

A WARM
FRIEND OF
ISRAEL



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HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
The Ambassador Without Portfolio

✎ Climbing aboard the Gulfstream II aircraft on one of numerous trips in the 1970s to visit world leaders.



THE 'UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR FOR WORLD PEACE'

HE HAD NO POLITICAL PARTY, NO ROYAL OFFICE, NO government commission. He possessed no personal fortune, nor was he backed by any state or corporate interest.

Yet he met personally with dozens of heads of state: prime ministers, presidents, kings, emperors, princes and princesses—as well as legislators, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, first ladies, governors, mayors, generals, chief executives, judges and other leaders of government and industry.

Flying across the globe in his plane like a shuttle diplomat, this private citizen met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, King Leopold of Belgium, American First Lady Nancy Reagan, Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, Jordan's King Hussein, Egyptian presidents Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak, and the emperor, crown prince and seven successive prime ministers of Japan. In between, he met the presidents, prime ministers, and/or kings of Spain, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Bangladesh, South Africa, Kenya and Chile—and ambassadors from dozens more countries. Oftentimes at banquets and meetings between such luminaries and himself, it was the latter who was the keynote speaker or the guest of honor.

Most of these leaders knew his work and his message, many met with him as an equal, and some even poured out their hearts to him.



☞ Mr. Armstrong meets with First Lady Nancy Reagan in the White House in 1985.

Officials drew comparisons between this indefatigable elderly man and another legendary world traveler with whom he shared the skies: Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Meanwhile, though he also rubbed shoulders with Nobel Prize winners, artists, singers and athletes, he spent much of his time among the middle class, the lower class and the tragically impoverished. He teamed up with other leaders in science and education to improve the lives of thousands and millions.

World leaders called him an ambassador without portfolio with a commission for peace. His name was Herbert W. Armstrong.



- ☞ Mr. Armstrong arrives at 10 Downing Street for a private half-hour meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about problems in the Middle East.
- ☞ Deng Xiaoping, leader of China, greets Mr. Armstrong in Beijing.



- ☞ Shortly after his election as prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone (center), received Herbert Armstrong at his office in Tokyo. They discussed trade and labor difficulties facing the United States and Asian nations.

“Jerusalem!—the city God chose over all places on Earth. ... The city soon to become the capital of the whole world—when, finally, we shall have world peace!”

—Herbert W. Armstrong



A SPECIAL PLACE

A PROLIFIC AUTHOR, EDUCATOR, PHILANTHROPIST and minister, Herbert W. Armstrong taught the true causes of the problems facing humanity and their ultimate solutions. He published the *Plain Truth* magazine, read by 1 out of every 583 people on Earth; broadcast the *World Tomorrow* program on 382 television stations and 36 radio stations; and founded three campuses of the well-regarded Ambassador College.

Leaders across the globe respected his message, extended him personal invitations, and collaborated with him. Several became his close friends. Mr. Armstrong sometimes traveled 300 days out of the year. But his greatest passion was not for Jakarta, Pretoria, Manila, Cairo or even London or Washington. His greatest passion was for Jerusalem.

As a devoted student and teacher of the Bible, Mr. Armstrong believed in the glorious future of Jerusalem. He flew to the new nation of Israel more frequently than anywhere else; during one four-year period, he returned about 50 times.

The first official to welcome Mr. Armstrong into “a partnership with Israel” was a signer of the 1948 Declaration of Independence, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol. From that initial partnership at the Knesset in 1968 to his death in 1986, Mr. Armstrong met with President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Golda Meir, President Ephraim Katzir, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister Menachem Begin, President Yitzhak Navon, President Chaim Herzog and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.



☞ Mr. Armstrong met with President Zalman Shazar (top) and Moshe Kol (bottom).

In his two decades of involvement in Israel, Mr. Armstrong also formed a strong bond with the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek. “The greatest builder of Jerusalem since Herod” went on to be reelected five times, and he counted Mr. Armstrong as a close friend through almost his entire public career. The two often worked together and could be seen walking arm in arm through the streets of Jerusalem.

Mr. Armstrong’s closest partnership was with Prof. Benjamin Mazar, the former president of Hebrew



☞ Prime Minister Menachem Begin warmly welcomes Mr. Armstrong in 1980 during one of his many trips to Israel.

University and Israel's preeminent archaeologist. Together, Hebrew University and Ambassador College excavated the southern wall of the Temple Mount, providing an invaluable contribution to the heritage and history of Jerusalem. The project lasted for more than a decade.

