

# Born to Serve



Exciting growth and development are taking place at Ambassador College in England! Here is a report covering some of the outstanding achievements and opportunities of God's College at Bricket Wood, and HOW it is fulfilling its vital part in our Great Commission.

by Raymond F. McNair and Robin G. Jones

## Bricket Wood, England

**A**MBASSADOR College — just five miles north of Greater London — has recently completed ten very fruitful years. It was conceived in 1959 and born in the autumn of 1960 — *born to serve!*

Graduates from Bricket Wood are helping to man our offices, colleges, Imperial Schools and Churches of God worldwide. The sun never sets on those graduates. They are true emissaries — pacesetters of the Wonderful World Tomorrow!

Several Bricket Wood graduates are now in charge of overseas offices: New Zealand — Mr. Graemme Marshall; South Africa — Mr. Robert Fahey; The Philippines — Mr. Colin Adair; Jerusa-



*Ambassador College Photos*

Above: Spectacular floodlit Bricket Wood Gymnasium by night. Right: Emblems on the International Lounge wall represent the United Kingdom and Canada, Australia and India, Switzerland and The Philippines.



lem — Mr. Richard Frankel; and Geneva — Mr. Colin Wilkins.

Many others are also serving in responsible posts in our colleges and schools, and in the ministry in America, Canada, Europe, Britain and the far-flung corners of the Commonwealth. Still others are employed behind the scenes in many other vital areas of God's Work.

### A Second Ambassador College

As early as 1947, Mr. Herbert Armstrong had thought of establishing a European college — in Switzerland. But God had closed all doors to opening a college there.

Then in the summer of 1959, God gave Mr. Armstrong the vision to see that He wanted His second College established in Britain to train labourers for the ripening harvest of this earth. Mr. Armstrong informed me (I had been sent to England to be in charge of God's Work here in July, 1958) that he wanted Dr. Martin and me to begin looking immediately for a suitable location for a college in the Greater London area.

After much searching in and around London, God led us to purchase the present college grounds, located in the beautiful, forever-green Hertfordshire countryside — in the outskirts of a small, quiet English village called Bricket Wood.

### Ideally Located

But why did God choose *Bricket Wood*?

There are many reasons why this site is ideal for God's College. Our campus is only five miles from two main cities, St. Albans and Watford, which makes it very handy for shopping. Here in the country, we have an abundant supply of *fresh air* — no soot, smoke or smog problems. We also have broad, spacious beautiful grounds which would be impossible to duplicate in London itself.

Furthermore, the Bricket Wood campus is ideally located for ministers, students and college personnel who need to travel in Britain. At the very time we purchased the college grounds, Britain's first expressway or motorway (the M 1) was opened. Passing just a mile from the college, the motorway



**LOMA HALL** — Beautiful and modern, the main women's residence was completed in 1968.



**LONDON** — The Houses of Parliament are only 20 minutes away by rail.

Ambassador College Photos



**LOUNGE** — Elegant Loma Hall Lounge.



gave easy access to Britain's principal cities — Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool. This super highway network on our doorstep now extends through most of England.

London airport is only forty-five minutes by automobile from the college, and the large, jet-capacity airport at Luton is only twenty minutes away. This makes it very convenient for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Mr. Ted Armstrong or other visitors to land at Luton and be whisked to the campus. It also enables the college here to perform another service. From this base Mr. Armstrong can fulfill his many commitments in Europe and the Middle East. Brussels is just a few minutes by jet — Israel, a few hours!

### Pattern for Tomorrow's Education

Ambassador College in England is like an *oasis* in the desert of the British educational system. Long ago, most schools and colleges in England began teaching the abominable doctrine of *evolution* — of creation without a Creator. By turning their backs on God, they destroyed the only foundation that would have given them any basis for true education. The result? British education has become hopelessly bogged down in the quicksands of agnosticism, materialism, and rank atheism.

So widespread is this infectious doctrine of agnosticism and atheism, that hundreds of British churches have had to close their doors. Many have had to be sold because church attendance figures were so low. It is not at all uncommon in Britain for just a very few (often as not, just a couple of elderly women) to attend a church service.

But the timely arrival of Ambassador College on the scene in 1960 brought a breath of fresh air into British education. Britain has indeed been blessed by God to be chosen as a site for this different, progressive, yet soundly based institution of higher learning — the pattern for the educational system of the World Tomorrow!

### A Beacon on a Hill

Many times when driving out from London to the College on the A 5 high-

way, I have looked across to the west and have seen the bright lights of Ambassador College situated like a *beacon on a hill*, shining out to the surrounding countryside.

