

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## BIG SANDY TO REMAIN TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

After much consideration, counsel, fact-viewing and prayer, God has revealed that the college at Big Sandy, Texas, must remain what He led us to reopen--a two-year junior college.

There are many reasons for this decision. I know well it will come as a disappointment to many, especially at Big Sandy. But it is the point of wisdom, and it is the living Christ's decision.

Consider WHY Christ led me to open Ambassador College in the first place. I was only Christ's instrument. He was preparing, through me, for the Kingdom of God--a new world--a new civilization. He did not need any more colleges or universities on this world's model. But we did need an educated ministry in a developing and growing church--beside other properly educated personnel in God's Work. This world's educational system could not supply this need. God's type of college was a necessity.

It started the smallest--four students and faculty of eight. But it grew. As it grew and expanded into England and Texas campuses, even our own graduate faculty members and administration people and ministers began to liberalize. After 1968 it was becoming over-large and over-liberal. God was not blessing it as He previously had. The Bricket Wood campus was closed and the property sold. Then the Texas campus was closed. The property was sold but the deal fell through. We still had the campus. It was costing about a million dollars a year just to maintain it and prevent deterioration and overgrowing with weeds.

Why did Christ lead me to open Big Sandy again as a two-year junior college? We had more than twice the number of qualified and acceptable student applications as we could accept at the Pasadena campus, now once again GOD'S college. Many were asking what other college or university we could recommend if there was no room for them at Pasadena. We simply could not recommend ANY. And these prospective students were from our member families.

If some of the Big Sandy two-year students appeared to be ministerial material, they could complete the last two years at Pasadena. In any event, after two years at Big Sandy they could become leaders back home in their local churches.

But now, in the middle of a very successful first year of the re-established college at Big Sandy, intensive consideration has been given to the question of establishing it as a full four-year college.

Some have felt the added expense would be limited to two additional faculty salaries during the 1982-83 year, and two more the fourth year. However, I know by experience that a larger four-year college would involve many additional programs and activities and great additional expenditures not foreseen by the present faculty.

Second, the need for additional ministers does not warrant it. We now have a considerable reservoir of Ambassador graduates, many local non-salaried elders--others who could be--all well qualified to become preaching elders to pastor local churches.

Third, although it appears God has held up the flow of world events toward the Great Tribulation and coming of Christ, we are most certainly ten years closer to it than we were ten years ago. And a new resurrected "Holy Roman Empire" is undoubtedly being secretly planned right now in European capitals and the Vatican. It could EXPLODE in the world news any day now. We simply do not have the time.

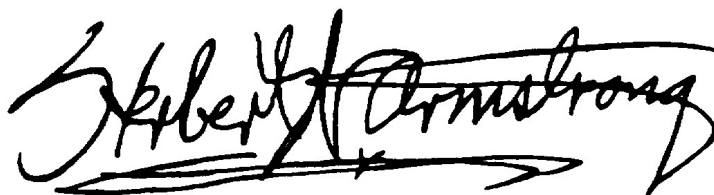
Fourth, I am now in my ninetieth year, and will reach my ninetieth birthday this summer.

I know that starting something that would escalate into a complex, many-faceted new wing of the Church at this stage IS NOT GOD'S WILL, AND JESUS CHRIST THE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH TELLS ME IT WOULD BE FOLLY, AND NOT THE POINT OF WISDOM.

I know some of us would like to see everything GROW and GROW--would like to have the sun, the moon, the earth, the stars and the universe. But wisdom comes with age and experience, and God emphatically leads me in this, HIS decision.

This Work is more nearly accomplished--completed--than we have realized!

The IMPORTANT thing now is that we be sure WE ARE READY for the Great Tribulation and Christ's coming!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert W. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line underneath.

#### NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

##### Mr. Armstrong Continues Church Visits

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong continued his church visits with a stop in the nation's capital on the Sabbath of January 9. About 3,000 members from three church areas met at Washington's famous Constitution Hall to hear Christ's message given through His Apostle. The service started late due to a 45-minute delay on the ground at New York's Teterboro Airport. (Mr. Armstrong had spent the previous two nights in New York City.) But the delay didn't dampen the reception of God's Apostle. Mr. LaRavia gave the sermonette on unity, comparing the disharmony of the 70's with the peace and cooperation now at Pasadena. Following special music, the Apostle