Though he met with the greats of the world from Asia to Africa to Europe and beyond, Herbert W. Armstrong's greatest affection was for one tiny, new country at the heart of the world. He loved Israel, and Israel loved him back.

THE START OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

IN THE AUTUMN OF 1968, THE DEANS OF FACULTY AT Ambassador's England and California campuses took interest in an archaeological project in Israel. It was one of the most significant digs ever undertaken in Jerusalem: an excavation near the Western Wall in the Old City, recently won in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. It was being conducted by Prof. Benjamin Mazar, director of the Israel Exploration Society, former president of Hebrew University, and recent recipient of the Israel Prize.

Mr. Armstrong visited Professor Mazar's excavation, and found that its scope was even greater than he or his staff had envisioned. He decided to look into supporting the work.

Mr. Armstrong was invited to meet with Professor Mazar and Israeli leaders in a private room of the Knesset. There, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol proposed a "partnership with Israel," which he called "an iron bridge that can never be broken" between Ambassador College and Hebrew University. Dr. Josef Aviram, dean of the College of Humanities at Hebrew University, also attended the meeting, along with other leaders, offering Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassador men such a warm welcome that Mr. Armstrong said he found it "inspiring, astonishing and most unusual." Realizing the incredible scientific and educational value of the work, Mr. Armstrong committed to supporting it.

Soon afterward, Professor Mazar and Professor Aviram accepted Mr. Armstrong's invitation to visit the Ambassador College students in California and Texas. By



- 👉 President Zalman Shazar was the first head of state to receive Mr. Armstrong. They met at Shazar's Jerusalem residence in 1968.

that time, the leaders of the excavation and Ambassador had developed mutual trust. Though the archaeologists had turned down three other major American universities seeking involvement in their project, they offered Ambassador College a 50/50 joint participation.

On December 1, 1968, several executive cars rolled up to the presidential palace in Jerusalem. The president of Israel, Zalman Shazar, became the first head of state to meet with Mr. Armstrong. When asked if he wanted to put the relationship in a formal legal contract, Mr. Armstrong responded, "My word is good, and I believe yours is too, without any legal entanglements." It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship that would last the rest of Mr. Armstrong's life.

Thus, a seemingly insignificant and coincidental sequence led to a private citizen meeting literally dozens of



- ✎ Ambassador College students participate in the “big dig” south of the Temple Mount in the 1970s. The archaeological excavation covered more than eight acres.

heads of state and scores of other men and women in high office. After more similarly unexpected invitations were extended from other leaders, Mr. Armstrong remarked, “The remarkable thing is that I did not seek or initiate these meetings—not once! I was invited. So many high-level personal conferences could not have opened to one in private life, in so short a time, by mere happenstance. I could not have planned them and brought them about if I had tried!” (Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong).

But Mr. Armstrong had seen small starts blossom into amazing results before. The *Plain Truth* went from 250 hand-cranked mimeographed copies to a circulation greater than 8 million. *The World Tomorrow* began as a 15-minute program on a tiny radio station and grew to nearly 400 television stations and 36 radio outlets worldwide. Ambassador College began with four students and grew to three campuses, one of which was thrice recognized as America’s most beautiful college campus.

THE STONES OF JERUSALEM

WHEN HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG AND THE Ambassador students committed to their first archaeological dig in Jerusalem, they committed wholeheartedly. Around the campuses, the buzz among students was about who would travel to Israel to serve on the excavation. Each summer, scores of students excitedly packed up and flew to Israel to volunteer on the excavation, a massive site on the southern wall of the Temple Mount. The “big dig,” as it became known, would continue for a decade, and hundreds of Ambassador students would have the opportunity to touch those ancient stones.

In addition to sending over what were praised as the excavation’s most enthusiastic laborers, Ambassador College shouldered half of the cost of excavations alongside Hebrew University from 1968 until the conclusion of the dig in 1976. The mutual respect between Mr. Armstrong and Professor Mazar grew. The two friends could often be seen walking arm-in-arm visiting the site or relaxing at Dr. Mazar’s home in Jerusalem, and the professor visited Ambassador College on a number of occasions. In connection with the dig, the two men also delivered a joint lecture in Japan to Tokyo’s leading educators and scientists.