And this is the way the teachings of Ambassador College shine out to the peoples of Britain, like a beacon on a hill, showing Ephraim the true ways of God — showing the British people how to live healthy, prosperous, happy and successful lives.

Already, many visitors have come to the College — some of high rank, others of lower station. Whether royalty or just commoners, they are all impressed with the beauty, orderliness, peace and happiness of Ambassador College in England — where the faculty and students are genuinely happy because they possess the priceless knowledge of the real purpose for man's existence!

### Bright Islet

Perhaps you have noticed that our British address is: "Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts., England." What is the significance of the names *Bricket Wood* and *St. Albans*?

*Bricket* means "bright islet." Anciently, Bricket Wood used to be surrounded by waterways — a sort of island. The River *Ver* (which means "truth") flows along the southern boundary of the campus. It has been pointed out that in Roman times, Caesar's ships used to row up the Colne River — just a few yards south of the College.

During the last few years, archaeologists have excavated elaborate Roman villas within a stone's throw of the college grounds. The St. Albans area was the main center of Roman operations in Britain. The ruins of the old Roman city astride the River *Ver* (*Verulamium*, which means "city of truth") near St. Albans are known worldwide.

What many do *not* know is that, anciently, *Britain* was often called "Albion" ("white"), meaning white land, or white island. This name was due to the fact that people crossing the English Channel to England would often see first the white cliffs of Dover.

On a clear day, these white cliffs are visible from the French coast.

The name *St. Albans* ties in with the work which God is doing through His College in England. *Albans* means "white" or "bright" (as *albino*) and is related to such words as "Laban" or "Lebanon" which also mean white or bright in the Hebrew language. Mount Lebanon was called "white" because of the snow which covered it.

Isn't it significant that God chose *Bricket Wood* ("bright islet") on the river *Ver* ("truth") near *St. Albans* ("holy brightness") as the very location from which His *light*, His *truth* and His *brightness* would emanate today?

Isn't it significant that the College in England is now sending out the truth to five of the six continents — to well over one hundred nations around this earth?

### Physical Plant Improvements

There are a number of exciting changes taking place at this important nerve center of God's Work overseas. The College in England has now expanded to over *two hundred acres* of verdant Hertfordshire countryside, situated in the beautiful "green belt" which surrounds London's eight million inhabitants.

On these grounds are situated a large number of beautiful college buildings — including the present library and classroom center (called Memorial Hall, in memory of Richard David Armstrong who first pioneered the British Work in 1954), Lakeside (the men's dormitory), Loma Hall (the main girls' dormitory, named after Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong), the Administration Building, Dining Hall, Music Hall, Student Center, and the new ultra-modern Gymnasium and swimming pool complemented by the very fine Olympic-standard quarter mile track.

So outstanding is this Gymnasium complex that the British Olympics Committee chose it to represent the nation's sports facilities in a photographic display at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

Recently, the College has acquired two formerly privately owned residences which were located inside the College grounds. One of these homes is being remodeled and will soon be occupied by



the Dean of Students — providing him a home large enough to properly entertain students. The other newly-acquired building has now been converted into a wonderful, charming Student Center — a much appreciated and long-awaited addition.

Work has just begun on a badly-needed classroom complex which will become our main lecture building when it is finished this spring. In addition, a beautifully engineered perimeter road has been constructed to encircle the picturesque ornamental lakes.

The new Loma Gardens, gracing Loma Hall, Lakeside and the new classroom building, is a most unusual fruit tree arbor surrounded by immaculate lawns. A mirror pool and many dwarf evergreens colorfully offset by rugged grey Westmorland stone and purple heather complete the setting. Trees, shrubs and flowers of every sort create a year-round picture of perpetual beauty.

One reason our gardens are so beautiful and greenery so rich is the *English climate!* Although the subject of many jokes, it is truly a benefit. Extremes of heat or cold are seldom reached. Instead, an invigorating medley of spring and autumn showers, light winter snows, warm and sunny intervals, and fresh winds all combine to keep Ambassador gardens resplendent and lush.

### Unique Experience Opportunities

The students and faculty of all three Ambassador Colleges are afforded outstandingly unique, inspiring and rewarding opportunities. What are some of these opportunities and blessings at Bricket Wood?

Firstly, with a small enrollment of only 265, each student can really get to know every other student in the college. This makes for a real *family* atmosphere.

Secondly, Ambassador at Bricket Wood is perhaps the most *cosmopolitan* college on earth. Less than 25% of the enrollment is actually English! No less than 30 different countries have been represented (though students come primarily from Britain, the Commonwealth and the United States).

This multi-national student body



Above: Mr. John Portune operates the Science Department's Weather Satellite Station, providing valuable information to area meteorologists. Below: One of the photos of our Gymnasium featured at the Mexico City Olympic Games.

