

CHAPTER 40

WHAT YOU SHOULD ACHIEVE AT AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Every traveler, when he plans a trip, first determines his destination — and decides how he will get there. He considers the routes he will take, the sites he may stop to see along the way, the time he figures it will take to reach his goals.

As Ambassador College students you have begun a four-year journey toward tremendous, awesome goals of spiritual and personal development. It's a journey filled with great excitement, accomplishment, and hope for the future.

You will be learning a quality way of life that in the years ahead you will be able to share with the whole world!

You will learn how to live 'God's way' — as opposed to the world's way. You will learn how to be truly SUCCESSFUL.

It is a literal trip through time, experience, and spiritual development. As such, it is important that you consider NOW what you want to obtain from an AC education — and 'map out' your personal 'journey' to the goals you seek.

AMBASSADOR EDUCATION IS UNIQUE

Probably no one can state the purpose behind the 'Ambassador Experience' better than Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder and Chancellor of Ambassador College:

'At Ambassador College students acquire a foundation for the art of living happily, usefully, successfully...

'This basic knowledge involves the meaning and purpose of life — life's true destiny and how to achieve it — to know what we are, and why we are. It involves the discernment of the true values from the false, and knowledge of the way to achieve them; in other words, to know the way to peace, happiness, prosperity, security, abundant well-being.....

'The emphasis upon character building and spiritual development is aptly stated in the Ambassador motto: 'Recapture True Values.'"

GRADUATION GOALS

The following ten aspects of character are a profile of what an Ambassador College graduate should have attained.

They should serve as 'road-marks' to help you stay on course as you journey through your college career. Every one is within your grasp to achieve — all you have to do is put forth the effort.

These ten points will act as goals and 'motivators' to help you measure the progress you're making. They are literally phases of success that you should achieve as you grow toward graduation.

A PROFILE OF THE IDEAL AMBASSADOR COLLEGE GRADUATE

He/she should have:

1. Become deeply converted and established a strong, personal relationship with God.
2. Become thoroughly grounded in the Bible and basic doctrines of the Church.
3. Developed godly character and a pleasing personality.
4. Attained a well-rounded, liberal arts education.
5. Achieved emotional maturity and self-discipline.
6. Become a poised, confident and cultured individual.
7. Acquired an overall grasp of the true values of life.
8. Become well-rounded and balanced.
9. Learned how to successfully interface with people.
10. Built a good name and reputation.

PRACTICAL METHODS OF ACHIEVING THESE GOALS

1. **Make walking with God your highest ambition and supreme desire.**
 - a. Put Him at the center.
 - b. Keep Him in all your thoughts, plans and efforts.
 - c. Realize that Christ will bring every work into judgment and will determine your ultimate future.
 - d. Keep your eye on the Day of Judgment.
 - e. Prioritize your life — seek spiritual things first, then the physical.
2. **Start experiencing the Word of God and making it a part of your daily life.**
 - a. Make it a quick and ready guide — an instant reference in making decisions and solving life's problems.
 - b. Meditate on every word and amplify its meaning.
 - c. Be creative — think of all the ways in real life situations that you can apply it.
3. **Don't get caught up in fun and frolic and forget your primary purpose in coming to AC.**
 - a. With so many exciting things to do, it's easy to get carried away.
 - b. Settle down quickly and firm up your goals — fix your mind on the things that are important.
 - c. Your social life — parties, dances, trips and dates — is a significant part of your development. But so are your studies and your job.
 - d. Strike a balance — stay on track.
 - e. Don't waste two or three years of valuable training before you wake up and realize it's too late.
4. **Take control of your life — don't be ruled by circumstances.**
 - a. You're the captain of your ship — the one who's responsible for your success or failure.
 - b. Only you can determine the eventual outcome — the course your life will take.
 - c. Don't let trivia, carelessness, apathy, negative people, etc, interfere with your goals and purpose.
 - d. Discipline your time — rule your 'kingdom' well.
 - e. Try to be flexible, but stay on track. Follow a schedule.
5. **Try to extract meaningful lessons and values from daily experiences.**
 - a. Learn from your mistakes, and the mistakes of others.
 - b. Take time to think and evaluate how you would do things differently.
 - c. Apply the principles of cause and effect.
 - d. Also take the positive view. Inquire, probe, analyze why others are successful and blessed.
6. **Look for opportunities to apply the knowledge you are learning.**
 - a. Opportunities for growth and development abound in everyday life.
 - b. Sharpen your powers of observation and look around you.
 - c. Each human encounter presents a new challenge for trying out knowledge and developing new skills.
 - d. Practice being a 'true' Christian.
7. **Start keeping a personal notebook of ideas.**
 - a. This will prove to be an invaluable aid to you later.
 - 1) For sermonettes, sermons, Spokesman Club, Women's Club, child rearing, counseling, etc.
 - 2) For personal growth and mind expansion.
 - b. Be alert for any ideas, quotes, quips you may hear throughout the week.
 - 1) In class lectures, newspapers, magazines, etc.
 - 2) Forums and assemblies.
 - 3) Bible study, Sabbath services, etc.

