

WATCH EGYPT

An Islamist party owes its thanks to democracy.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO
THE CHURCHES OF GOD**

U.S. MANUFACTURING: R.I.P.

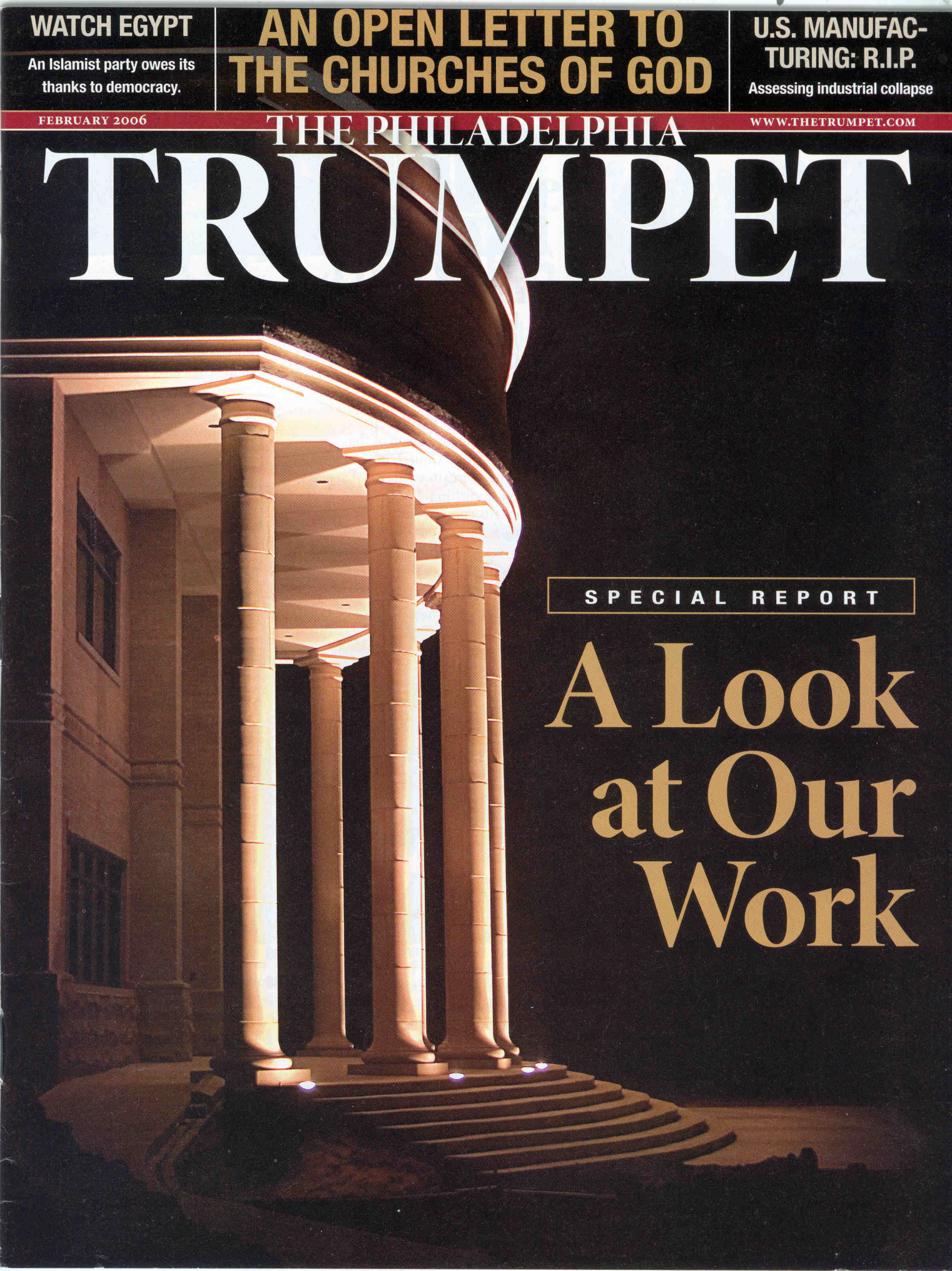
Assessing industrial collapse

FEBRUARY 2006

THE PHILADELPHIA

WWW.THETRUMPET.COM

TRUMPET

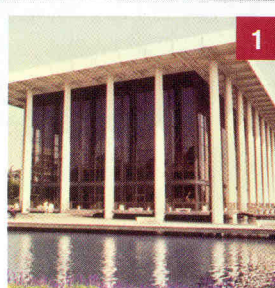


SPECIAL REPORT

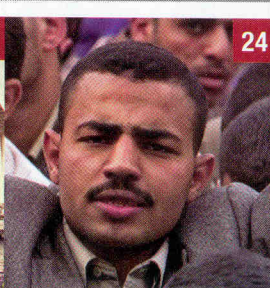
A Look at Our Work



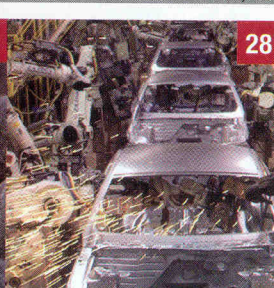
10



1



24



28

RELIGION

1 From the Editor: An Open Letter to the Churches of God

BOOK EXCERPT

4 Absolute Power

The transformation of the Worldwide Church of God into a mainstream evangelical group is astonishing. But the version of events coming out of that organization is riddled with error.

18 Religion—and the True Faith

Religion is headline news—but it is as confused as ever in answering the basic questions of life.

35 Commentary: What Is News?

Why our definition is clearer than any other news source.

24 Why You Should Watch Egypt

Egypt's largest and most influential opposition party is a dangerous terrorist group.

26 United Against Israel

Iran wants to make the Palestinians' plight a pan-Islamic cause.

27 Pushy, Pushy

Iran gets under Germany's skin.

ECONOMY

28 The Death of American Manufacturing

30 Extent of Problem Is Hidden

SOCIETY

32 SOCIETYWATCH

RELIGION Ruling on Homosexual Priests ■ HOMOSEXUALITY Nations Increase Same-Sex Couples' Rights ■ VIDEO GAMES The Next Level

DEPARTMENTS

34 Letters

36 Key of David Television Log

38 Advertisement: Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course

COVER

BEHIND THE WORK

8 Raising the Ruins

A new office building—a budding college—a multiplying media effort—the Philadelphia Church of God, which produces this news-magazine, is successfully rebuilding a vital work that had been stopped and dismantled.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG COLLEGE

12 A Vision of Tomorrow

We couldn't raise up the ruins without it.