The bond was natural in a number of ways. The two men shared similar traits. Both were straight-talking and uncompromising. Both were interested in taking the Bible and objectively proving the truth, whatever it might be, rather than fitting it in with preconceived

- ✎ Following the conclusion of the “big dig,” Ambassador students continued to travel to Jerusalem each summer to help on Dr. Yigal Shiloh’s excavations in the City of David.



beliefs. In fact, Professor Mazar was praised as a pioneer of a research discipline that fused archaeology, geography, and the histories as described in Jewish Scripture and other ancient Near Eastern sources. He was also noted for accurately reporting details about Jerusalem’s impressive Umayyad period under Muslim rule, impressing visiting Arab leaders with his candor.



After years of research and labor, the big dig yielded artifacts dating back to the First Temple period in the seventh and eighth centuries B.C.—during the time of the temple originally built by Israel’s King Solomon.

Professor Mazar viewed his friend as “cosmopolitan in the best sense of the word, humanitarian and a sponsor of eternal, universal ideas.” After Mr. Armstrong’s death,



☪ The namesake plaque of the square in front of the ICCY.

he wrote, “During the years of our association with him, all of us developed the highest regard for his wonderful personality and qualities. His deep devotion to the ideals of peace and justice in the spirit of the biblical prophets was appreciated by his friends in Israel. His feeling for Israel and Jerusalem was manifested in his true interest in the archaeological excavations near the Temple Mount and in the City of David. His name will always be attached to this most important undertaking carried out in Jerusalem.”

Following the conclusion of Dr. Mazar’s excavation, Mr. Armstrong continued to support archaeology in the City of David. From 1980 through the summer of 1985, he sent students and donations to support excavations there led by Dr. Yigal Shiloh. Dr. Shiloh graciously accepted the volunteer help, saying that he would use Ambassador students exclusively on his archaeological projects if he could. He also visited Ambassador College to speak to the student body about the excavations. In addition to the three multi-season excavations in Jerusalem, Mr. Armstrong’s Ambassador International Cultural Foundation also supported an excavation at Tel Zeror in northern Israel. His support for archaeology spanned three decades.



✪ Children cluster around Mr. Armstrong at Liberty Bell Park in Jerusalem, which the Ambassador Foundation helped build.

THE NEXT GENERATION

IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING ARCHAEOLOGY, THE “IRON bridge” partnership had a second goal. That goal was to bring the children of Jerusalem—Jew, Muslim and others—together to learn the way of peace. To further that goal, Mr. Armstrong’s Ambassador International Cultural Foundation supported Jerusalem’s International Cultural Center for Youth (ICCY).

The concept of the ICCY was born in the mind of Moshe Kol after the War of Independence in 1948–49. It would be designed to develop cooperation and promote friendship between Jewish and Arab youths in the newborn State of Israel. Mr. Kol would later sum up its purpose in the *Plain Truth* magazine: “By building this center in Jerusalem—a city close to the hearts of Christians, Muslims and Jews—it might serve as a model for similar institutions in other countries to overcome narrow-mindedness and extreme nationalistic approaches.”

Mr. Kol’s dream was realized in the spring of 1960 when he founded the ICCY along with U.S. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Needing more funding, Mr. Kol approached Mr. Armstrong in 1968. Mr. Armstrong obliged and supported the work of the ICCY and the dream of seeing children of all nations and ethnicities living and playing and growing together in the way of peace.

Mr. Kol saw the connection between Mr. Armstrong’s life’s work and the youth center. “In honor of his continued dedication to the programs and the goals



✎ Mr. Armstrong also supported the ICCY from Pasadena. In January 1975, the Ambassador Foundation held a benefit concert featuring Arthur Rubenstein, arguably the world’s greatest pianist and a friend of Mr. Armstrong’s, who donated his services for the event. Rubenstein loved the Ambassador Auditorium Steinway piano so much that he sometimes had Mr. Armstrong ship it to him for his other concerts.



- ☞ Mr. Armstrong (left) and Mayor Kollek (second from right), along with one of Mr. Armstrong’s assistants and his wife, inspect the site in Liberty Bell Park for a children’s playground, made possible by the Ambassador Foundation.

of the ICCY,” he wrote, “and for his success in building bridges between leaders of nations to promote peace in the world, the Board of Directors of the ICCY has named the square at the entrance of the ICCY building in Jerusalem the Herbert W. Armstrong Square.” Visitors to the upscale German Colony today can still see the stone plaque at the edge of the square.