Ambassador College Photos





gives the college here a distinct *international* flavor and helps to broaden the outlook and horizons of the students. It is fascinating to learn the customs, ways, accents and backgrounds of students from the far-flung corners of the world.

Because of this cosmopolitan or international flavor, we named our large, beautifully decorated student lounge the "International Room." Emblazoned on one of the walls are the *seals* of twelve countries — which help to remind the students that we live in a world made up of many different races, nationalities, languages and cultures.

A further opportunity for students is the *College Chorale*. Every year the Chorale performs a major oratorio at the Watford Town Hall. Last year's *Elijah* was a stunning success, complimented by the local press. When the Chorale "says it with music" one thing is certain — more goodwill for Ambassador College is created.

#### So Convenient for Travel

Students also have unique travel opportunities. Mr. Armstrong has emphasized many times that travel is a very important means of broadening one's education. Furthering this aim, numerous mid-semester and summer tours are organized by various faculty members. They not only tour all over historically-rich Britain, but they are easily able to travel to many parts of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Most of the Continent's leading cities are only about an hour's flight away.

The annual *senior trip* to the continent of Europe is an educational highlight for the graduating seniors. This trip usually lasts about eight or nine days, and is taken during the spring break immediately after the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, well ahead of the more crowded peak tourist season.

This year's trip will take the seniors through five countries: Holland, Belgium, West Germany, Luxembourg and France. They will visit many of Europe's famous cities, as well as our Düsseldorf office. On the Sabbath, they will meet with the Dutch brethren in Utrecht. The climax of the tour will be

*Paris* — filled with historic and scenic interest. It should truly be an enjoyable, educational and memorable experience.

#### London — a World Center

One of the chief advantages of having the British College so near London is that this is one of the most interesting and beautiful cities of the world.

London is famous for world-renowned museums, libraries, theatres, galleries, botanical gardens, and many other places of historic interest. History lies around every corner! It is also still one of the world's *financial* and *cultural* centers. And when it comes to news — it is the *news center* of the world! The British radio and press usually give thorough *world* news coverage, especially when anything really big is taking place.

Internationally oriented Britain — one-time center of the world's greatest empire, now the hub of the Commonwealth — often plays host to the great of the world. Since God's Work began in Britain in 1958, many of the faculty members and ministers have been able to see most of the world's top leaders who have visited the city of London. These included such men as De Gaulle, Nehru, Nixon, Kosygin and most of the world's major political and religious dignitaries.

Many of us have been able to meet personally with Prime Ministers, Presidents, Members of Parliament, Kings, Princes and other notables. And this opportunity of seeing world figures is by no means limited to the faculty. Many of the students of the college attend lectures and meetings in London where they see and hear international leaders.

#### Science Department Contributions

Ambassador College in Bricket Wood is making a noteworthy contribution to the academic world in Great Britain by involving itself in space-age technology through the development of a *weather satellite tracking station*. Designed and built by the staff of the college's Science Department, this compact collection of technical hardware receives daily pictures of the earth's fascinating cloud systems directly from a growing number

of American A. P. T. weather satellites.

One of the very first of its kind in Europe, Ambassador's station now provides a regular weekly service of pictures and forecasts to one of Britain's leading daily newspapers, *The Guardian*, and to the nationally circulated magazine, *Yachting and Boating Weekly*. This has provided useful publicity including television film coverage by the B.B.C.

Another important activity of the Science Department here is our cooperation with the Big Sandy campus in agricultural research. On our *experimental farm*, we have already obtained some amazing results by learning to work with "nature," producing plants and livestock in a natural and unpolluted way.

#### The Ambassador Press

Another growing area of God's Work in Britain is our large *press*, located at Radlett — just about one mile from the college. This new press complex is one of the most modern printing plants in all of Britain and prints many millions of magazines, booklets and other items each year.

Every month *half a million* copies of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *TOMORROW'S WORLD* are produced. Last year alone, we mailed *over eight million* pieces of literature to *over one hundred nations* around the globe!

Soon we hope to be printing the French, German and Dutch editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH* as well. To accomplish this, we are creating a new art and layout department and a composing room so we will be able to handle these foreign editions from layout to distribution. This will provide an enormous boost to the Work since Bricket Wood is located so close to these particular nations, and many of our French, German and Dutch personnel are here — besides the proximity of the foreign offices. Expenses in mailing also will be lowered appreciably.

Through these and many other *services*, Ambassador College in Bricket Wood is helping to fulfill the purpose for its existence — to *SERVE* the people of *five continents*!

Yes, the College here in England was indeed *born to serve*! □