WORLD

20 WORLDWATCH

CHINA The New Technology Leader ■ EUROPE EU Exerts Power Over American Industry ■ Blair Betrays Britons to Please EU ■ Cyprus Joins Defense Alliance ■ MIDDLE EAST Palestinian Authority Puts Terrorists on Payroll ■ AFRICA South Africa, Zimbabwe Unify ■ AUSTRALIA Race Riots Shatter Reputation

For a free subscription in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

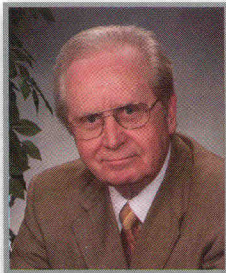
COVER The Philadelphia Church of God's new Hall of Administration, illuminated at night. **Aubrey Mercado for the Trumpet**

STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry **Executive Editor** Stephen Flurry **News Editor** Ron Fraser **Senior Editor** Dennis Leap **Managing Editor** Joel Hilliker **Assistant Managing Editor** Ryan Malone **Contributing Editors** Mark Jenkins, Brad Macdonald **Contributors** Fred Dattolo, Andrew Hessong, Gary Rethford **Associate Editors** Donna Grieves, Philip Nice **Production Assistant** Michael Dattolo **Research Assistants** Lisa Godeaux, David Vejil **Photo Research** Aubrey Mercado **Prepress Production** Ryan Malone **Circulation** Mark Jenkins **International Editions Editor** Wik Heerma **French, Italian** Daniel Frendo **German** Hans Schmidl **Spanish Edition Editor** Carlos Heyer

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March-April and September-October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2006 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

CONTACT US Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. **Website** www.theTrumpet.com **E-mail** letters@theTrumpet.com; subscription or literature requests request@theTrumpet.com **Phone** U.S., Canada: 1-800-772-8577; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0; New Zealand: 0-800-500-512. Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: **United States** P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 **Canada** P.O. Box 315, Milton, ON L9T 4Y9 **Caribbean** P.O. Box 2237, Chaguuanas, Trinidad, W.I. **Britain, Europe, Middle East, India, Sri Lanka** P.O. Box 9000, Daventry, NN11 5TA, England **Africa** P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville, 7551, South Africa **Australia, Pacific Isles** P.O. Box 6626, Upper Mount Gravatt, QLD 4122, Australia **New Zealand** P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland, 1730 **Philippines** P.O. Box 1372, C.C. Central Post Office, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1100 **Latin America** Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.

Gerald Flury



An Open Letter to the Churches of God

If you have ever been associated with the Worldwide Church of God or one of its offshoots, I ask you to prayerfully read this letter.

ANYONE WHO WAS EVER A MEMBER OF THE WORLDWIDE Church of God when it was led by Herbert W. Armstrong was part of something great. That Church was a work of miracles.

Do you remember that glorious history? Too many of God's people don't. God challenges us to always keep the big picture.

Over Mr. Armstrong's 55 years in Jesus Christ's ministry, the work blossomed. It started as nothing and grew into a huge, Spirit-led work that spread God's beautiful truth throughout the world.

Mr. Armstrong oversaw a work that was based on the principle of GIVE—which is what God's love is. By the end of his life, each month the Church was giving 8 million free monthly copies of the *Plain Truth* newsmagazine (which this magazine is patterned after). We gave 5 million copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, not to mention countless other magazines, newspapers, books, booklets, tracts and articles—all free. We made the *World Tomorrow* broadcast freely available on over 400 television stations.

Do you remember that history? God put our tithes and offerings to magnificent use, and we were happy to be a part of such a noble cause.

The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF), which Mr. Armstrong founded in 1975, freely sponsored humanitarian projects including archaeological digs, schools and anthropological excursions. Its activities stretched from Bombay to Brussels; the Philippines to the Netherlands; Tokyo to Cairo. We hosted projects in Jerusalem, Jordan, London, Nepal and Okinawa. Why? Because Mr. Armstrong wanted to preach the gospel "for a witness unto all nations" (Matthew 24:14).

Using the international contacts Mr. Armstrong established through the AICF, God opened doors for him to meet

high-ranking officials around the world. Mr. Armstrong was invited to speak publicly on many occasions, and he took those opportunities to preach the gospel—to tell people about God's master plan and about their incredible human potential. These events opened the way for personal appearance campaigns, where he spoke to hundreds of thousands of leading people in various countries.

Do you remember that history?

In the WCG's hometown of Pasadena, we hosted the concert series, staged in the Ambassador Auditorium, which attracted world-class performing artists and brought a standard of excellence to the community. Physically, it was the crowning achievement of a work that over decades had built great resources to draw on for the betterment of mankind.

Under Mr. Armstrong, the Church of God practiced the way of give—of godly character, generosity, cultural enrichment, true education—of beautifying the environment and caring for fellowman. Mr. Armstrong never devi-

ated from his God-given commission, and the work prospered! His work acknowledged God's desire to have all men saved and brought to the knowledge of His truth (1 Timothy 2:3-6). It was an inspiring display of God's love for all mankind.

When Mr. Armstrong died, he was highly praised by leaders and prominent individuals from around the world. Even unconverted people could clearly see what a towering legacy of love and generosity he left behind and were deeply impressed by it. Certainly we in the Church all recognized on a much deeper level what he had achieved.

Do you remember that glorious history?

Now, did Mr. Armstrong do all that? Certainly he worked hard to implement God's law and government and to walk by faith. But was the work so powerful and effective simply be-



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Where is the great Almighty God who did that powerful work? Can you God did not die with Herbert W. Armstrong! Yet none of the scattered the miracles and wonders that were almost routine when the work was

cause of Mr. Armstrong's intellect or advertising expertise? Did Mr. Armstrong swing open all those mighty doors?

No—THE GREAT GOD DID THAT!

It doesn't take great spiritual discernment to recognize that GOD was behind that work—GOD was blessing that work—GOD was empowering and multiplying that work—as Mr. Armstrong submitted to Him.

NO MAN COULD HAVE EVER BUILT SUCH A MARVELOUS AND WONDROUS WORK IN THIS SATANIC WORLD. IT WAS BUILT AND SUSTAINED BY THE MIRACLES OF THE LIVING GOD!

Family Education

What truly distinguished Mr. Armstrong's accomplishments was that they were all built upon the foundation of God's truth. God flooded Mr. Armstrong with biblical understanding, restoring *all foundational true doctrine* to His Church through that man. We learned and lived by the wonderful truths of God, and our lives were richer as a result.