Later, in connection with the same dream of peace for the children of Jerusalem and the world, Mr. Armstrong responded to a request from Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who hoped to develop a beautiful park in downtown Jerusalem. The Ambassador Foundation helped fund the construction of Liberty Bell Park, specifically the children’s playground at its northern entrance. Thus, Mr. Armstrong’s name was stamped on two great symbols of hope for the future of the children of Jerusalem.



☞ Longtime Israeli Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol and Herbert Armstrong share a warm embrace.

MEETING THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL

MR. ARMSTRONG'S CONTRIBUTIONS DID NOT GO unnoticed by those who sat in the gates of Jerusalem. In fact, following his first meeting in the Knesset in 1968, Mr. Armstrong was welcomed by every prime minister and president of Israel for the rest of his life. These meetings and relationships went deeper than a simple handshake and photo opportunity. Israeli leaders valued the work, the counsel and the friendship of Herbert Armstrong.

GOLDA MEIR

The first prime minister to open her door to Mr. Armstrong was Golda Meir, who invited him to a 45-minute meeting with her in her executive office in 1971. Mrs. Meir told him that she was well aware of the contribution Ambassador College was making toward beautifying Jerusalem and the pursuit of peace between Arabs and Jews.

Mr. Armstrong presented the prime minister with an original crystal sculpture made exclusively for her by Steuben. He was most impressed by her humility and praised her often. Reflecting on the meeting later, he wrote, “She is just an ordinary, plain, down-to-earth, unpretentious homespun woman and mother. When speaking of the soldiers risking their lives for her county, this woman sees them through a mother’s eyes.”

Prime Minister Meir’s humility and desire for peace greatly impressed Mr. Armstrong. She told him that she wanted to sit across the table with other Middle Eastern rulers and share knowledge and resources so that all could mutually benefit. Mr. Armstrong saw great character in Mrs. Meir and said that she possessed the “quality of greatness, such as possessed by *so very few*—if any—*men* in public life today.”



☞ Prime Minister Golda Meir was one of the first to send Mr. Armstrong an official request for a visit in the 1960s. Here, they visit in her office at the Knesset in 1971.

YITZHAK RABIN

In August 1976, Mr. Armstrong met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the first time, apologizing for taking so long to have a personal meeting with him. Alluding to both men's extensive travels, Prime Minister Rabin replied, "Well, Mr. Armstrong, it's just happened that I've been in your country or Europe or some other place every time you've been here since I became prime minister. But of course, I know a great deal about you, and we all do deeply appreciate your interest in Israel."

During the 45-minute meeting, the two leaders discussed Mr. Armstrong's friendships with Arab chiefs of state and peace among nations. Prime Minister Rabin thanked Mr. Armstrong for bringing other nations closer to Israel, especially the Arab nations.

After Mr. Rabin's first term in office, Mr. Armstrong invited him to speak to the student body at Ambassador College in Pasadena. Mr. Rabin, who would go on to serve a second term as prime minister, accepted the offer and gave a 55-minute lecture to an audience of 900 people about Israel's right to exist being the essence of peace and reconciliation.

During Mr. Rabin's term in office, Mr. Armstrong also met with President Ephraim Katzir several times.

☞ Mr. Armstrong meets with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in his office in Jerusalem.



MENACHEM BEGIN

On November 3, 1980, Prime Minister Menachem Begin was in a meeting with a group of officials in Tel Aviv. An aide passed him a message, and he arose from his chair and recessed the meeting. He walked out and got into his car, and his motorcade drove the hour long route to Jerusalem. He had learned that Mr. Armstrong was visiting Jerusalem.

The prime minister's car rolled to a stop at his executive office, where Mr. Begin received Mr. Armstrong, accompanied by Mayor Kollek and a couple of others. When someone mentioned that he had interrupted his meeting and made the special drive, the prime minister explained, "Mr. Armstrong, I would get out of bed at 2 in the morning to see you."

Mr. Begin was pleased to learn that Mr. Armstrong planned to feature him on the cover of the *Plain Truth* with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and to honor their efforts toward peace with a lead story. The meeting ended in an affectionate bear hug. After a 2½-hour recess, Begin arrived back in Tel Aviv and resumed his meeting.

It was not their first visit. Before and during Mr. Begin's tenure as prime minister from 1977 to 1983, Mr. Armstrong's travel to the Middle East greatly increased. Mr. Begin opened his door to Mr. Armstrong on several occasions during this time.



☞ Menachem Begin, prime minister of Israel, welcomes Mr. Armstrong during one of his many trips to Israel in 1978.



