



# THE AMBASSADOR

Fall 2008

## what Next?

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT BY DR. RON COMFORT

Faithful readers of The Ambassador are already aware that the 2008-2009 academic year is a year of transition for Ambassador Baptist College. When I began Ambassador in 1989, I immediately began to pray that God would lead me to the man that He would choose as my successor. You, like I, have witnessed the demise of many wonderful local churches and Christian institutions because no plan was made for succession. I honestly believe that "a person is not a success if he does not have a successor."

Moses trained Joshua, but Joshua did not plan for the future, so you have the period of the judges. David trained Solomon, but Solomon did not train anyone and the divided kingdom resulted. Paul's admonition to Timothy was that he ought to train others to take his place, so that they can then train others also.

As I had for years prayed about my successor, the topic came up in

conversation with Dr. Charles Keen on one of his many visits to our campus. He advised me that scripturally, he felt that the successor should come from within. A leader from within would know far better the foundation of the institution and be more alert to protect its moorings. His statement to me changed my vision and my praying regarding the situation.

Lord willing, in 2009, Alton Beal will be named the next president of Ambassador Baptist College. Upon his arrival as a freshman in the early 1990's, Alton had no idea that God was at work preparing him for this place of leadership.

Alton was saved as a "bus kid" in a fundamental Baptist church in Yadkinville, North Carolina. When he was fifteen years old, his father died, making Alton the "man of the house." He learned responsibility at an early age, just as Joseph did. Upon graduation from high school, he came to Ambassador as a bashful freshman, scared to death. He became involved in the music ministry of the school and his music philosophy was totally transformed because of the faithful, patient mentoring of Dr. Don Scovill. Alton traveled

with many college teams and singing groups, including the twenty-voice ensemble. For several years he preached for the college teams as they traveled throughout the summers.

While working his way through college, Alton became a manager at a local McDonald's restaurant. His leadership skills became obvious. For two years he was a resident assistant in the men's dormitory and then was named dormitory supervisor. Within a short time, he was named Dean of Men.

Several years ago, several of the former mayors and council members

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## Coming Events

BAPTIST HERITAGE CONFERENCE

*September 10-12*

FOUNDERS DAY

*October 11*

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

*October 27-31*

TAC CONFERENCE

*November 8*

THANKSGIVING CONCERT

*November 27*

MESSIAH CONCERT

*November 28-29*

CHRISTMAS VACATION BEGINS

*December 13*



# HARVEST TIME

OCTOBER 27-31, 2008

	8:45am	9:30am
MONDAY	Keen	Cummins
TUESDAY	Cummins	Keen
WEDNESDAY	Heath	Cummins
THURSDAY	Heath	Keen
FRIDAY	Keen	Heath

MISSIONS PRAYER BAND WILL MEET EACH EVENING.  
MORE THAN 35 MISSION AGENCIES REPRESENTED.

Dr. Charles Keen



FIRST BIBLE  
INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Dalton Heath



WORLD WIDE  
NEW TESTAMENT  
BAPTIST MISSION

Dr. David Cummins



BAPTIST WORLD  
MISSION

## Prayer

The freshman class to get adjusted to the new school year.

God's blessings upon the upcoming Baptist History Conference & the Missions Conference.

Wisdom for the leadership of ABC.

God's power upon our students, staff, and faculty as they serve in area churches.

Dr. Comfort, Alton Beal, and Dwight Smith as they hold revival meetings this fall.

## Praise

The privilege of beginning our 20th year at ABC!

God's blessings upon our summer traveling groups.

A wonderful Landmark Conference and Camp Barnabas—over 80 campers, great preaching, souls saved, & many good decisions!

The completion and the full payment of the new men's dorm—The Gene Lasley Hall.

A great opening revival to begin our new school year!

*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by PRAYER and supplication with THANKSGIVING let your requests be made know unto God.*

*Philippians 4:6*

## MASTER OF MINISTRIES MODULE COURSE

### CHURCH HISTORY

WITH DR. BOB DALTON

Course Description: A comprehensive survey of the history of Christianity in general, with emphasis given to both Baptist church history and the development of American church communities.

Are you a preacher busy in the ministry, but cannot leave your present ministry for an extended period of time? Do you want to learn from men experienced in ministry rather than career academicians? Do you want to advance your practical ministry training? Are you looking for a fervent spiritual atmosphere, coupled with high academics?

Have you considered the Master of Ministries program at Ambassador Baptist College?