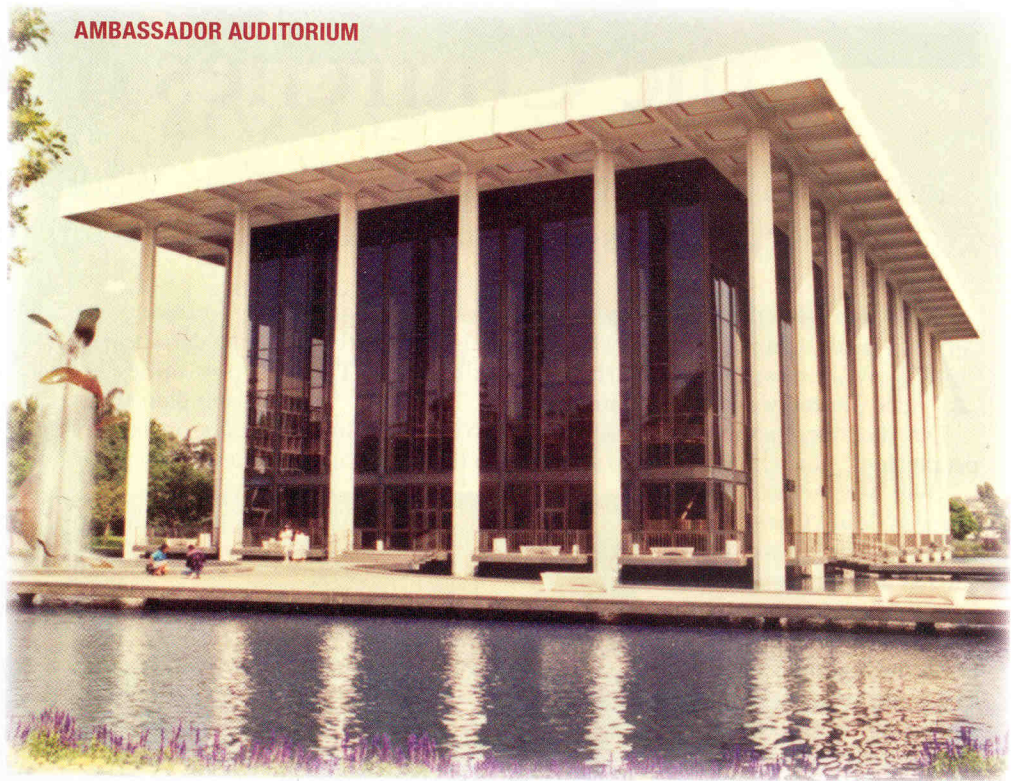
Right at the heart of Mr. Armstrong's teaching was his instruction about the God-plane institution of *family* (Malachi 4:5-6). He taught us how to build beautiful marriages and to rear happy children. We educated our children with Youth Educational Services lessons; we provided our teens rich experiences through the Youth Opportunities United program—with its sporting events, talent shows and summer camps.

Do you remember what life was like in the Church under Mr. Armstrong? If you were applying God's family education, then you have personally experienced the blessings that come as a result! Do you remember that?

Naturally, the Church wasn't perfect; there were problems. Some members and even ministers did not implement God's loving family government the right way. But the problem went beyond simple neglect. Revelation 3:9 tells us that "the synagogue of Satan" was actually at work *within* the Church of the Philadelphia era—under Mr. Armstrong!

The Bible is filled with prophecies that show how God knew this crisis would happen—and actually allowed it in order to test our loyalty to Him. The Bible also shows that He is going to bring *every abuse* to judgment. God will not be mocked! I strongly encourage you to request a free copy of my book *Malachi's Message* for a very thorough scriptural study of God's perspective on what happened to His Church.

AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM



Many of God's people have turned away from God altogether—because of the mistakes and sins of MEN. They are missing the big picture.

Do the sins of men change the truth of God?

Mr. Armstrong has been dead 20 years now. BUT DID THE ALMIGHTY GOD WHO EMPOWERED HIS WORK DIE?

IS GOD TOO WEAK TO DO THE SAME MARVELOUS WORK TODAY—simply because a *man* has passed from the scene?

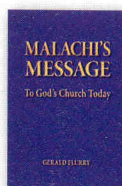
ABSOLUTELY NOT.

"My Father, My Father"

When the Prophet Elijah was carried away in a whirlwind, his student Elisha was moved with emotion. "And Elisha saw it, and he cried, *My father, my father*, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces" (2 Kings 2:12).

Elijah was not Elisha's physical father. But he was his *spiritual* father. That is because Elisha and the sons of the prophets came to God *through* Elijah. In that sense they were all his sons.

Some people didn't see Elijah's office as one of importance, but Elisha saw that IT WAS THE ONLY OFFICE THAT COULD LEAD AND CARRY ISRAEL FORWARD! It was Israel's only hope—then and now! He saw that, ultimately, all Israel would be governed by the teachings of Elijah. His statement, "My father, my father," revealed a deep understanding and a beautiful attitude.



FREE UPON
REQUEST

answer that question? Far too many of God's people aren't even asking it! churches of God have that kind of power. They are frankly devoid of led by Mr. Armstrong. We must find and remain with the God of Elijah.

God liked it so much that He used Elisha to succeed Elijah. God loved his attitude.

Some people today scoff at such an attitude, but it is very biblical. The Apostle Paul told the Church members in Corinth, "I write not these things to shame you, but *as my beloved sons I warn you*" (1 Corinthians 4:14). Paul considered his followers to be his spiritual sons. Why? "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus *I have begotten you through the gospel*" (verse 15). Paul was their spiritual father because they came to God through him. He called himself their spiritual father.

Mr. Armstrong said the same to all of those who came to God, either directly or indirectly, through him.

The original Elijah and the end-time Elijah held extremely important "father" offices for God. The Philadelphia Church of God, like Elisha, recognizes that fact. This is the foundational issue that sets the PCG apart from any other Church of God group. If you follow the Elisha example in this respect, God will make you a king with a headquarters position forever. Why? Because this foundational truth points us to God the Father.

Do you view Mr. Armstrong the way God does?

The God of Elijah

After Elijah was gone, Elisha learned an important lesson. "He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, *Where is the Lord God of Elijah?* and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over" (2 Kings 2:13-14).

If you study this account in the original Hebrew language, you will see that the first time Elisha came up to the Jordan, he smote the water but didn't speak—and nothing happened. Then he asked the important question, "*Where is the Lord God of Elijah?*" and smote the water, and the river opened up and he walked across!

Do you want to know how to do the work of God today? How to have doors open for you—even rivers, if necessary? Here is the formula. Elisha knew where the God of Elijah was, and he was following his spiritual father. So God opened up the river for him, just as He did for Elijah.

WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH TODAY? WHERE IS THE GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD WHO DID THAT POWERFUL WORK?

Can you answer that question? Far too many of God's people aren't even *asking it!*

God did not die with Mr. Armstrong! Yet none of the scattered churches of God have that kind of power. They don't receive and proclaim God's revelation. They don't have the right government. And their works are frankly devoid of the kind of miracles and wonders that were almost *routine* when the work was led by Mr. Armstrong.

We must find and remain with the God of Elijah!

All baptized members of the Church of God during the Philadelphia era will be held accountable for the fact that

they were with that God for so long. The tragic fact is this: Not only have most of God's people left Him—most of them are not even *interested* in WHERE HE IS! If they wanted to know, they would submit to God's government and end up in God's true Church.

The Work of the Philadelphia Church of God

The Philadelphia Church of God, which prints the *Philadelphia Trumpet* newsmagazine, has far fewer people than the WCG had in its heyday. But I challenge you to examine the miraculous work God is doing with this few!

In 2004, the *Key of David* television program received 146 percent of the response *The World Tomorrow* did in 1980—while it was on ONE THIRD THE NUMBER OF STATIONS. And in 2005, we had a 79 percent increase in the response that we had in 2004! Currently *The Key of David* ranks as the THIRD-HIGHEST RATED RELIGION PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES. (However, our television program is really a news program with a religious base; we have to teach about world news and then show how it is fulfilling Bible prophecy.) This ranking doesn't even include our worldwide television broadcast.

