Some Thoughts on the Power of God
A Word from the President, by Evangelist Alton Beal

Several months ago, a pastor friend of mine gave me a book that was published in 1873 on the life of Baptist Evangelist Jabez Swan. Brother Swan spent the vast majority of his ministry in the state of Connecticut as a pastor and an evangelist. One particular chapter was filled with a number of instances where wives were saved and their husbands became so mad that they threatened to kill their wives and the preacher himself. In story after story, God melted the heart of the husband, and he joined his wife to become a part of the family of God. After reading several chapters, the Lord impressed upon me the importance of the power of God. Without it, we will miss the full blessings of God.

Psalm 63:1 is often quoted to show the psalmist’s thirst and desire to seek God. The verse says, “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.” In the following verse, he mentions the purpose for this search: “To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.” Do we have a thirst and hunger for the power of God?

In our day and time, we have cleverly learned how to substitute things for the power of God. To cover our powerlessness, we have learned how to make excuses and resort to other things to fill this void in our lives.

Gifts and talents are not substitutes for the power of God. Through the years, I have seen some very talented individuals come through the doors of Ambassador Baptist College. It is sad to say that some of our greatest heartbreaks have come from those who were the most talented and gifted. They decided to rely on their ability to sing or preach more than they relied on God. In the end, their effectiveness was hindered, and some are no longer serving the Lord. On the other hand, we have seen students who had a little ability and talent leave the college to flourish in a particular ministry. How does this happen? Psalm 25:14 states it perfectly: “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him.” My friend, are you relying on the power of God, or on the gifts that He has given you?

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A Word From the President

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If we are going to see a mighty working of God in the next generation, we must conclude that education is not a replacement for the power of God. In a recent devotional time with our dormitory students, I mentioned to them that it is important for them to learn the facts and lessons of the classroom. However, if they leave with a 4.0 Grade Point Average and do not have a fervent relationship with the Lord, what have they really gained? At Ambassador, we want to produce students who have the light of the Scriptures and the heat of the Holy Spirit. Education alone cannot change the world.

At this point, you might be asking, “How can I have the power of God on my life?” God’s power is revealed throughout the Bible. Look at these things and see if God’s power is working through you.

It is impossible to have the power of God on your life without the Bible. In Jeremiah 23:29, it is likened to a hammer “that breaketh the rock in pieces.” In Hebrews 4:12, it is called

In the 1700’s, George Whitefield traveled from Charleston, SC, to New York on horseback to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every year, Ambassador Baptist College sends out evangelistic teams to more than 170 churches across the country to preach the same gospel. While Whitefield used horses, our traveling groups depend on two twelve-passenger Ford vans. Did you know that vans are a lot like horses? They rack up a lot of mileage and become less dependable, too!

ABC is in need of two twelve-passenger vans to replace our aging fleet. We are praying that God will provide $40,000 for two vans and a luggage trailer. Because our budget is tight, we are unable to make these purchases from our general fund. We need the help of churches and friends like you. It is very important to us that our groups have dependable transportation to travel to these churches. Would you please pray and consider giving a tax-deductible gift toward this special end-of-the-year project? If the Lord would lay it on your heart to give toward this project, please visit www.ambassadors.edu/donate or call our college finance office at 704-434-0303 ext. 304. Your gift will help to continue the preaching of the Gospel throughout the United States.
“powerful” and compared to a two-edged sword. If we are to have power in our personal lives, we must read the Bible on a regular basis and let it be the joy and rejoicing of our hearts (Jeremiah 15:16). If we are to have power in our pulpits, we must shun the modern-day trend to entertain and to tickle ears and instead preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 4:2).

Often, the power of God has been manifested in the practice of prayer. Without prayer, Abraham’s servant would have never found a wife for his master’s son. Elijah would have never defeated the prophets of Baal. Hannah would have never had a baby boy named Samuel, who would later be a mighty prophet. Time would fail me to mention the prayers of David, Daniel, and many others. We live in a day of powerlessness because we are in a day of prayerlessness.