NOTE: *Although his sermons are very basic, Mr. Armstrong always gives something new and enlightening which you may never hear again and might forget if you don't jot them down at that moment.*

 - c. By keeping alert for ideas, you will not only amass a wealth of knowledge, but you will also develop the ability to listen, analyze and discriminate.
8. **Don't waste time and energy on pursuits outside your realm or on goals you'll never use.**
 - a. Having broad and general experiences and expanding your life is an important part of your education. But know your limitations.
 - b. Don't waste precious time in pursuing activities that are counter-productive and foolish, or that have no lasting values.

c. For example:

- 1) Spending hours working out in the weight room and allowing your grades to slip.
 - 2) Taking up a hobby that absorbs your interest.
 - 3) Becoming an expert on Bible contradictions or Greek words.
 - 4) Endeavoring to become a speaker on the *World Tomorrow* program when you have neither the voice nor the talents for this calling.
- d. It's good to reach higher and stretch your abilities to the full — but don't get carried away with unrealistic ambitions.

9. Learn to take useable notes and review them frequently.

- a. Listen for key thoughts and summarize material as it is given.
- b. Don't get lost in details.
- c. Generally the instructor will tell you what's important and what you should remember — listen for these clues.
- d. The best method in preparing for tests is to review your notes frequently — preferably every day.

10. When pressures mount and you start to panic, calm yourself down and think things through.

- a. School assignments start to pile up, term papers come due, semester exams are around the corner, and other mundane duties clamor for your time.
- b. When this happens, re-establish your priorities — put first things first.
- c. Create a new schedule and take matters in hand.
- d. Dig yourself out one step at a time by putting things in order.

11. Don't compare yourself to, or compete with others — go at your own pace.

- a. Some people have gifted minds, exceptional memories, and can make top grades with minimum effort.
- b. Don't let this discourage you, and don't try to keep up.
- c. Give your best effort — but travel at your own speed. Compete with yourself.
- d. Remember that you have strengths and abilities that others desire. Develop your own unique individuality.

12. Strive for excellence — don't settle for mediocrity.

- a. Try to improve over yesterday's performance.
- b. Demand a little more of yourself each day.
- c. Ask yourself: 'Would Jesus Christ be pleased with this performance? What kind of grade would He give?'
- d. Put quality into everything you do — but don't try to become perfect overnight.

13. Follow through and finish what you start.

- a. One of the most damaging habits you can fall prey to is to undertake projects and leave them half done.
- b. You deal a serious blow to your confidence and self-respect.
- c. By contrast, success and happiness come from seeing a project through to its completion.
- d. Don't be a quitter — hold out to the end.

14. Learn the importance of respecting your job and building good work habits.

- a. Put your heart into your job while going through college.
- b. Prove yourself to be a productive and invaluable employee.
- c. This is important not only in terms of building a good work record, but also in terms of learning the art and skill of producing.
- d. Value your job, for it's a vital tool in helping you to prepare for a life's career.

15. Study the lives of the leaders in God's Work.

- a. Observe their behavior and analyze what makes them successful.
- b. Study their habits, attitudes and their general approach to life.
- c. Determine why God is using them and the reasons why they have been chosen as leaders.