We are seeing similarly exciting growth in literature requests, website traffic, telephone calls, visit requests, and other areas of the work. We processed more than twice as much mail in 2005 as in 2004, which itself was our strongest year to date. We shipped close to 100,000 lessons of our new correspondence course in its first year.

Our college, Herbert W. Armstrong College, will be producing its first four-year graduates this spring, some of whom will be hired full-time in the work. Our building program has just reached an important milestone—the completion of our 22,825-square-foot administration building—which has enabled us to consolidate all our headquarters activities onto the 170-acre college campus for the first time.

And—most importantly—God has continued to bless us, as He did Mr. Armstrong, with new revelation. THE LIVING GOD DID NOT STOP SPEAKING TO HIS PEOPLE WHEN MR. ARMSTRONG DIED. He has continued to give us "present truth" (2 Peter 1:12) that builds upon the foundation of the truth He restored through Mr. Armstrong. The PCG produces over 60 books and booklets, the large majority of which contain new biblical understanding from the great God.

That is the single greatest proof that the God who inspired Mr. Armstrong is behind our work.

In this issue of the *Trumpet*, you will read about these and other of the many activities of the Philadelphia Church of God. We hope you can clearly identify the same miracles and blessings that built Mr. Armstrong's work. MOST OF ALL, WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT YOU CAN RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF THE GOD OF ELIJAH!

Our time in this age of man is fast running out. God is growing much more urgent in trying to reach His sons who have turned away from Him, because eternal life hangs in the balance. We urge you to respond to Him!

COVER STORY
BEHIND THE WORK

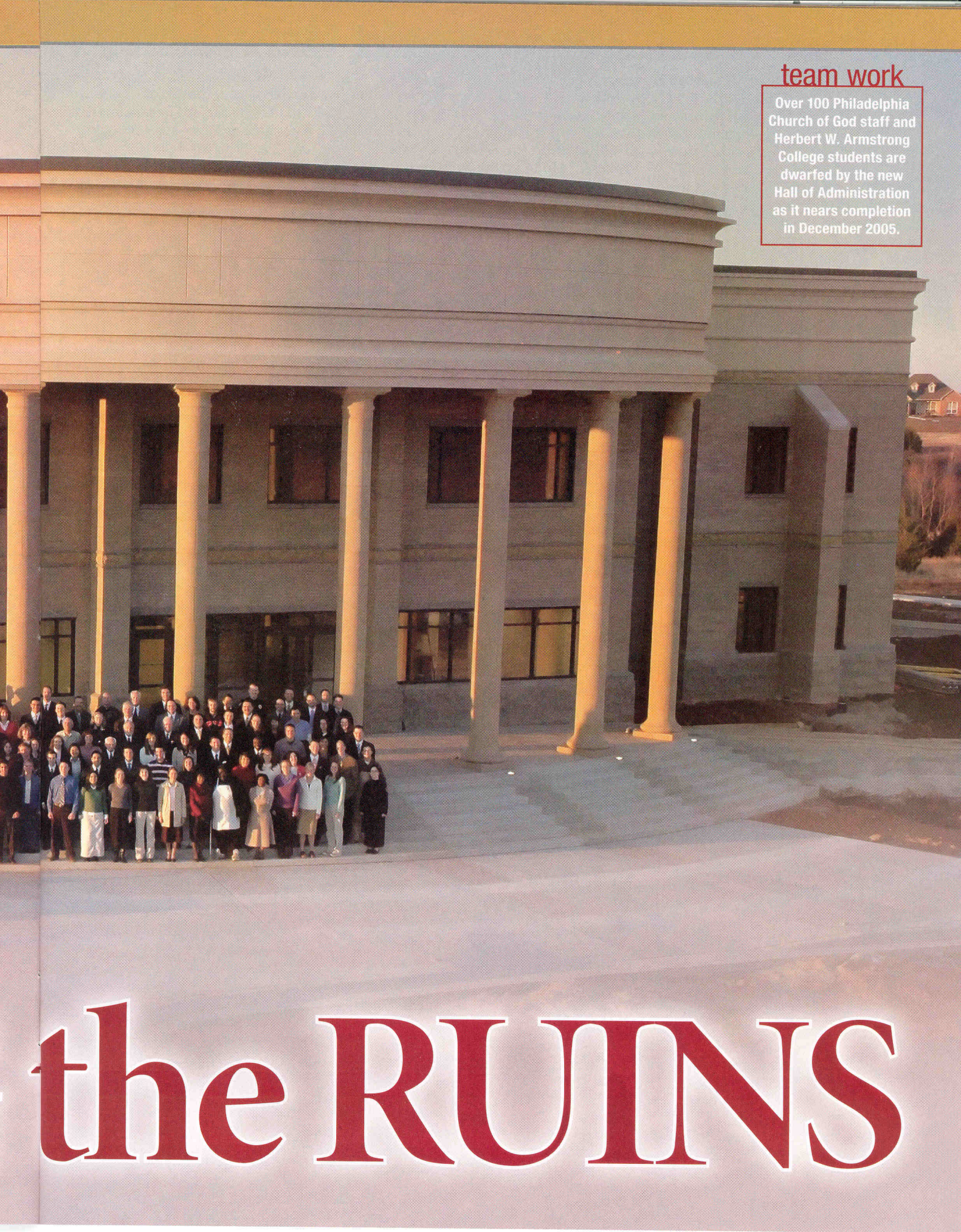


A new office building—a budding college—a multiplying media effort—the **PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD**, which produces this newsmagazine, is successfully rebuilding a vital work that had been stopped and dismantled.

RAISING

team work

Over 100 Philadelphia Church of God staff and Herbert W. Armstrong College students are dwarfed by the new Hall of Administration as it nears completion in December 2005.



the RUINS

sweet home

The *Trumpet* magazine's team of writers, editors, researchers and foreign-language staff moved into its new home in January.



THE TRUMPET STAFF IS THRILLED TO SHARE an exciting development with our readers. We have just moved into a stunning new office building, freshly completed in January.

To us, however, this Hall of Administration is more than a building. It contains vital prophetic significance. That's right.

Most of our readers know that this magazine views current events and social trends in the context of Bible prophecy.

We submit that an entire third of the Holy Bible is devoted to prophecy, and that about 90 percent of that prophecy is for our time today. That prophecy includes the frightful fate of the American and British peoples, the remarkable rise of the Islamic world, the reemergence of a European empire, and the increasing camaraderie among the nations of the Orient.

But Bible prophecy also includes dramatic details of those who, in this end time, are **DOING** GOD'S WORK. The God of all these astonishing forecasts is the same God who fore-

told the fate of the antediluvian world through Noah, the fate of Judah through Jeremiah, and the rise and fall of world-ruling empires—with specifically *named* kings—through the Prophet Daniel.

God always has a work. He always commissions a servant to deliver His message, as Amos 3:7 reveals.

We believe we are fulfilling a work God has commissioned for this end time—a work of warning (Ezekiel 33), a work of prophesying AGAIN (Revelation 10:11).

To speak only of prophecies related to world events would be ignoring certain, possibly more significant, prophecies about God's work.

This is where our new administration building comes in.

