25th. We have two married daughters (Rachel Cordeiro and Holly Myers), a son (Jason), two daughters at home (Leslie and Kelsey), and three grandchildren.

Q: What is your favorite candy bar?

A: Twix (cookie coated with caramel and chocolate)

Q: Do you have a hobby?

A: I do a lot of painting (both interior and exterior) and lately, reading theology books.



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

not the era in which a song was written, but whether or not the style and content is honoring to God. While some leaders are convinced that no biblical text guides the style of music, we firmly believe that the Bible does give us guidelines to govern the style of our music. Some of these texts are applied to the Christian's life in general (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 7:14–25). John gives a general principle for the Christian in 1 John 2:15: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." The Christian is not to love the things of this world, including the music of the world. Other texts refer specifically to music (Ephesians 5:19; Revelation 5:9). Paul gave a specific application to music in Colossians 3:16 when he admonished believers: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Both general and specific verses teach us that there is a difference between carnal and spiritual music. Therefore, our music cannot be fashioned after the world.

As a result, we will continue to reject the music philosophy of Contemporary Christian Music (CCM). There is a growing acceptance of using CCM in independent Baptist churches. Some churches use it with no reservations, and others borrow from various CCM groups and "clean up" the songs. While the motives of Christian leaders who are doing this may be sincere, I am afraid the result will be disastrous. Worldly music will lead to fleshly living. In Ezekiel 22:26, Ezekiel pointed out a grave error made by the priests: "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have

put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." They put no difference between the clean and unclean. We do the same when we try to put the world's music with good words. CCM and those who use it make the same mistake as the priests in Ezekiel's day.

Our focus will remain on training young people for the local church music ministry. Our goal is to train men to be effective congregational song leaders and choir directors with a biblical philosophy of music. By requiring two years of piano for all our ladies in a four-year program, they are encouraged to develop their musical skills so that they can be a blessing in the music ministry of their local churches. Although our students are taught to play skillfully, their music is not to be about performance, but rather ministry. Music is to exalt the Lord, not ourselves. There is a great need for men and women to serve in the local church music ministry.

We will continue to teach that the words of the music must exalt Christ and teach sound doctrine. A common trend in church music today is to bring God down to man's level, when in actuality our music ought to exalt Him. The text of the music must be true to the Word of God. Unsound doctrine sometimes creeps into the church through music long before it makes it into the preaching.

Since our founding in 1989, it has been said that at Ambassador Baptist College, **preaching is king and music is queen.** I look forward to seeing how the Lord uses Mr. Todd Scovill and our talented music faculty to train the next generation of local church musicians. ❧

END-OF-YEAR OPPORTUNITY

Several important buildings on campus need some upgrades this coming year. The **Kennedy Library** is in need of new shelving as well as an upgraded card catalog and book management system. The **Jordan Dormitory** has been a blessing to numbers of young ladies over the years, but it needs new carpet and interior paint.



Would you pray about helping us reach the estimated \$20,000 that we will need for these upgrades? All donations made or postmarked by December 31st are tax-deductible. In addition, friends who give over \$100 will receive a copy of *Last Things*, Dr. Ron Comfort's book on Bible prophecy.

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RON COMFORT EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY DECEMBER 2011 - FEBRUARY 2012

DECEMBER

3	Spruce Street Baptist Church	Pastor Terry Coats	Lexington, NC	336-249-1643
11	Open Bible Baptist Church	Pastor Larry Hummel	Sumter, SC	803-481-9315

JANUARY

8-11	Ohana Baptist Church	Pastor Wayne Surface	Honolulu, HI	808-837-7653
15-20	Ambassador Baptist Church	Pastor Rickson Kihleng	Pohnpei	691-320-5114
29-FEB.3	Northside Baptist Church of Monks Corner	Rev. Frank Bailey	Moncks Corner, SC	843-761-9388

FEBRUARY

5	Gospel Light Baptist Church	Pastor Bobby Roberson	Walkertown, NC	336-722-9700
12-15	Victory Baptist Church	Pastor David Littrell	Valrico, FL	813-689-1108
19-24	Calvary Baptist Church	Pastor Greg McLaughlin	Huntsville, AL	256-837-6873

Please check our website for updates to the itinerary at www.ambassadors.edu/ChancellorDesk/

ALTON BEAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY DECEMBER 2011 - FEBRUARY 2012

DECEMBER

11 (am)	Andrews Memorial Baptist Church	Pastor Tommy Willis	Graham, NC	336-228-7801
11 (pm)	Mount Bethel Baptist Church	Pastor Bobby Watts	East Bend, NC	336-699-8002

JANUARY

22 (am)	Bible Baptist Church	Pastor Greg Allison	Creedmoor, NC	919-575-3414
22 (pm)	Grace Baptist Church	Pastor Chris Edwards	Matthews, NC	704-846-2422
25-29	Marquette Manor Baptist Church	Pastor Dave Schlagel	Downers Grove, IL	630-964-5363

FEBRUARY

5-10	ABC Recruiting Tour		Florida	
12 (pm)	Eastside Baptist Church	Pastor David Fox	Greeneville, TN	423-639-2582
26-29	Madison Missionary Baptist Church	Pastor Kevin Gullion	Minford, OH	740-820-2708

Please check our website for updates to the itinerary at www.ambassadors.edu/PresidentCorner/

COMING Events EVENTS

MESSIAH CONCERTS
*Friday & Saturday,
 November 25-26, 2011, 7PM*

CHRISTMAS BREAK
*Friday-Sunday,
 December 16, 2011-
 January 8, 2012*

MASTER OF MINISTRIES
 MODULE: MINISTRY
 PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS
Monday-Friday, January 2-6, 2012

OPENING REVIVAL:
 PAUL SCHWANKE AND
 JERRY SIVNKSTY
*Monday-Friday,
 January 9-13, 2012*

VALENTINE'S BANQUET &
 CONCERT
Saturday, February 11, 2012