

the Ambassador

Fall 2015

The Overlooked Necessity for Ministry Training

Few people realize the rich history of Christian education in America. The vast majority of colleges started at the beginning of this country were founded for the purpose of training people for the ministry. Harvard, Yale, Princeton; the list goes on and on. Sad to say, many—if not all—have changed their purpose or gone out of existence.

In the high-tech world in which we live today, what is the most essential element of training people for the ministry? A casual survey of Christian colleges today will reveal that we place a lot of emphasis on facilities, friendships, and up-to-date content delivery in the classroom. While these things are not bad, they are not the most important. Training men and women for the ministry can take place without a nice building or a video projector, but it cannot take place without the Bible.

Sad to say, the Bible has been subtly deemphasized through the years in Christian education. Chapel services

A Word from the President by Dr. Alton Beal

have been reduced. The number of credit hours required for Bible majors pales in comparison to the number required of Bible majors at the turn of the 20th century. Some may call this progress, but I believe it is a great failure on our part.



The Lord describes His Word as a fire and hammer through the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 23:29). That hammer is needed in society today more than ever before. More and more hearts are becoming calloused toward the things of God, and no amount of eloquence can cause the change of heart that the Bible can. With this in mind, why would Christian institutions require less Bible, make chapel services more infrequent, or eliminate opening revival meetings?

The psalmist describes the Word of God as a lamp and a light in Psalm 119:105. This Light is unwelcome in a world of increasing darkness, but it is desperately needed. Our teenagers and young couples need to see the lamp of God's Word shine upon the subjects of same-sex marriage and reaching out to those with whom we disagree. Our students need to understand that this Light is not outdated,

continued...

over 30 mission agencies represented

Mission Prayer Band
M/T/Th 6:30pm

www.ambassadors.edu/MissionsConference



SPEAKER: David Snyder

Missions Conference | November 2-5, 2015 | 9:45am Daily

The Bible is the most irrelevant, or erroneous. indispensable, yet The increasing hostility toward the Bible must be countered by an undying devotion to it. most overlooked, facet of ministry training.

The Bible also describes itself as being sharper than a two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12). One of the reasons preaching has become ineffective and anemic is that preachers have become better at wielding illustrations and dogmatism than the Sword of the Spirit. There needs to be a revival of strong Bible preaching in our churches and Christian colleges. In a day where there is a sense of entitlement among millennials and complacency among the older saints, we need to feel the cutting edge of the Word of God.

Through the years, the Lord has blessed Ambassador with adequate facilities and classroom upgrades. I am grateful for an air-conditioned auditorium and the video projectors that are in our classrooms. God has blessed certainly blessed us. However, all of that is for naught if the Bible loses its rightful place in training people for the ministry.

The Bible is the most indispensable, yet most overlooked, facet of ministry training. By God’s grace, Ambassador will continue to offer one of the strongest Bible curriculums found in Bible colleges today. Our undergraduates often graduate with more Bible (more than 60 hours) than many Bible majors and even graduate students in Christian colleges. Our Bible classes are not taught by graduate assistants and career academicians, but by seasoned servants of the Lord. This powerful combination of quality and quantity in Bible training is a distinct feature of ABC.

Several weeks ago, one of our faculty members shared a quote with me that was found in a March 1955 copy of Moody Monthly. Although the quote is ancient in the minds of modern preachers, it is just as relevant today as ever: “It would be better for us to have no school buildings and a most limited number on the faculty; indeed, it would be better to meet in caves along a river and instill in our students a hunger for God, a passion for souls, a life of godliness, and a genuine knowledge of the great doctrines of the Word of God, than to have all kinds of facilities and the highest accreditation without such results.” May God help us all to hold high the ultimate facet of ministry training—the Bible.

DR. RON COMFORT’S ITINERARY

Dates	Church	Location
Oct 4–7	New Life Baptist Church	Converse, TX
Oct 11–15	New Testament Baptist Church	Tucson, AZ
Oct 18	Temple Baptist Church	Lewisville, TX
Oct 25–30	Lakewood Baptist Church	Harrison, TN
Nov 6–7	Faith Baptist Church	North Highlands, CA
Nov 8–12	Shining Light Baptist Church	Blairsville, GA
Nov 15–18	Lakeside Baptist Church	Clearwater, SC
Nov 22–24	Calvary Baptist Church	Clintwood, VA
Dec 6	Heritage Baptist Church	Winchester, VA

Visit www.ambassadors.edu/ChancellorDesk/ for updates.

DR. ALTON BEAL’S ITINERARY

Dates	Church	Location
Oct 4–9	Riggles Gap Baptist Church	Altoona, PA
Oct 11	Catawba Springs Christian Church	Apex, NC
Oct 11	Fayetteville St. Baptist Church	Asheville, NC
Oct 12–14	Temple Baptist Church	Lenoir, NC
Oct 18–21	Lighthouse Baptist Church	Lexington, SC
Oct 25	Ripley Baptist Temple	Ripley, WV
Nov 8–13	Shalom Baptist Church	Buffalo, NY
Nov 15	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Kings Mountain, NC
Nov 22–23	Southside Baptist Church	Rock Hill, SC

Visit www.ambassadors.edu/PresidentCorner/ for updates.