When meditating on the power of God, it is impossible to exclude the filling of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:8, power from the Holy Spirit is promised for evangelism. In Acts 2, power from the Holy Spirit is displayed in Peter’s preaching. In John 16:8, Jesus Himself said that the Holy Spirit would “reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.” If we want the power of God, we must be yielded to the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

The discovery of electricity has revolutionized our world. Many jobs that took days or even months to complete can now be done in seconds, minutes, or hours. I believe the rediscovery of the power of God will change our lives and our churches. Please pray that Ambassador Baptist College will produce servants with the power of God on their lives like Evangelist Jabez Swan of old.

Early Payment Discount

In an effort to help where we can with the existing economic situation, Ambassador Baptist College will again double the early payment discount for this coming semester.

The tuition for full time dorm students will be $2,964.00. The room and board for full time dorm students will be $2,300.00.

Full time dorm students will receive $100.00 discount on the above tuition, plus $100.00 on room and board, for a total discount of $200.00. This discount does not apply to fees. Commuting students will receive $100.00 discount on their tuition.

To receive the discount, tuition must be paid in full for the complete semester and must be received in the business office no later than the end of the business day Tuesday, December 15th.

In everything by prayer and supplication

Two vans for college traveling groups
God’s provision for our students
Souls to be saved at the Thanksgiving and Messiah concerts
Spring semester enrollment
A staff member undergoing cancer treatments

A great start to the semester and a wonderful spirit among our student body
Powerful Opening Revival services
Souls saved through the various ministries of our students
Lives surrendered and hearts stirred during Missions Conference

Spring Semester Opening Revival

You are invited to join us for our Spring Semester Opening Revival, January 11 - 15, 2010. Evangelist Ron Comfort and Evangelist Alton Beal will be preaching the morning and evening services.
Ron Comfort Evangelistic Ministry
November 2009 - January 2010

November
15-20 Boones Creek Bible Church Pastor Dale Cunningham Johnson City, TN 423-477-3011
22-24 Lakeside Baptist Church Pastor Tad Marshall Clearwater, SC 803-593-9246

December
13 Twin City Baptist Church Pastor Scott Bandy Nitro, WV 304-722-4677
20 Calhoun Baptist Church Pastor Max Kaster St. Matthews, SC 803-874-2303

January
3 Trinity Baptist Church Pastor Brian Fuller Concord, NH 603-225-3999
10 Gospel Light Baptist Church Pastor Bobby Roberson Walkertown, NC 336-722-9700
11-15 Ambassador Baptist College Mr. Alton Beal Lattimore, NC 704-434-0303
17-22 Memorial Baptist Church Pastor Michael West Ocala, FL 352-245-8326

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

Alton Beal Evangelistic Ministry
November 2009 - January 2010

November
15-20 Boone's Creek Bible Church Pastor Dale Cunningham Johnson City, TN 423-477-3011
22-23 Southside Baptist Church Pastor Ken Walters Rock Hill, SC 803-324-0627

December
6 Temple Baptist Church Pastor Paul Johnson Jacksonville, NC 910-347-1989
13 (am) Beth Haven Baptist Church Pastor David Mims Denver, NC 704-483-2635
13 (pm) Tri-City Baptist Church Pastor David Cummins Forest City, NC 828-245-9706

January
11-15 Ambassador Baptist College Lattimore, NC 704-434-0303
17-22 Memorial Baptist Church Pastor Michael West Ocala, FL 352-245-8326
24 (am) Central Baptist Church Pastor Todd Abbey Greenville, TN 423-639-3191

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

Praise Chapel
Wednesday, November 25, 9:00 AM
Thanksgiving Concert
Thursday, November 26, 7:00 PM
Messiah Concert
Friday, November 27, 7:00 PM
Saturday November 28, 7:00 PM
Final Exams
Monday through Friday,
December 14 - 18
Christmas Break
December 19, 2009 -
January 8, 2010
Opening Revival:
Alton Beal, Ron Comfort
Monday through Friday,
January 11 - 15, 2010
Bible Conference
March 22 - 26, 2010