How We Got Here

To understand this building's significance requires a brief profile of the Church that supports this magazine.

The Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) broke away from the Worldwide Church of God in December 1989, almost four years after the founder of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), Herbert W. Armstrong, died.

Mr. Armstrong had performed a powerful work for God. He was a man of prophecy, a philanthropist, humanitarian and educator (he built three liberal arts college campuses called Ambassador College). The message he proclaimed was more than just the doctrinal tenets of some unique religion—it was a beautiful way of life and truth undiscovered by science, not taught by education and misunderstood by religion, and that *will one day cover the Earth*.

When he died, the church Mr. Armstrong founded wanted nothing to do with any of the legacies he left behind—religious or otherwise. The new administration stopped proclaiming almost all of the prophecy Mr. Armstrong taught.

The PCG was founded to continue the work the WCG had abandoned—work that had become even more urgent because of the shortness of time before Christ's Second Coming. This Church was so committed to this effort that we printed some of Mr. Armstrong's literature—publications the WCG had taken out of circulation. WCG officials took us to court for copyright infringement, saying it was their "Christian duty" to keep Herbert W. Armstrong's writings out of print. Then, miraculously, after a grueling six-year battle, they decided to *sell us* the copyrights to every work we were requesting.

This victory helped fulfill a prophecy in Amos 9:11 stating that "in that day"—referring to the end time—God would "raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen" and "raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." A tabernacle had certainly fallen, and here was God raising the ruins through a group of only several thousand people scattered around the world. That prophecy was partially fulfilled in our attainment of those copyrights from the WCG.

God wants our work to be a *replica* of the work He did through Herbert W. Armstrong—just with fewer people.

That is why, even while still embroiled in the legal fray, the PCG purchased 170 acres and raised up a small liberal arts college—under the charge of "raising the ruins"—patterning it after Ambassador College. That's why the PCG embarked on a building program reminiscent of Mr. Armstrong's.

Our college, founded in 2001, is appropriately named Herbert W. Armstrong College (see article, page 12). In 2004, it became the hub for all the PCG's mail operations when the Mail Processing Center opened. That structure also houses the television department and the studio for

A Building With a Message

The Hall of Administration is 22,825 square feet—doubling the PCG's executive space compared to the office suites where we used to work in downtown Edmond.

The 40-office building, with many open spaces for numerous cubicles, is a tremendous upgrade for our staff. The resources at our disposal will help us get God's message to this world much more powerfully.

But it's not just the work being done in that building that is helping God's message go out. The *building itself* is a message. This edifice is a testament to our RAISING THE RUINS.

What is interesting is that the same week we broke ground on the Hall of Administration in 2004, a story came out in the *Pasadena Star News* stating that the WCG would be moving its headquarters operations off the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena and into the "smaller, less expensive trappings of an industrial building" in Glendora, Calif. (Oct. 25, 2004). As that formerly great "tabernacle" continued to fall, God showed His mighty hand by raising the ruins in Edmond.

God is building our work so we can deliver His message to this dying world.



roundtable

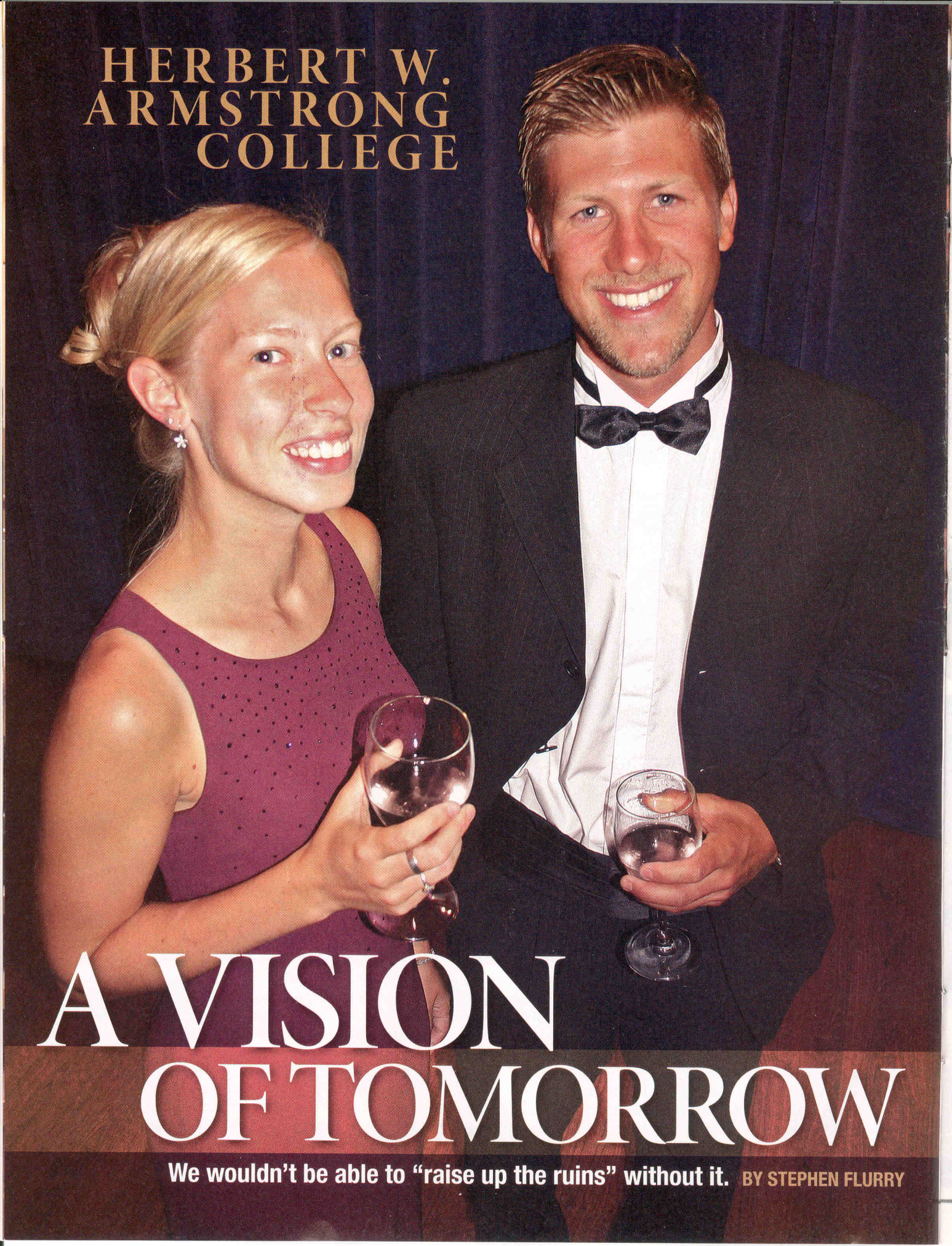
Editor in chief Gerald Flurry chairs a meeting of Trumpet writers to discuss world events in the new conference room.

the *Key of David* program, which now broadcasts weekly on over 200 stations worldwide.

In January of this year, the *entirety* of PCG operations moved to the property in north Edmond, Okla. The new 41-foot-tall administration building—towering prominently on countryside hosting small ranches and growing residential communities—is the *Trumpet's* new home.