Prayer

- God’s provision for student jobs and school bills
- Enrollment for spring semester
- Upcoming Messiah concerts outreach
- Upcoming TAC & Missions Conferences
- Ministry of our students in local churches

Praises

- Campus remodeling and improvements with the help of a crew from Immanuel Baptist Church
- Elimination of the college’s mortgage
- Addition of Bruce and Judy Love
- Good number in the freshman class

Traditions vs. “Old paths”

by Dr. Charles Surret

Assistant to the President



There is a tendency among pastors today to rebel against the “traditional” way of doing things in the ministry. This is often justified by Jesus’ criticism of the Pharisees for placing their traditions above the commandments of God (Mark 7:8–9). Contemporary thinking seems to assume that anything that is “traditional” must be automatically wrong, just because it is traditional. On the other hand, Jeremiah 6:16 says that the “good way” is found in the “old paths.” How can today’s pastor reconcile these seemingly contradictory concepts?

Actually, it is not that difficult, if one has a proper perspective of tradition. Tradition is not the final authority for faith and practice—the Bible is! Every tradition should be tested in the light of God’s Word, but I suggest that the rejection of traditions should be scrutinized in the same fashion. That is, it might be wise to ask why a certain practice became traditional in the first place. Perhaps there was an underlying principle that was initially followed and which should still be obeyed today.

For example, many pastors have accepted the pragmatic argument that “door-to-door visitation does not work anymore,” so they have eliminated that ministry. However, the practice of going to every house has a Biblical precedent (Acts 5:42). Similar pragmatic thinking has caused some to no longer preach against sin or uphold standards of decency

in dress and behavior, because it simply “doesn’t work.” In effect, “traditionalism” has been replaced by pragmatism! That is a poor substitution.

Because Baptists have “traditionally” held services on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights, some have decided that these practices should be changed. Certainly, the Bible does not mandate our schedule of services, but there were some good reasons for those services to become traditionally observed. Rather than accommodating a “low commitment” mentality on the part of carnal people, today’s pastor should at least have a good reason for changing traditional practices and find some other way to accomplish the same purposes.

It is too easy to say that people don’t like to go to church very often, nor do they like dress standards, nor do they like to do door-to-door visitation, so we will simply offer them what they like and call that “ministry.” The end result is a church schedule that carnal people like, music that they like, Bibles that they like, no standards to worry about, no commitment required, and no “cross” to take up. Much of this pragmatism is defended as an anti-traditional approach to ministry, and that defense makes it somehow sound “spiritual.” Some of these same churches claim to focus more on “disciplining,” but they are appealing to a self-indulgent spirit that is the exact opposite of Biblical discipleship (Lk. 14:26-33).

Perhaps some traditions should be rejected, but perhaps some should be retained. For those that are rejected, something should be put in place that follows the same principles as the original practices, without lowering the level of commitment that a true disciple of Christ must have. In some cases, the “old paths” are the “good way” after all!

GRADUATION OFFERING 2015

Over the past year, God has provided for Ambassador and our mission of training people for ministry in some amazing ways. During this time last year, we were in the midst of a miracle where the Lord provided more than \$900,000 to pay off the college’s mortgage. God has continually shown us that He will meet our every need.

Last March, we began our Graduation Offering campaign. The GO is an annual campaign used to supplement the general budget of the college in order to keep tuition rates affordable and to accomplish special projects on campus. With the help of a number of local churches and friends, we were able to raise close to \$75,000 by the end of July.

When our students arrived back on campus in August, they were encouraged to see the completion of two important projects. All of the classrooms in Spurgeon Hall had newly-installed carpet and the piano lab was remodeled and outfitted with seven networked keyboards. These upgrades could not have been completed without the help of those who gave toward the 2015 GO.

The 2016 Graduation Offering will be announced in January and will again have a great impact on our student body. Thanks to all of you who prayed and shared in the burden. We continue to thank God for meeting our needs.



ALUMNI Days

MAY 2-3, 2016

Honoring the Classes of:

1996 • 2001 • 2006 • 2011

ALL ALUMNI ARE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND,
REGARDLESS OF THEIR
GRADUATION YEAR.

www.Ambassadors.edu/AlumniDays



Opening REVIVAL

RON COMFORT

Ron Comfort has been in full-time evangelism since 1961 and is the Chancellor of Ambassador Baptist College. He and his wife have three daughters.



MORRIS GLEISER

Morris Gleiser has been in full-time ministry since 1975 and is sent out of Burge Terrace Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. He and his wife have two sons.



Jan. 11-15, 2016

Advanced Preaching Concepts

Master of Ministries Module

www.ambassadors.edu/MastersModule/

Advanced instruction in sermon preparation and delivery. Each student will be given the opportunity to develop an exhaustive series of sermons for a particular book or topic of the Bible.