16. Start practicing true leadership.

- a. The place to begin is with your example.
 - 1) 1 Tim. 4:12 — 'Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believer, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.'
- b. You cannot qualify as a leader until you first surrender your life to God and allow Him to rule you.

- c. If your life is not a testimony of what you say, you will not have the respect, trust or confidence of others.
- d. True leadership is not an office bestowed on you; you ARE a leader if Christ is dynamically living His life in you.
- e. The essence of leadership is summed up in the word itself — a leader leads.
 - 1) He does not crack the whip over others or dominate their lives.
 - 2) He leads by the force, power and influence of his own sterling example.
 - 3) A true leader is motivated by a deep and abiding love for fellowman.
 - 4) He does not seek applause or accolades from others. Instead, he is concerned for their happiness, well-being and success.
 - 5) If you are setting a God-fearing example, the fruits of the Holy Spirit will flow from you and inspire others to follow.
- f. All the other true qualities of leadership will emerge as you walk close to God and drink in deeply of His Word and Spirit.
- g. In short, true leadership is an expression of God's character in all its forms, radiating from you and inspiring others to follow.

17. Set aside time for personal leisure or to unwind.

- a. You'll burn yourself out if you keep up a hard-driving pace.
- b. Take out time to do the things you, yourself, personally enjoy — reading a book, taking in an occasional movie, going for a long walk, soaking up a long, hot bath.
- c. This is to recharge your batteries and to clear the fog from your mind.
- d. An occasional break in routine is imperative if you are to bring your life together.

18. Spend some time each day in the realm of the beautiful and the wonders of creation.

- a. Observing:
 - 1) A beautiful sunset.
 - 2) Floating clouds overhead.
 - 3) Roses and flowers, humming birds and bees.
 - 4) The passing of squawking geese in the sky.
- b. Take time to see God's handiwork and glorify Him. Slow down and LIVE.

19. Experience every grand and rare opportunity afforded you.

- a. These events don't happen too frequently.
- b. Take advantage of them, for they may never come your way again.
- c. Examples:
 - 1) A helicopter ride, a flight on the G-II.
 - 2) Sailboating at sea, a trip to Europe during the summer, etc.

20. Don't neglect your health.

- a. What is life without a sound mind, strong body, and healthy emotions? Nothing is really worthwhile if you don't have the stamina and vigor to enjoy life.
- b. Watch your diet and get sufficient sleep and exercise.
- c. Remember that your body is the temple of God's Holy Spirit; therefore, guard your health.

HOW AND WHERE DO I START?

1. Begin a crash program of overcoming and self-mastery.

- a. Scrape off the veneer and really get to know yourself.
 - 1) Jot down all undesirable habits and rough edges that come to light.
 - 2) Pray for God to reveal to you the 'real inner self' — the way He sees you.
 - (a) *You've got to really mean this in order for God to hear.*
 - (b) *Insincere prayer is an abomination.*
 - 3) Ask your closest friends to give you a 'guts out' evaluation.
 - (a) *Make sure you understand the points they're making.*
 - (b) *Add these weaknesses to your list.*
- b. Attack your most serious and urgent problems first.
 - 1) Re-examine your list to determine which hangups are causing the most trouble.

- 2) Concentrate on these one at a time.
 - (a) *You won't make appreciable growth if you scatter your efforts over a wide area.*
 - (b) *This separates your problems into easy-to-handle bite-sized pieces.*
- 3) Devote full strength to overcoming — reinforce your purpose several times a day.
- 4) Use props, helps, aids, reminders — anything within reason — to attain your goal.
- 5) Set a deadline.
 - (a) *This is your motivation.*
 - (b) *It gives you a tangible goal to shoot for.*
- 6) Once you start, don't quit or compromise.
 - (a) *To succumb at this point means having to start all over again. You have also damaged your character.*
 - (b) *Stick to it with bulldog tenacity until mastery is achieved.*
- 7) Visualize success. (Not bootstrap psycho cybernetics.)
 - (a) *Picture in your mind the benefits and rewards that will come from holding out to the end.*
 - (b) *The scars and bruises of battle will be well worth the fight when you finally attain the victory.*

