

Herbert W Armstrong Letter to Andrew Dugger 11 July 1928.

On page 478 of his *Autobiography*, Vol. 1, 1973 edition he wrote:

"I have just come across a carbon copy of a letter that I had written, dated July 11, 1928 — even before our first son was born — to Mr. A. N. Dugger, at that time principal leader of the Church of God, at Stanberry, Missouri. It shows that at that time a little more than a year after my conversion, I did apparently realize that God was calling me for some definite mission, for which I was being prepared. I did not know what it was to be. I realized I was not yet ready. And I supposed, at that time, that it would be in the field of writing, not speaking. I feel that many who are reading this life history may find a few excerpts from that letter interesting.

Elder Dugger had invited me to join their church. I have explained previously that I never did join it. Here are portions of that letter:

"I appreciate your kind invitation to affiliate actively with the Church of God organization. Elder Stith approached me on the subject, also. . .

"However, for the immediate present, until further developments, I do not feel led to join any organization, and feel that I should not take matters into my own hands, or rush, or hurry. I believe the Lord is dealing with me, preparing me for a very active and definite calling and mission, and that until matters have developed further I should do as Jesus commanded the Apostles — tarrying until I have received full preparation and power I feel it is absolutely necessary that we should permit ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, and not try to launch into something half prepared, by taking matters into our own hands before we are sure it is the will of the Lord. I do not know exactly, yet, what my mission or calling is to be, or what the method of carrying it out is to be. Unquestionably it will require organized effort, rather than attempting to carry out the mission alone and unaided."

"I can say this much — I feel that it is along the line of writing rather than oral speaking or preaching.

"I believe the Lord bestows gifts and callings upon men mightily according to their natural talents and experience, giving spiritual gifts along these same lines

"My whole business experience has been along the lines of investigating, analyzing, and gaining an understanding of business problems and rectifying the situations, and in writing. Whatever natural talent I have is along those lines. I know something about public speaking, for I have studied textbooks on it, had contacts with professors of public speaking at the Universities of Illinois and Michigan, who are authors of the texts used in most colleges, and coached a brother-in-law into winning a big oratorical contest But he had the voice, and other necessary personal attributes for public speaking.

"If I am being given any of the gifts, it is that of understanding of the truth of scripture But I am not fully prepared as yet." (pp. 478-79)