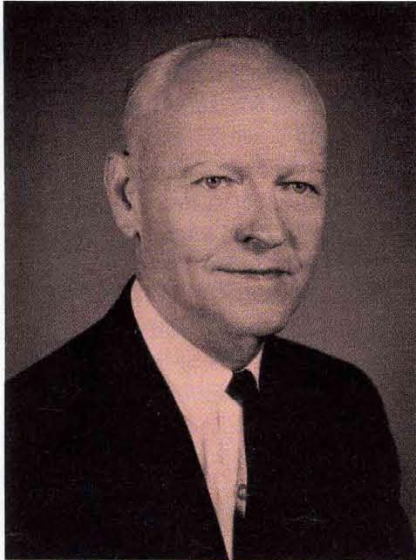




# Ambassador College

## CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

### Begins Twentieth Year



**DR. C. PAUL MEREDITH (1902-1968)** A burning desire to learn about the Bible and to serve God and his fellowman led Dr. Meredith to Ambassador College, where he was later appointed Director of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. Over 600,000 students have enrolled in this unique course since its inception in 1954.

by Richard H. Sedliacik

**F**OR years Herbert W. Armstrong, Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God and Chancellor of the Ambassador Colleges, had dreamed of starting a regular, monthly Bible correspondence course for interested listeners of *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and readers of *The Plain Truth* magazine. But he wanted this course to be different. It would not teach the ideas and opinions of men *about* the Bible, but rather be an in-depth study of the Bible itself. The Bible would be the *only* textbook.

Time, however, was a critical factor. Mr. Armstrong's increasingly busy schedule simply did not allow him to begin such an ambitious and time-consuming undertaking.

#### Dr. Meredith Arrives

Finally, in 1949, a student who was to become the key figure in helping to make Mr. Armstrong's dream come true enrolled in Ambassador College. Dr. C. Paul Meredith began listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast in 1942. During the succeeding years he became a devoted student of the Bible, taking voluminous notes on hundreds of Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts.

Having first proved this to be the very Work of God and Mr. Armstrong to be God's true minister, Dr. Meredith then decided to give up his successful veterinary practice and growing business in Missouri in order to enroll in Ambassador College. Dr. Meredith had a burning desire to learn more about the Bible and to serve in whatever capacity God would choose. He applied himself diligently in Bible and theology courses and obtained a master's de-

gree from Ambassador — already possessing a doctor's degree from Iowa State University, having attended *six* colleges before Ambassador.

Mr. Armstrong began to see that Dr. Meredith — with his scholarship, thoroughness and dedication to the Work of God — was just the man to direct the writing of this course. And so in 1954 Mr. Armstrong formally instituted the Correspondence Course by appointing Dr. Meredith as its director.

Thus, Dr. Meredith found himself in an outstanding special ministry within God's Work — the unique field of directing and writing a fascinating, yet comprehensive and thorough, Bible Correspondence Course which has helped change lives and has brought increased happiness and understanding to multiple thousands of enthusiastic students in nearly every country on earth.

Working with Mr. Armstrong and others, Dr. Meredith began outlining, planning and finally writing and producing the Ambassador College Correspondence Course.

The copious notes he had taken for years during Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts, sermons and lectures provided a broad basis to help him produce the early lessons of the course. (Besides editing lessons Dr. Meredith also wrote many of the earlier lessons himself. Then in the early sixties he began training a small staff to aid him in this vast undertaking, which continued that work after his death in 1968.)

#### The First Lesson

It was early in 1954 that Mr. Armstrong began informing our readership of the forthcoming Bible



Correspondence Course. At that time *The World Tomorrow* audience and *Plain Truth* readership was small, but growing.

Among our listeners and readers, 8,194 took the challenge to really study their Bibles and enrolled, receiving their first lesson in December 1954. Since then 604,576 new students in the United States alone have enrolled in the course.

And since that first lesson rolled off the press, a total of 11,500,000 individual lessons and 2,200,000 separate tests have been printed (not including lessons and tests printed abroad and other language editions) for a grand total of 13,700,000! (Earlier editions of the Correspondence Course included separate test pamphlets with test cards students had to return for grading, often resulting in long delays before further receipt of lessons. Today's lessons contain quizzes which enable students to conveniently test and evaluate their progress themselves immediately after completing each lesson. There is no longer anything they must return to us.)

As with *The Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines, certain changes have occurred in the structure and appearance of the course over the years. Originally, each

**TWENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS**  
*The Correspondence Course has gone through four major stages of improvement.*

*Good News Photo*

lesson consisted of eight-to-twelve pages of unillustrated copy. The conversion of the lessons to a full 16 pages, with the addition of photos, charts and maps, began in 1965.

#### A "New" Course Is Born

It was the summer of 1970 when the final upgrading of the course began. The decision was made to have what had become an overlong, unwieldy course *condensed* into a much shorter, hard-hitting, compact course which students could complete in much less time. The same basic format would remain and the same basic truths would be expounded, but more concisely and to the point. The lessons would also be supplemented (on request) from the large reservoir of already-existing literature (booklets and reprints).

Today the course comprises 12 lessons jam-packed with the essential truths of God and thoroughly acquainting our students with the major prophecies and basic doctrines of the Bible, including the purpose of life and the way to salvation.

A total of 56 different booklets and reprinted articles are offered in conjunction with the subject material of the lessons. Different pieces of this additional literature are made available by means of a tear-out card included with each lesson. The student checks the appropriate boxes for the "lit" he desires and then returns the card in an envelope.

Current worldwide enrollment

(including German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and Danish editions) is just over 200,000, with multiple thousands of new students enrolling every month.

Students of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course are constantly telling us how **REALLY DIFFERENT** and truly *unique* they have found the course to be. That is because the Correspondence Course was created to guide students through the study of their own Bibles — to show them in a step-by-step manner the real meaning behind today's world chaos, and of God's purpose for human life. The Correspondence Course has opened the Bible to the understanding of multiple thousands around the world. It shows, in detail, the Bible **KEYS** to prophecy — answering the really big questions of life — making the Bible *meaningful today*. The most vital, most important questions of life are thoroughly gone into; and our students are directed to the clear, plain, simple answers in their own Bibles.

Perhaps you have never seen a lesson of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. Or maybe you were enrolled in one of the earlier editions and would now like to enroll in the new 12-lesson course. We want you to feel free to do so — *today!*

Remember, there is absolutely no tuition cost whatsoever, or obligation on your part. Your tuition has already been paid by the tithes and offerings of others who have freely given to help pay for this course and the operation of this multifaceted Work of God.

If you are hesitant about enrolling to receive 12 consecutive monthly lessons, then you may ask to receive a *sample* copy of Lesson One — after which you can decide whether you'd like to enroll in the entire course. Just write to the Correspondence Course in care of the address of our office nearest you (see inside front cover for addresses) and ask to be enrolled, or request a sample lesson. □