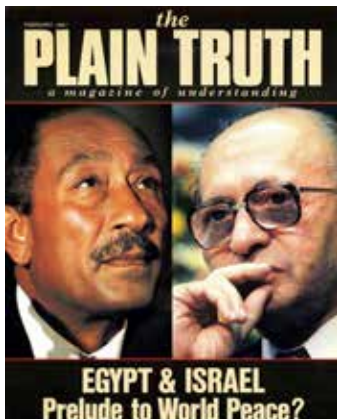
☞ Mr. Armstrong meets with Anwar Sadat, whom he regarded as a great leader who knew the importance of peace among nations.

ANWAR SADAT

During this crucial period in Israeli history, Mr. Armstrong developed strong ties to both Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Sadat. He was enamored by the

sincere overtures toward peace of these two great men, and he constantly encouraged reconciliation and friendship between Israel and Egypt.

Mr. Armstrong met the Egyptian president in Alexandria in 1974, years before the Camp David Accords. Though President



Sadat knew of Mr. Armstrong's strong connections with Israeli leaders, he hosted him anyway and even lavished him with special honor and friendship. While the president spoke at an event attended by his cabinet members and other distinguished members of Egyptian government and society, Mr. Armstrong and his staff were the only non-Arabs present—President Sadat's special guests.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would later tell Mr. Armstrong emphatically that President Sadat was ready to talk to Israel long before the much-publicized intervention and shuttle diplomacy of the U.S. In fact, Rabin said that Begin and Sadat's peace accord would have come much sooner had it been left up to only the two leaders. It was true: Sadat had confided to Mr. Armstrong early on that he was a man of peace and indicated readiness for a direct meeting.

In the interim, however, memories of 1967 Egyptian-Israeli hostilities were still fresh and tensions remained high. Flights between Israel and Egypt were restricted. After the Camp David peace talks, flights were finally permitted only between Cairo and Tel Aviv. There was, however, one notable exception. In late 1980, Mr. Armstrong spoke before a large banquet of the Egyptian-American League, including Egyptian officials and top educators. The event was hosted by Dr. Mohammed Abdel Kader Hatem, chief personal adviser to the president and himself a former prime minister. Following the dinner, Mr. Armstrong drove to the airport, boarded his plane, and was allowed to make the first flight directly from Cairo to Jerusalem.

Mr. Armstrong deeply respected President Sadat's courage, particularly after Sadat risked his life by

reaching out to Israel and becoming the first Arab leader to visit Israel officially, meeting Prime Minister Begin and speaking before the Knesset in Jerusalem. The two leaders eventually concluded the Camp David Accords and signed a peace treaty in Washington, D.C., in 1979. The move was a bold step toward peace—at great risk.

Mr. Armstrong was also impressed by President Sadat's plan to build an international peace center at the base of Mt. Sinai with a mosque, synagogue and church standing alongside one another in the shadow of where God had given mankind His law—which is, in truth, the way to peace. The location of Sadat's planned peace center symbolized the need to look to and obey God; the presence of the three places of worship symbolized the hope for cooperation and peace among the religions.

On one of his visits with President Sadat, Mr. Armstrong said, "I want to say one thing right straight from the heart. I respect and admire you more than I can tell you, because you have risked everything in an effort for peace. ... Not many would do that. I meet heads of state all over the world. But I have not known one that would risk what you did." Sadat's bold gambit for peace



☞ Dr. Hatem, Sadat's close adviser, introduces Mr. Armstrong to over 300 leading Egyptians for an address in Cairo.



☞ Mr. Armstrong meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak not long after Anwar Sadat gave the ultimate sacrifice for peace.

had brought the enmity of most of the Arab world to bear on him. “That takes courage,” Mr. Armstrong said with a smile as his voice began to choke up. “And you have it.”

Mr. Armstrong knew Sadat’s dreams of peace were far advanced of, and deeply at odds with, the violent times in which he lived. Less than a year later, Sadat was assassinated for his pursuit of peace. Unrest increased, and the planned peace center never materialized.

Mr. Armstrong went on to keep his next appointment with the president of Egypt, but it was with Hosni Mubarak, not Anwar Sadat. The tragedy fresh on their minds, Mr. Armstrong and President Mubarak agreed that men should do what they can, but that a higher power was needed to bring real peace.



☞ Mr. Armstrong meets with King Hussein of Jordan in 1974.