And even the building itself is a prophecy—it's an incredible message! The book of Hebrews says about Noah's work that even just the ark was a message in it-

self to that evil world (see Hebrews 11:7). The structures we build send a message about what God is doing today, how He builds, and how He will soon rebuild this entire Earth! That is the greatest prophecy we could proclaim!

A photograph of a man and a woman in formal attire. The woman, on the left, has blonde hair tied back and is wearing a dark red, sleeveless dress with a subtle pattern. She is smiling and looking towards the camera, holding a glass of red wine. The man, on the right, has short blonde hair and a light beard, wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie. He is also smiling and looking at the camera, holding a glass of red wine. The background is a dark, textured curtain.

HERBERT W.
ARMSTRONG
COLLEGE

A VISION OF TOMORROW

We wouldn't be able to "raise up the ruins" without it. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

N EARLY SIX YEARS ago, after I picked up my wife and newborn daughter at the end of the workday, we drove about seven miles north in Edmond and pulled off the road onto an open field. The sun was setting—we have beautiful sunsets in Oklahoma—and it was in June, so it wasn't too hot yet. We got out of our car and started walking across the field. I was holding our new baby, and everything was calm and peaceful.

Not long after we arrived, a few other cars full of people pulled up and did the same thing—slowly driving through grass before parking and getting out. It reminded me of *Field of Dreams*—a movie about a farmer who built a beautiful baseball field and people from miles around showed up just to see it.

Well, we didn't have *that* many people show up—there were about 25 of us. And there was no baseball field either. In fact, there was NOTHING! I mean, there was a certain natural beauty to the place—especially because of a small lake that was clothed by clusters of trees—but most of it was just an open field with wild grass that had grown up about knee level.

There were no roads.

No real entrance onto the property.

No buildings.

Nothing.

And yet, there we were—25 of us—wandering around, sipping champagne. We were fellowshiping. We were laughing. We were *dreaming*.

Shortly after we visited that field, my father wrote this in the *Trumpet*: "I plan to start a small college in 2001, perhaps 2002. In June, the Philadelphia Church of God purchased 38 acres of land with a beautiful three-acre lake" (August 2000).

That was quite an announcement! In our Church newspaper, the *Philadelphia News*, it had been mentioned that this 38 acres might also be the site for a future television studio, an office building, an auditorium, and a youth camp. And—on top of that, according to what Mr. Flurry wrote in the *Trumpet*—a NEW COLLEGE! That's quite a lot to squeeze on 38 acres, especially when a small lake and shoreline cover seven or eight of those acres.

Mr. Flurry continued, "At our college, we will teach our young people to open

their minds to all truth and 'prove all things.' And I mean proof that anybody should be able to see. We will give them hope—based on proof. ...

"[O]ur aim will be to provide students with a well-rounded, liberal arts education. We plan to have strong classes in history, journalism, music, nutrition, computers, television production, speech and leadership." This is what he wrote just two weeks AFTER BUYING A FIELD.

He went on to say: "We will have a class on news analysis, where students will be taught the true meaning behind

true values

Students learn to enjoy fine culture as they soak in the atmosphere at one of Armstrong College's four annual formal events.

world news. They will see how world news is fulfilling Bible prophecy. Their Bibles will come alive as they never imagined!

"We also have the capacity to teach accounting, agriculture, English, Spanish and some other basic classes."

Wow! We hadn't broken ground on a single building. There were no administrators. There were no departments, no teachers and no students. Even more astounding was that just a few weeks after my father wrote that article, the Church purchased an additional 120 acres, on which there was nothing but more GRASS!

Without a doubt, our college and new headquarters facility had to begin first as a *vision*.

Raising the Ruins

Amos 9:11 says, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." Even in the early days of the PCG, my father showed us how this scripture was a prophecy that the work built by Herbert W. Armstrong would fall into ruin—something we had already seen fulfilled (see page 4)—and that we would RAISE IT BACK UP AGAIN. God wanted to replicate the way things were done "in the days of old."

If you know anything about Mr. Armstrong's early work, you can see how precisely that prophecy was coming to pass in those open Oklahoman fields.

When Herbert W. Armstrong first began building, the work was like a mustard seed. He wrote in his autobiography, "When the great God, Creator and Ruler of the vast universe, does something by Himself, He demonstrates His supreme power by doing it in a stupendous, awe-inspiring manner. But when it is actually

GOD who is doing something through humans, it must start the smallest. Like the grain of mustard seed, the smallest of herbs, which grows to become the largest, God's works through humans must start the smallest, but they grow, and grow, and grow, until they become the biggest!"

Though his work started from practically *nothing*, Mr. Armstrong walked by faith. He had no scholarly training, no corporate funding, and yet, thanks to the blessings of God, over a period of decades he raised up a highly successful, globe-encompassing work.

When God builds something through people He starts small, because He never wants us to forget that HE is the one providing the increase!

"Had Ambassador College started big," Mr. Armstrong continued, "with several hundred or a few thousand students, a great campus filled with large college buildings—an administration building, classroom buildings, laboratories, music conservatory, large ornate auditorium, gymnasium, a fine quarter-mile track and football field, a large library building with 500,000 volumes, dormitories, dining halls—everything complete, then I could certainly have no faith in accepting it as GOD's college." But, that wasn't how Ambassador College developed at all. It began just the opposite: as a modest institution, almost comically tiny.

A Man of Faith

In the spring of 1946, only 12 years after God's work in the Philadelphia era of His Church started, Mr. Armstrong saw that for the work to really grow into a WORLD-WIDE WORK, there needed to be a college. As he prayed about it and collected his thoughts, he began looking for a place to build around Pasadena, California.

On November 27 of that year, Mr. Armstrong located what seemed to be a suitable building, though it was somewhat run-down. He made a deal that appeared would enable him to take possession the following July.

Upon signing the dotted line on the place, Mr. Armstrong produced a special edition of the *Plain Truth* magazine, January-February 1947, announcing the exciting news: "This year, September 22, our own new school, AMBASSADOR COLLEGE, will swing open its doors to students."

Think about that! If something like this seemed unlikely in 2000 after we bought those 38 acres, how much more so in 1947, considering the limited help and experience Mr. Armstrong had at

his disposal? He wasn't raising ruins that had been built before—HE WAS STARTING FROM SCRATCH!

The *Plain Truth* continued, "Ambassador is to be a general liberal arts institution—not a Bible school, ministers' college, or theological seminary. It will fit students for all walks of life, offering a general and *practical* basic education, with unusual advantages for special technical courses, as well as a thorough, sound, complete Bible course

"There is no other college like Ambassador."

No other college like Ambassador? At the time Mr. Armstrong wrote that, the Church had just bought a run-down building in Pasadena. There was no Ambassador College—at least not visibly. Besides Mr. Armstrong, there was no faculty. No students had even applied.

But why was Mr. Armstrong so confident his vision of Ambassador College would turn into reality? Because he had faith in God!