2. Learn to recognize pride and vanity.

- a. Realize that unless you've been conquered by God and led by His Spirit, vanity (self-love, self-worship, self-importance) is probably your strongest motivating force.
- b. It is a remnant of the old carnal man that should have been crucified at baptism.
 - 1) It is the opposite of true love and humility that flows out from God's Spirit.
 - 2) In all creation, the animal that best describes raw vanity is the pig — self — self — self.
- c. Vanity is ever present and expresses itself in a variety of ways.
 - 1) In speeches — bragging, boasting, calling attention to self — the big 'I.'
 - 2) In putting the best foot forward when trying to impress others.
 - 3) In sports — cocky and arrogant attitudes.
 - 4) In facial expression — sneers, smirks, raised eyebrows, etc.
 - 5) In cynicism, condemnation of others, raucous laughter at others' misfortunes.
 - 6) In personal disposition such as moods, feelings of self-pity, selfishness, dominance over others.
 - 7) Dress and general appearance — gaudy, sensual, subtle.
- d. Guard against intellectual vanity.
 - 1) Acquiring a great deal of Bible and academic knowledge doesn't qualify a student to be an expert in every walk of life.
 - 2) He still lacks the experience, maturity and overall balance of the older generation.
 - 3) The tendency of some who graduate from Ambassador College is to 'show off' their Bible knowledge and look down on the members as being biblically illiterate or incompetent.
 - 4) The brethren find it difficult to respect such young people until they humble themselves and repent of this attitude.
- e. Ask God to spotlight the vanity in your life. Then take immediate action to root it out.

3. Start producing.

- a. Don't wait for the big opportunities to come — start now in everyday small things.
 - 1) Clean up after yourself.
 - (a) Wash out the lavatory when finished.
 - (b) Neatly hang up the towel and bath mat.
 - (c) Take the wrinkles out of the bedspread when making the bed.
 - (d) Develop a conscience for keeping your surroundings neat, clean and orderly.
 - (1) *Don't leave dirty clothes lying around.*
 - (2) *Organize your desk, bookshelf & closet.*
 - (3) *'A place for everything and everything in its place' — Benjamin Franklin.*
 - 2) Become aware of the people around you and conscious of ways to serve them and make them happy.
 - (a) Force yourself to become a friendlier person.
 - (b) Learn how to listen and take an interest in what others have to say.

- (c) Look for ways to be helpful.
 - (1) Ask roommate if you can pick up anything for him/her while downtown.
 - (2) Help them out if caught in a bind, such as polishing shoes or pressing a dress late Friday afternoon.
 - (d) Inculcate an attitude of service.
 - 3) Discipline your impulses and be hard on yourself.
 - (a) Overcome an evil impulse with a corresponding good action (Romans 12:21).
 - (b) '**DO IT NOW**' — drill this motto into your mind and your production will soar.
 - 4) Start making use of the little wasted moments.
 - (a) Keep track of time and you'll be surprised at how much of this precious commodity you waste.
 - (b) Use this redeemed time for self-improvement.
 - (1) Vocabulary cards.
 - (2) Scripture cards.
 - (3) Reviewing class notes.
 - (4) Reading for general knowledge.
 - (5) Self-examination.
 - (c) Remember to keep balanced and don't allow this effort to impair your social life.
 - 5) Once you have inculcated the habit of serving and producing in everyday small things, the pattern will carry over into the major areas of life.
- 4. Start responding to correction and making wholesale changes in your life.**
- a. If you want to insure a successful career in God's Work this is one way to do it.
 - b. The sin that you tolerate will block your spiritual development and ultimate potential.
 - c. Be it ever so painful, act quickly to change — don't rationalize, justify, or make excuses.
 - d. You must first remove sin before God can truly use you.
 - e. The sooner you bear down on yourself and make genuine changes, the quicker you will grow and be recognized as a leader.
- 5. If you want to be used in God's Work, start preparing now.**
- a. Evaluate your skills, abilities and talents.
 - b. Begin by asking what you do best — what interests you, where do your strengths lie?
 - c. Decide on a field you'd like to enter and begin to qualify.
 - d. Make this your underlying ambition — devote more time to its fulfillment than to lesser interests.
 - e. Motivate and drive yourself. Even if your hopes don't materialize immediately, you will be well on the road to success when you graduate.

— END —