Dates: January 4-8, 2016

Instructor: Dr. Billy Martin

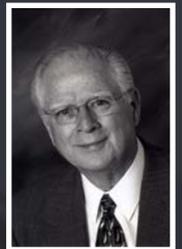
Cost:

- \$800 for Credit (4 hours of Masters-level credit)
- Special tuition discount for pastors of churches that support ABC monthly: \$200 for Credit
- \$200 for Audit (any interested student may audit the course.)

To receive credit, the following criteria must be met:

- ABC graduates may enroll in the program if they have more than two years of ministry experience.
- Non-ABC graduates may enroll if they have more than ten years of ministry experience, have a bachelor's degree, and are in agreement with Ambassador's philosophy and doctrinal statement.

If you would like more information about the Master of Ministries program, please email info@ambassadors.edu. For specific questions about enrollment, please contact our Academic Dean, Mr. Matthew Hanke, at mhanke@ambassadors.edu. For information about on-campus housing, call 704-434-0303 or email info@ambassadors.edu.



HANDEL'S

Me[♩]shiah

NOV. 27-28

7:00 PM each night in the R.A. Torrey Auditorium
on the campus of Ambassador Baptist College.

A FIERCE DAY OF BATTLE

Bible Preaching *Funny Skits*
Intense Competition *Helpful Workshops*
Pizza

For more information,
visit www.ambassadors.edu/TAC/



EVANGELIST
RICHARD HARPER

TEAMS



SPARTANS



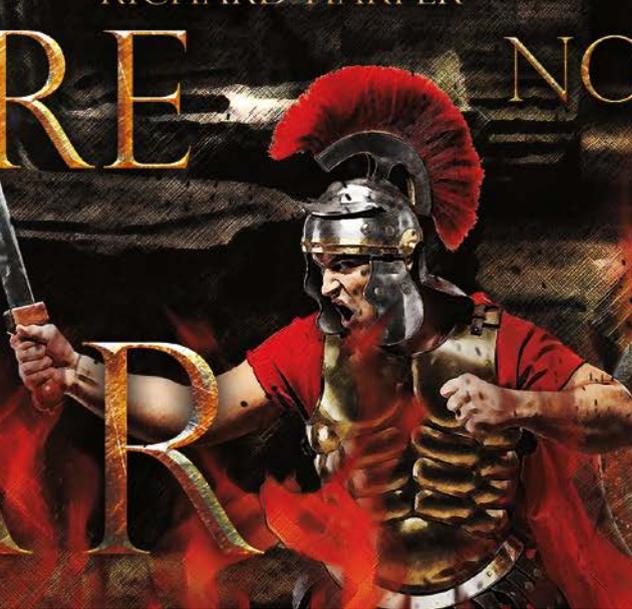
ROMANS



TROJANS

EMPIRE AT WAR

NOV. 14, 2015
9AM-5PM



\$15/TEEN
\$5 per person discount
for paid registrations
received by October 30

New Staff Members: The Love Family

Ambassador is pleased to introduce our newest staff members for the 2015–16 school year. Dr. Bruce Love is a seasoned pastor who has joined our faculty to teach Bible and graduate level courses. His wife, Judy, now serves as the college librarian. Take a few moments to learn more about these servants of the Lord?

Can you tell us a little about your upbringing and salvation testimony?

Bruce Love: I was saved at the age of four while my family was on deputation to go to Brazil. My father preached a message on hell, and God gripped my heart. I lived for fourteen years in Brazil and was baptized at the age of 11.

Judy Love: I was raised in a family of six girls in Minnesota. Although my mother was saved, we still had a rough home life. As a girl, I trusted Christ while at Camp Victory in Minnesota. My counselor and I sat down under a tree and she led me to Christ.

Where did you go to college?

Bruce Love: I attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College for a year and a half and then transferred to Grand Rapids Baptist College, where I graduated in 1970.

Judy Love: I went to Pillsbury Baptist Bible College and graduated in 1969.

What ministry experience have you had through the years?

Bruce Love: While in college, I served in various positions in youth and music. Since then, I have been in the pastorate for 42 years.



Judy Love: Obviously, I have served with my husband as a pastor's wife through the years. I have also had the opportunity to start four Christian schools and serve as a principal as well.

Do you have a specific verse or passage that is dear to your heart?

Bruce Love: The Lord used Psalm 71:17–18 to lead me to Ambassador. The Lord has been faithful through the years, and I want to impact a younger generation.

Judy Love: I like 2 Corinthians 3:18 and how it explains that we are constantly being changed into His likeness.

What subjects or hobbies do you like?

Bruce Love: I love anything to do with apologetics. It is a great tool for soul winning and gives one the opportunity to logically preach the Gospel to skeptics and others who are willing to listen.

Judy Love: I love yard work and gardening.



Ambassador Baptist College

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