Here is how Mr. Armstrong described this college which, as he wrote, DID NOT EXIST: "It is, in a sense, a revolutionary new-type college—*different* from those of today's world—a forward-looking, progressive institution built on soundest principles, having highest goals and objectives, yet employing the best of proved methods of administration, and maintaining highest academic standards" (ibid.).

Revolutionary? Forward-looking? Progressive? The highest academic standards? How CLEAR the concept was in Mr. Armstrong's mind.

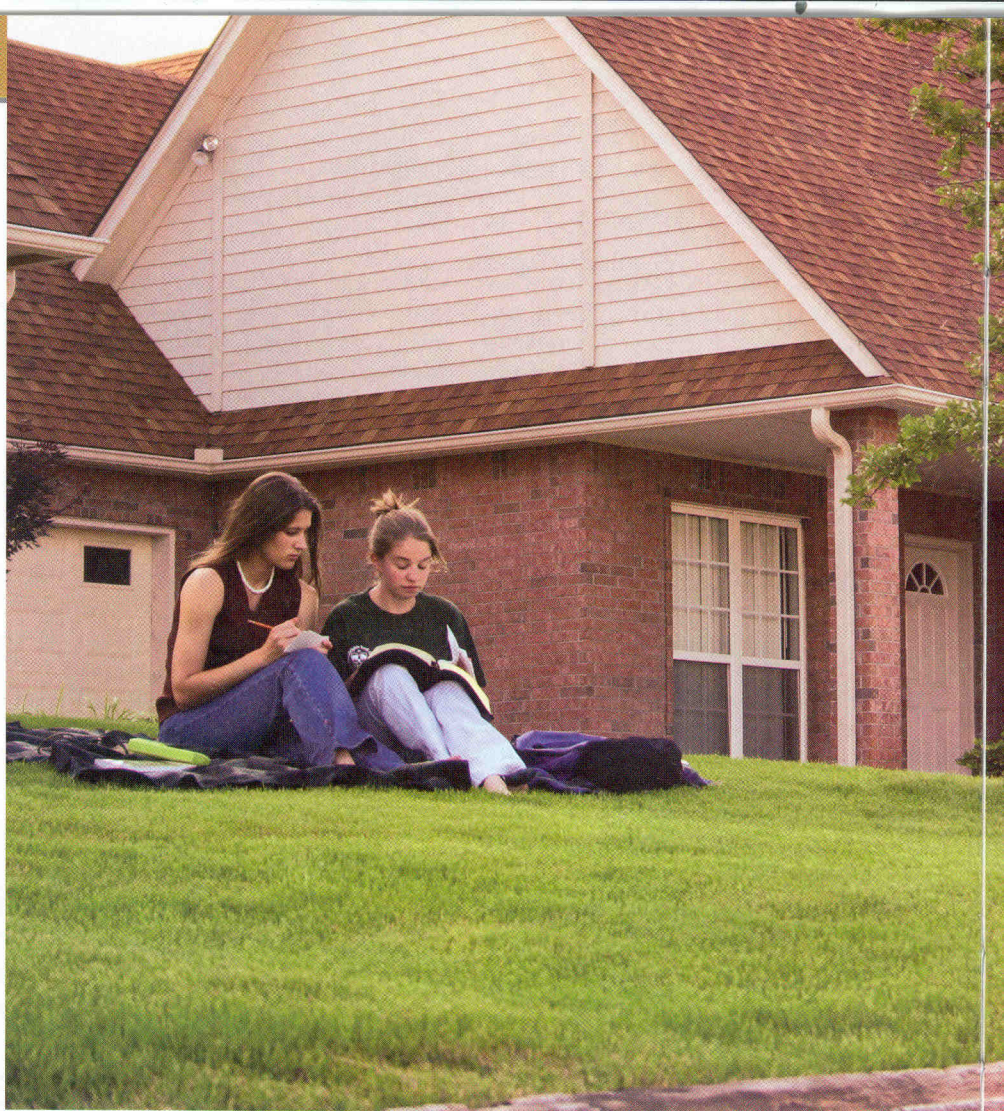
"The vision of this new and *different* college, and its imperative urgent need, came like a revelation straight from God last spring," he wrote. "At first the idea seemed impossible, for us—almost fantastic.

"But the Eternal our God is a miracle-working God who promises to supply every need. And literally, God has performed a miracle! When one knows the facts and circumstances, that cannot be doubted. Events have happened swiftly! Amazing developments occurred unexpectedly. The vision has become a definite reality. The opening of Ambassador College next September is assured."

What an example of faithful reliance on God—and of *vision*.