This program offers a graduate degree to those who are already serving the Lord in full-time ministry. It consists of seven week-long courses, offered over three and one-half years. 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/doctrinal statement.

If you would like more information about the M.Min. program, please email [info@ambassadors.edu](mailto:info@ambassadors.edu). For specific questions about enrollment, please contact our Academic Dean, Dr. Charles Surret, at [csurret@ambassadors.edu](mailto:csurret@ambassadors.edu).

*January 5-9, 2009*

Cost: \$900

Limited housing is available

MEMORIAL  
• G • I • F • T • S •

Mrs. June McFalls in memory of  
**Mrs. Bertha Shuff**

Mrs. June McFalls in memory of  
**David Britton**



# THE DEDICATION OF GENE LASLEY HALL

**On Thursday, July 17, the ABC college family and many friends gathered for the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of Ambassador's newest men's dormitory, Gene Lasley Hall. This new dormitory can house thirty-two men and has a spacious guest room for campus visitors.**

The ribbon-cutting ceremony began with Dr. Don Scovill leading "How Firm a Foundation." After the song, Dr. Ron Comfort shared some brief thoughts, read a passage of Scripture, and introduced Pastor Gene Lasley. Brother Lasley reflected on his ministry and made it clear that God alone deserves praise. After the prayer of dedication and cutting of the ribbon, Dr. and Mrs. Comfort laid the last carpet tile to mark the completion of the dorm, and then invited the guests to tour the new facility.

This newest addition to the campus was named in honor of Gene Lasley, the pastor of Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church in Gray, TN. Brother Lasley was born on June 16, 1931, to Godly parents in Soddie, TN. Little did he know that his humble upbringing did much to prepare him for his future ministry. He was saved in an old fashioned revival meeting as a thirteen-year-old boy. While playing college football for Southern Mississippi, he could not escape the fact that God wanted him to preach. Thus, he left his football career to prepare for the ministry.

On June 10, 1963, Pastor and Mrs. Lasley began their ministry at Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist church in the state of Tennessee. Through the years, the Lord has used their ministry to bring many people to Christ. Pastor Lasley's burden for souls has been evidenced in the bus ministry, Sunday School campaigns, and solid Bible preaching. Under his leadership, the church's missions program now exceeds \$350,000 a year. May God raise up from the student body of Ambassador Baptist College many more men like Pastor Gene Lasley.

Ambassador Baptist College would like to extend a special "thank you" to the many friends and churches who contributed toward the building of Lasley Hall. Thanks to the generosity of God's people, young men preparing for the ministry now have a more comfortable place to rest and study for the Lord's work.



THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE



# TAC 2008

TEENS IN ACTION FOR CHRIST

## RACE TO THE FINISH NOVEMBER 8, 2008

**\$15** PER PERSON

\$5 OFF EACH PERSON IF  
POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2008

9:00-9:25

9:30-9:55

10:00-11:00

11:10-11:55

12:00-12:50

1:00-1:45

1:50-2:20

2:25-3:10

3:15-3:45

3:50-4:50

REGISTRATION

ORIENTATION ON PIT ROAD

PREACHING SESSION 1 (PELLETIER)

ACTIVITY #1

LUNCH (INCLUDED IN COST)

WORKSHOP SESSION (TEENS)

WORKSHOP SESSION (YOUTH SPONSORS)

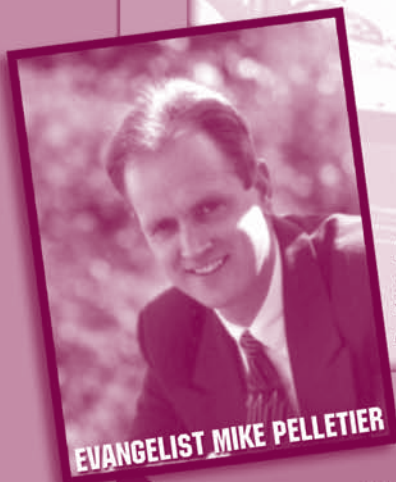
SKIT TIME

ACTIVITY #2

CONCESSION TIME (SPENDING MONEY NEEDED)

PREACHING SESSION 2 (PELLETIER)

Limited overnight accommodations are available for groups traveling long distances. A nursery will be provided for the children of sponsors. Sponsors with small children are asked to give advance notice to the TAC coordinator. To make arrangements for overnight housing or nursery, please contact TAC coordinator Jacob Hughes at 704-473-1922 or [jhughes@ambassadors.edu](mailto:jhughes@ambassadors.edu).



