

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT  
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GRADUATE TO WHAT?

by Garner Ted Armstrong, Vice Chancellor

Dr. Hoeh, members of the Faculty of the Graduate School and the Undergraduate School of Ambassador College, our friends and guests, and the graduating class of 1971. To you I talk. The rest of you are certainly invited to listen in.

So you're graduating, but to what? I suppose I could scare the daylights out of you and say you are graduating to go out into the world. But I don't want to terrify anybody, because this world is not much of a place to go into.

This summer, if you are going to be looking for a job, they tell us it's the worst labor market since 1930. Getting out of Vietnam with honor is proving to be more difficult than we thought -- and still do it with honor. So, out there waiting for you can be business, jobs, homes -- by Sunday, I understand, an almost infinite number of you are going to be married. Out there waiting for you, too, is going to be confrontation. And, I hope, involvement in some very burning issues.

Have you really thought about it yourself? Graduating to what? Where do you go from here?

The end of your formal education for all of your life. The last classroom scheduling, the last serious choice

about whether to take this language or that, whether to sign up for astronomy or geology, whether to go out for basketball or cheer-leading. From now on what you do is what you decide.

Ambassador College graduates are known all the way around the world. They're known in Australia, South Africa and Rhodesia, West Africa, in the Middle East, Israel, the Arab States, all over Europe, up and down the length and breadth of this country. They're known in every major city in Canada and all the way from the Maritimes to British Columbia.

I ought to know, I'm in the business of selling people on the idea of an Ambassador College graduate. I'm the one who goes around the country and says an almost endless number of glowing things about Ambassador College graduates.

I tell the world you're completely different. I tell the world you know how to live. That you have recaptured right values. I tell the world about the enviable record of Ambassador College marriages in the past 21 years. Of the hundreds of couples who have married and where, out of that time, only one divorce had ever occurred and has since been reconciled, I understand. And I tell them that we're not only proud, but we're thankful, to be a part of an institution that knows where it's going, that has recaptured the true values. That is not an experiment, but has proved, by its product, its worth. Not only to the educational systems of the world, but as a contribution toward world peace. As the only way in which world peace is ever really going to be achieved, and



that's reaching the human spirit, and the human heart, as well as the human intellect.

We have probed, we have tested, we've tried, we've proved you. Ambassador College is a twenty-four hour a day routine. You have been involved in your total lives with Ambassador, not just in your intellect, not just in classroom studies. And as you graduate, your life will not fade out of focus from your faculty or the Board of Trustees, or your parents, or your department heads or people on this campus. Rather your life is going to come far more sharply into focus than it ever has before.

It's pretty easy to hide out in a classroom. It's fairly easy to hide out on the athletic field. It's pretty easy to hide out in the dining hall, the corridors and the dormitories of a college. It's pretty easy to be part of a mob, going to classes. But it's awfully hard to hide out when you're teaching, if you're a minister, if you're the head of a department, if you're an office manager, if you're a young wife or mother. It's awfully hard to hide out when the responsibilities of, not only you, but maybe hundreds and hundreds of other people are also on your shoulders.

And it's going to be doubly hard to hide out when you tell someone, "I'm a graduate of Ambassador College." Doubly hard to hide out. They won't let you, because we've told the world to expect something unique from an Ambassador College graduate.

We've dared to tell the world we know the way to



world peace. We know the way to true brotherhood. We know the way out of world problems. Yes, we even give solutions about the automobile, and the ecology, and a lot of other related subjects too.

So I've said up and down the length and breadth of the world that Ambassador College students are unique, they are different.

The world is filled with would-be revolutionaries, it seems. As Ambassador College graduates, you young people, are completely different from them: CORE, RAM, SNICK, US, NOW, The Weathermen, SDS. Over 500 bombings in the United States in 1970 alone, and each one of these a sort of microcosm of the problems of the world, in that, inside their own organization, you see nothing but dissidents, political upheaval, vicious infighting, oftentimes murder, free sex, drug abuse, violent revolutionary anarchistic attempts to bring down the problems of society -- by bringing down society.

When asked whether they have solutions to offer, positive programs to replace unreasonable ones, they simply say, "Hang the programs, let's have the revolution and then we'll worry about programs."

You're different in that you have solutions. You don't seek to destroy society, at the same time you reject it. You reject its traditional ills, its wrong values. You know why they're wrong. Why they not only can't last, but why they shouldn't last. But you're prepared to SHOW society how, not TELL society to. And there's a very great difference



in this. While the ultra-nihilistic revolutionary groups promulgate no positive programs, they claim no special wisdom or insight, no overview, no understanding of human ills. They merely seek in childlike tantrums and abandonment of destruction to bring down that which is the object of their hatred, without knowing what to put in its place.

You, Ambassador College graduates of 1971, are what ought to be put in the place of anarchy, of bombings and burnings, of violent confrontation. And I do not say this in the sense that I am inviting you to graduate from Ambassador College and to go out and tell the world you're happy, and to pull yourself down into your own little rut, and be happy in your own little isolated world and let the rest of the world go by. Just like the traditional fellow who escaped the ghetto, and the minute he was free turned his back on it and was unwilling to take what he had learned, the freedom he had gained, and to go back to that ghetto and to plow it under and help others to get out just like he did.

You can't be an ivory towered graduate. You can't be a cloistered graduate, and say I'm happy and make happy sounds and let the rest of the world go fry. The world won't let you do that. It will demand of you what you say you are.

We say we're dedicated, at Ambassador College, to recapturing the true values, and we say every time we hand a diploma to one of you, that you are the embodiment of those true values -- that your life is a living witness to what Ambassador College is -- what it stands for, why it is, what it does.



Graduate to what? Well, in less than a year some of you are going to be young mothers. You're going to have jobs you couldn't believe. I happen to know one of you is going to Brussels, somebody else to England, somebody to Japan, some to Germany, some to Canada, some to Florida, and all over this country. Some into departments; working with computer programming, demanding jobs in communications, in television, the printing trade. So you're going to have all kinds of temporary setbacks, disappointments, even heartaches. The likelihood of malformed children is as much a potential for you as any other man or woman of your age in this United States. There can be some heartache, some temporary failures, and there can be some great successes, too.

In every way, whether as that young bride and mother, the young father, the department supervisor, the minister, the teacher, the journalist, in every way you will be expected to be an outstanding example.

The factory is known by its product. Jesus said ye shall know them by their fruits. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, not in the stirring. So now it's commencement time, and now we find out, don't we?

Last summer a lot of us had an opportunity, one that I'll never forget -- a big part of my life, and I know of yours -- to say, "America Listen." And now, we're all going to say, "America Watch"!

So, to borrow a phrase from Jerry Rubin, "Come on, you guys, DO IT."

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