Salvation Is Education

Mr. Armstrong continued to write in the same *Plain Truth* about the difference

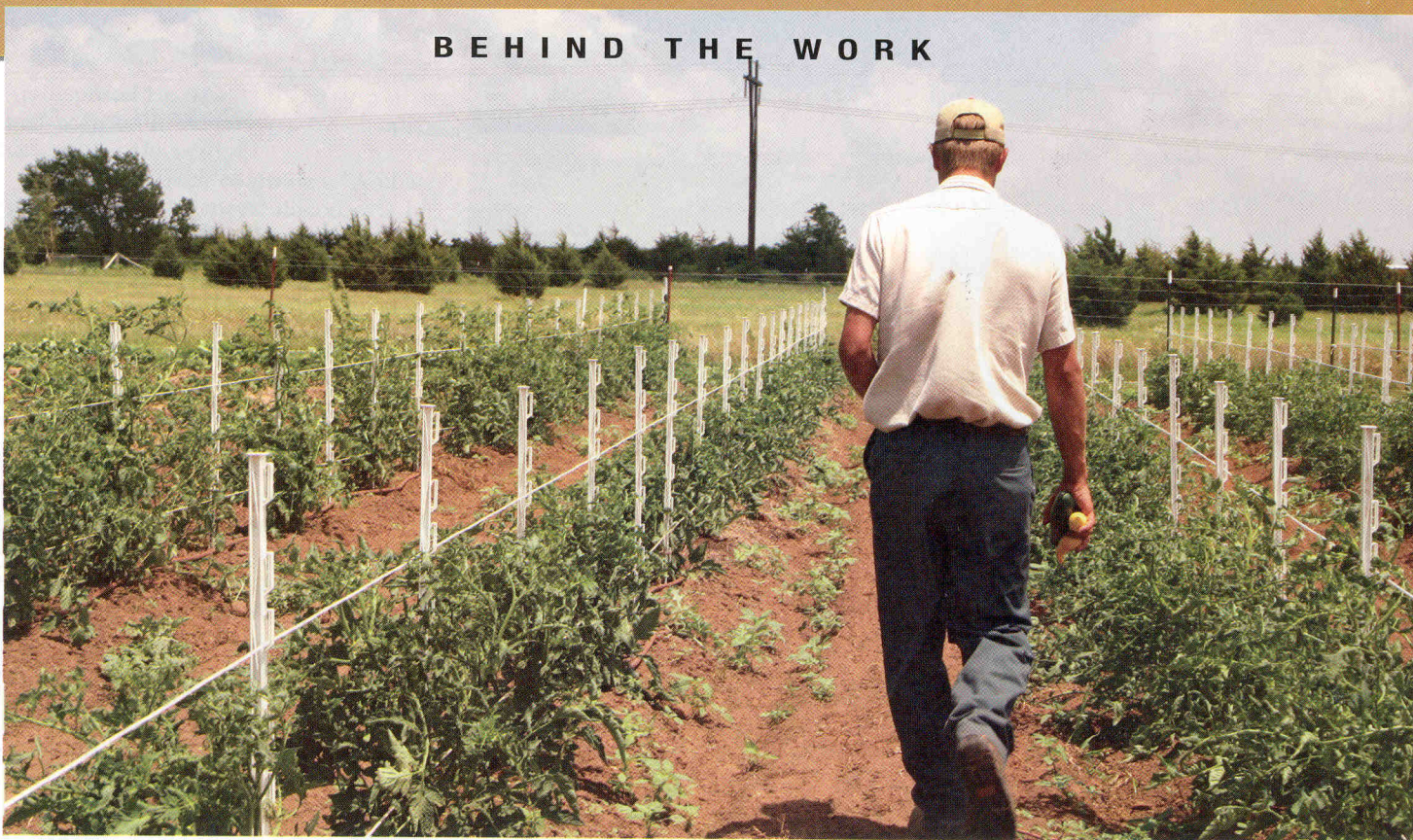




college of the future

Clockwise from top left: Students study for final exams outside one of the women's dorms. A student landscaping employee plants pansies outside the John Amos Field House. The Armstrong College Choral Union—with members of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and four professional soloists from around the country—perform G. F. Handel's *Messiah* in concert. Students relax amid lush landscaping near a small man-made pond complete with a waterfall and koi. The ball is inbound at an intramural women's basketball game at the field house. Games are played between student classes and faculty members about twice a week.





in education a student would receive at Ambassador versus any other college. The AC student, Mr. Armstrong said, would receive **TRUE EDUCATION**:

"In other words, though we perhaps never have thought of it in this light, real conversion is **EDUCATION!** Not the purely mental, materialistic, largely erroneous education of this world—no, not that kind at all!—but *real* **TRUE** education, which is the renewing and enlightening of the mind, the feeding of the soul, the development of self-discipline and **CHARACTER** in true spiritual values! *That* is true **EDUCATION!**

"*That* is the type of education to be taught at Ambassador College! Truly, it is something *different* in a materialistic world that has forgotten **GOD!**

"Man is the highest mortal being God has created on Earth. The **MIND** is the highest part of man—the faculty which, above all else, elevates man above dumb animals. Did not God intend our minds then, to be developed, trained, *used* to His honor and glory?

"Can't we see that none glorifies God by ignorance, by *neglecting* this most precious heritage God has entrusted to man—the **MIND**? To fulfill God's purpose in our existence, our minds need *enlightening* through the revelation of God's Word; they need to be trained, developed, cultivated, *used!*"

Mr. Armstrong went on to explain

what is wrong with **MODERN EDUCATION**. He wrote, "It wastes precious hours and years in the minute study of nonconsequential details and impractical and untrue theories, instead of teaching young men and women the **BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE**—what life is, why we are here, where we are going, and *how to live* successfully, usefully, happily, joyfully! Its proponents look wise and dignified, and speak learnedly of unimportant nothings. And they fill students' minds with much chaff, while their souls starve for the **TRUE** educational food!"

"Yes, something's **WRONG** with this world's education, as well as with its religions, its politics, its economics, and its society! And *wrong education* is a basic cause of **ALL** the world's wrongs today!"

Ambassador was to be the **SOLUTION** to the evils of **MODERN EDUCATION**. Its curriculum would be different from all other colleges as well.

Mr. Armstrong the Visionary

Mr. Armstrong wrote that Ambassador would offer a wide gamut of classes. He wanted classes in science and physical health, and classes on how to have a successful family life.

Mr. Armstrong even went so far as to describe the social life at this **YET-TO-BE-ESTABLISHED** college: "We believe in bringing out and developing all the **PERSONALITY** God has endowed one

with. Ambassador will seek to offer inducements excelling the recreational and social and athletic activities of large universities by a very special program of our own. We realize that life at Ambassador must be made *attractive to the student!* We shall strive to make it enjoyable, interesting, literally thrilling! The buildings and grounds offer the ideal set-up for this purpose. We shall devote considerable intelligent attention to the social life—directed not toward just 'fun' alone, or worldly pleasures, but toward personality and character-development, the acquisition of that portion of culture which includes the graces of politeness, courtesy, kindness, gentleness, self-restraint, selflessness. We shall avoid the *evils* of the ordinary life—such as snobishness and a feeling of class distinction" (ibid.).

This **GREAT VISIONARY** was in his 50s when he wrote this, and he had never been to college himself. But what is even more remarkable about this 1947 article is that you can read it *years later*, and it remains a **PERFECT DESCRIPTION** of **AM-BASSADOR COLLEGE** in the 1960s, or even the 1980s! The Ambassador College that existed at the time of Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986 truly was the product of a **VISION** that started in one man's mind.

What's more, on Feb. 14, 1947, Mr. Armstrong actually left for Europe to, of all things, pursue plans for a second cam-



education with vision



Clockwise from left: A student employee inspects the AC garden for weeds. The college's Young Ambassadors perform at their first live concert in December 2005. Campers line up for lunch at Philadelphia Youth Camp, held each summer. Students serve as workers and dorm counselors.

pus, in SWITZERLAND! And although the Switzerland campus did not work out, Mr. Armstrong did go on to build two other college campuses, one in England and one in Texas.

The college model Mr. Armstrong established was a true success for as long as people remained faithful to it. And today, we are diligently raising up its ruins. Formerly Imperial College, the institution we are building is now named after the man whose vision we are seeking to replicate, as we "build it as in the days of old."

Education With Vision

That plot of land we purchased in 2000 now supports a multipurpose building with a dining hall, gymnasium, exercise

room, classrooms, offices and a stage area. The 53 students who attend college here live in three on-campus dormitories, as well as homes for two married students and their families. Many of them work in our mail processing center, which houses our television studio and related offices, a call center, our mailing offices, and a warehouse storing over a million pieces of literature. The field we once stood in, smiling and sipping champagne, has been replaced by our beautiful new Hall of Administration, pictured on the front of this magazine. The vision we celebrated that peaceful June evening has become reality—and it continues to grow.

Notice what my father wrote in the August 2000 issue of the *Trumpet* about

Herbert W. Armstrong College—before it was anything but an open field with knee-level wild grass: "Physically, our small college will be a vision of hope. The Earth will still become a Garden of Eden. Our plot of land will help make that magnificent potential clear.

"And that's not all. One day, the whole universe will be made to look like the Garden of Eden.

"God is calling us to change the Earth and the universe. And it starts here and now!"

"What we are starting is not an easy undertaking. But oh, how rewarding it will be! Without vision, our 38 acres would be just another plot of land. With vision, it will help people see what God is about to do in this world. Our students will see God's master plan for the universe! What a mind-galvanizing vision! And it is no fantasy. There is a reason that universe is out there! We must expand our thinking beyond Earth. We were created to be in the God Family. You can't confine God to this Earth." ■