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**AMBASSADOR BAPTIST COLLEGE**



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of Lattimore called asking me to urge Alton Beal to run for mayor of the town. His involvement in community affairs and his service and leadership in the town had already endeared the townspeople to him. He is presently serving his second term as mayor of the township.

There are those who would say that Mr. Beal has not had practical ministry experience because he has been at the college for many years. However, though he has resided in Lattimore, he has been active in evangelism. We have endeavored to coordinate our meetings so that one of us is always on campus. Thus, he has been preaching twenty or more evangelistic meetings a year and with the very obvious blessing of God on his ministry. For the past ten years, his evangelistic ministry has been structured basically the same as mine in balancing evangelistic meetings with campus responsibilities. He is well known across the country, not only because of his personal meetings, but also because he has preached for summer teams for many years.

Three years ago when I realized that he would become one of the key people in leadership in the college in the future, I asked him to become my Administrative Assistant. For these succeeding years, he has shadowed me to learn and observe my philosophy. I have not one shred of apprehension about his changing the foundation stones of the college. As Jesus told his disciples, "Greater works than these shall ye do..." It is my prayer and firm belief that the

greatest days of Ambassador Baptist College are yet ahead of it.

I have repeatedly been asked what my role in the college in the future will be following the 2009 Commencement when Alton Beal is handed the mantle of leadership. At the annual Board of Directors Meeting in March, 2009,

Alton will be placed as president of the college, and I will become the chancellor, effective on Graduation Day. I will be available to the new president to serve in whatever capacity he deems beneficial to the college. My duties will include some preaching in chapel, an occasional classroom assignment, as well as preaching some of the revival services and for Bible Conference.

In addition to these opportunities, I will remain as Chairman of the Board of Directors for a time to assist in the transition of leadership. I will be representing the college and promoting its ministry as I preach at least two revival meetings each month, as well as preaching weekends in the churches of many of our graduates. I feel a tremendous responsibility to those who have been trained at Ambassador to be an encouragement and help to them. My wife and I want to be available to our graduates. Another of my personal goals will be to revise and reprint some of the books that I have published in the past. Several topics have been burning within me for some time, and by God's grace, I will put these burdens on paper to help the next generation. The test of my life is what I leave to the next generation. It is my desire to occupy and be busy until Jesus comes.

## what Next?

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT BY DR. RON COMFORT

*continued from page 1...*

**M** **HANDEL'S** **MESSIAH**  
*THE AMBASSADOR BAPTIST COLLEGE 100 VOICE CHORALE*

**NOV. 28TH & 29TH AT 7PM**  
R.A. TORREY AUDITORIUM  
101 STOCKTON STREET | LATTIMORE, NC 28089

**THANKSGIVING CONCERT**  
AN ASSORTMENT OF SACRED SOLOS AND GOSPEL SONGS  
NOV. 27TH AT 7PM

**FREE ADMISSION**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: 704-434-0303

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE

# RON COMFORT EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2008

## SEPTEMBER

7-10	Pastor Norris Belcher	Church of the Open Door	Westminster, MD	410-876-3838
14-17	Pastor Paul Kingsbury	North Love Baptist Church	Rockford, IL	815-877-6021
19-21	Pastor James Dennis	Newark Baptist Temple	Heath, OH	740-522-3600
28-Oct. 3	Pastor Mike Allison	Madison Baptist Church	Madison, AL	256-830-6224

## OCTOBER

5-10	Pastor Mark Poorman	Woodcrest Baptist Church	Fridley, MN	763-571-6409
15-18	Pastor Randall Bray	Temple Baptist Church	Asheville, NC	828-254-5158
19-24	Pastor Gene Lasley	Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church	Gray, TN	423-239-6611
26	Pastor Brooks Grimes	Northview Baptist Church	Fayetteville, NC	910-488-9788

## NOVEMBER

2-7	Pastor Doug Jackson	Community Baptist Church	Saginaw, MI	989-781-2340
16-19	Pastor Garvin Walls	Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church	Oliver Springs, TN	865-435-7782
23-25	Pastor David Thomasson	Eastside Baptist Church	Greenwood, SC	864-229-1414
30-Dec. 5	Pastor Jim Neighbors	Bluelick Bible Church	Lima, OH	419-225-8822

## DECEMBER

14	Pastor Johnny Taylor	Gethsemane Baptist Church	Elm City, NC	252-291-6503
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AMBASSADOR  
BAPTIST COLLEGE

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LATTIMORE, NC 28089

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