KING HUSSEIN

During this tumultuous period, Mr. Armstrong also maintained a close friendship with King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Indirect dealings with the king dated back to 1966, when Mr. Armstrong was interested in enhancing Radio Jerusalem. Although the Six-Day War completely changed the situation, Mr. Armstrong continued to support Jordanian cultural activities, mostly through the university.

King Hussein welcomed Mr. Armstrong to Jordan in 1974. Mr. Armstrong told the king that he had read his autobiography and felt as though he knew him. When Mr. Armstrong mentioned that he was finishing the second volume of his own autobiography, the king asked that he sign the first copy off the press and send it to him. Mr. Armstrong obliged, and suggested that the king write a volume two to his own autobiography.

King Hussein warmly accorded Mr. Armstrong the honors of a visiting dignitary, arranging meetings with the crown prince, prince, princess, prime minister,



👉 Herbert Armstrong presents a gift to King Hussein, a longtime friend. They first met in Amman in 1971.

minister of information and president of the university. A reception and a large banquet were held in his honor, with television and radio news journalists reporting the events.

Mr. Armstrong and the king continued to develop their relationship. On another visit to Amman in March 1982, the two men planned to meet again. However, the king had to rush to the airport in the middle of the night to fly to Iraq where his army was on a major offensive against Iran. Mr. Armstrong returned in July, yet he still had to wait five days, as the king was yet in the midst of the turmoil. When the king finally cleared time to see his American friend, he had to keep the chief adviser to President Mubarak, who had flown to Jordan with a special confidential message from the president, waiting in another room.

Though troubled by war, King Hussein went on to leave a legacy of honor. He was known as a force for dignity and hope, one of the last peacemakers.



☞ Mr. Armstrong presents a personal protocol gift of Steuben crystal to Israeli President Yitzhak Navon.

YITZHAK NAVON

During this same period, Mr. Armstrong met with Israeli President Yitzhak Navon a number of times in Jerusalem. During their first meeting, they discussed the broad nature of peace. But even the definition of the word can be difficult, Navon said, adding that one must know exactly what the other side means by “peace.”

In December 1978, Mr. Navon hosted a special tribute dinner for Mr. Armstrong at his presidential palace to celebrate Mr. Armstrong's 10 years of partnership with Israel. During this trip, Mr. Armstrong met with President Navon, Prime Minister Begin, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres and Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir—in one day.

Mr. Armstrong also celebrated the milestone with a dedication ceremony at Armstrong Playground in Liberty Bell Park and a performance by Israeli and Arab teens at the International Cultural Center for Youth. Mayor Teddy Kollek also hosted a special dinner in Mr. Armstrong's honor with prominent guests.

The spotlight also returned to the iron bridge when Mr. Armstrong reunited with Professor Mazar and Professor Aviram in the Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University. Deputy Prime Minister Yigael Yadin and other prominent Israelis also attended the luncheon.

CHAIM HERZOG

As Mr. Armstrong aged into his 90s, he continued to meet with Israel's leaders, including President Chaim Herzog, presenting him with a gift of Steuben crystal titled "The King Fisher."

During President Herzog's term, Mr. Armstrong was awarded the Medal of the Knesset by Speaker Menachem Savidor in October 1983. The award was accompanied by this citation: "To the Hon. Mr. Herbert Armstrong. In appreciation of his true friendship for the land and people of Israel and his magnanimous gestures which aid and strengthen the spiritual and moral tenets of our common culture."

SHIMON PERES

In the final year before he died, at age 92, Mr. Armstrong met with Prime Minister Shimon Peres. The men spoke again about peace and whether it was achievable in the Middle East. Prime Minister Peres said, “I think we have a chance to break through the wall of belligerence. ... There is a chance, and I think it is for us responsible people not to miss it—not to miss it.”

Speaking about his experience with King Hussein, Mr. Armstrong said, “I know he would like to have peace with you.” He recounted to Prime Minister Peres how he had told the king he wanted to bring Prime Minister Begin to Jordan aboard his airplane and leave the two leaders alone, giving them the opportunity to get acquainted.

“I know Mr. Begin well enough I believe he would be glad to do it,” Mr. Armstrong recalled, “And I know you would too, your majesty, if ...’ And he began to laugh, and he said, ‘Yes, you’re right, I would, *if*.’”

Prime Minister Peres agreed that the king had “his eyes set on peace” and said that he would try very hard to break through to peace. “We owe it to our friends,” he said, “and to our posterity. We shall try very hard.”

Mr. Armstrong responded that although more troubles were coming, world peace would ultimately come, “but it isn’t going to come easy.”

TEDDY KOLLEK

Accompanying Mr. Armstrong on most of these visits with Israeli leaders was a man who sat in the gate of Jerusalem perhaps longer than anyone else: his long-time friend Teddy Kollek. When Mr. Armstrong visited Jerusalem, Mr. Kollek went far beyond his duty as mayor. He viewed Mr. Armstrong as more than just another



☞ Mr. Armstrong and longtime friend Mayor Teddy Kollek stroll through the ancient streets of Jerusalem discussing the problems facing the “city of peace.”



☞ During a luncheon, Mayor Kollek hands Herbert Armstrong a gift as Professor Mazar looks on.

foreign dignitary—he treated him as a valued friend and confidant.

Called the greatest builder of Jerusalem since Herod the Great, Mayor Kollek strove to beautify the city for all of its inhabitants, whether Jew, Muslim or Christian, and was known for his candor and honesty. He and Mr. Armstrong developed a strong bond that sprung from their mutual love for Jerusalem, and this developed into archaeological advancement, harmony among young people at the International Cultural Center for Youth, and the children’s playground at Liberty Bell Park, among other things.

Mayor Kollek also returned the favor and visited Mr. Armstrong in California in 1971. After seeing the Ambassador College campus, the mayor said he wanted to follow the example of beauty Mr. Armstrong set in Pasadena.

Less than two weeks after Mayor Kollek visited Pasadena, Mr. Armstrong was at Hebrew University

in Jerusalem. He and other representatives of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation were conferring with the university's Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, with which they were in a joint participation city-planning project. The goal: to plan the Jerusalem of the future.

At the 10-year anniversary of the "iron bridge" relationship, Mayor Kollek greeted Mr. Armstrong and took him on a 2½-hour morning tour of the Old City, pointing out the efforts to rejuvenate the area and restore its original beauty. Mr. Armstrong and the mayor also jointly hosted a Fourth of July celebration. At another occasion, commenting that "The stories of the Bible are better known to you than to anyone around this table," Mr. Kollek presented Mr. Armstrong with a silver-and-gold sculpture of David defeating Goliath. "All your life, you have been a fighter of giant lies, and of giant untruths," he said. "And as you regard yourself a descendant of David, and rightly so, here in the City of David, we would like to present you with this symbolic sculpture."

Mr. Armstrong replied by saying that Jerusalem was destined to become "the greatest city in the world and in fact in the whole universe. This city is someday going to be the capital of the universe, because this city is going to exist forever."

Over the years, these two men's mutual aspirations for the future of Jerusalem knit their brotherhood ever closer. This was highlighted in a conversation over lunch in Jerusalem in 1983. Since it was election day, Mr. Armstrong led a toast for the reelection of Mayor Kollek. The mayor responded from his chair, "Jerusalem at this time does not have a prophet—you [Mr. Armstrong] will have to be our prophet." Mr. Armstrong responded

saying he planned to spend the next thousand years in Jerusalem, to which Mr. Kollek quipped, “And I’ll be happy to be mayor!”

At Mr. Armstrong’s death in 1986, Mr. Kollek sent the following condolences: “It is with great sorrow that we learned the passing of President Herbert Armstrong. One could only be deeply impressed by his vast efforts to promote understanding and peace among peoples. His good deeds were felt in many corners of the world. In Jerusalem, his care and concern can be seen in the many projects he undertook: the archaeological excavations uncovering the history of millennia, the children’s playground and activities he helped sponsor, the dedicated work of the Ambassador College students. His visits to Jerusalem were always very special and I was privileged to share these with him. He helped foster the goals we set to ensure the future of Jerusalem, King David’s city.”

Shortly before Mr. Kollek’s death, he wrote that he held high regard for this “special man and his mission for peace.” In 2004, he said, “There have been very few people that I have known that I so enjoyed speaking with and so greatly admired and valued their counsel.” Mr. Armstrong felt the same way about his very close friend.

REVIVING A LEGACY

THE EXCAVATIONS CONDUCTED BY HEBREW UNIVERSITY and Ambassador College finished in 1985. The following year, Herbert W. Armstrong died after 93 active, vibrant, passionate years of service to the cause of peace and abundant living for all of mankind.

However, those whom Mr. Armstrong entrusted with the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, Ambassador College, the *Plain Truth* and the WCG ultimately rejected his legacy. The college was closed and the campuses sold. All the humanitarian and cultural activities of the foundation ceased.

And yet some refused to let the work of Herbert W. Armstrong die. In 1989, another tiny new beginning took place as the Philadelphia Church of God broke away from the failing WCG in order to keep Mr. Armstrong's legacy and work alive.



☞ Children play at the Liberty Bell Park playground.



☞ Armstrong International Cultural Foundation president Gerald Flurry visits a school the foundation helped in Jordan (above). A foundation volunteer instructs disadvantaged young Jordanian men in woodworking (above right). The foundation has also supported the preservation of Petra (right).





✎ Dr. Eilat Mazar stands next to the stones of the Solomonic wall.

The Armstrong International Cultural Foundation began in 1996 as the Philadelphia Foundation. Early that year, it took over a project the defunct Ambassador Foundation had abandoned: a collaboration with the Al-Hussein Society in Amman, Jordan, sending volunteers to work with physically and mentally handicapped children.

In the smallest of ways, the legacy of Herbert W. Armstrong had been revived.

The Armstrong International Cultural Foundation went on to support the Petra National Trust and Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park. And in 2006, a much greater door suddenly opened up.

During Benjamin Mazar's excavations in the shadow of the Temple Mount, a young girl frequented the dig site, rubbing elbows with archaeologists, spending time with the Ambassador students, and taking a keen interest in the work. Her name was Eilat.



☞ Herbert W. Armstrong College students and other excavation staff members work at the palace of David dig site in 2007.



☞ Armstrong College students meticulously rinse stones and artifacts found in the palace of David in 2008.

In 1986, digging again commenced on the Temple Mount. This time, it was Eilat Mazar, the professor's granddaughter, who was heading the project. The younger Mazar focused on the First Temple period at the eastern part of the site, and she continued in the spirit of her grandfather's work throughout the 1990s.

In August 2005, Dr. Mazar announced that she and her team had made a remarkable discovery in East Jerusalem: the remains of a large public building that dates to the 10th century B.C. Mazar believes that the evidence indicates this structure was none other than the palace of King David.

The following year, the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation offered its support to Dr. Mazar's work, sending a handful of Herbert W. Armstrong College (AC) students to assist with the continuing excavations.

Dr. Mazar still remembered the close relationship between her grandfather and Mr. Armstrong. "Without the support of Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassadors, the Temple Mount excavations would have never become, as it did, the most important and largest excavations in Israel at that time," she said. Dr. Mazar easily recognized the Armstrong foundation's roots, and was thrilled to continue the tradition, remarking that she was "excited to have the Ambassadors back with us."

The Armstrong International Cultural Foundation and Herbert W. Armstrong College have participated in several phases of Dr. Mazar's excavation in Jerusalem, helping to make a string of remarkable discoveries.

In addition to the remains of what appears to be King David's palace, Dr. Mazar and her team discovered a massive wall more than 15 feet thick in late 2007. New artifacts appear to date the wall not to the Hasmonean period, as previously thought, but to the time of Nehemiah. The

team also found a bulla, or seal impression, of Gedaliah, one of Jeremiah's accusers. In 2008, the team discovered a water tunnel more than 150 feet long that might have been the conduit King David's forces used to conquer the city in the 10th century. Dr. Mazar called the excavation of the tunnel an almost entirely "Armstrong College enterprise."

In late 2009 and early 2010, AC again was involved in Mazar's excavation and helped unearth walls in what is believed to be a royal complex built by King Solomon. The city wall, located in the Ophel, is estimated to be more than 200 feet long and almost 20 feet high.

The foundation and AC continue to support and participate in the fascinating discoveries lying in wait beneath the surface in Jerusalem.

Foundation president Gerald Flurry and staff regularly travel to Jerusalem to personally investigate progress on the foundation's activities in the eternal city. Foundation representatives have attended the World Jewish Congress, the Herzliya Conference and the Jerusalem Conference.

In addition, the foundation hosted an archaeological exhibit at its headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma, from 2012 to 2015 which featured artifacts from 10th-century Jerusalem.

The Armstrong International Cultural Foundation continues to raise up the ruins of the Ambassador Foundation in a variety of exciting ways.

In addition to its work in Jerusalem, the Armstrong foundation sponsors a performing arts series patterned after the famed Ambassador Foundation series at Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California, which became known as "the Carnegie Hall of the West Coast." The Armstrong foundation's series began very small in 1998 but has since grown to host thousands of patrons



President Gerald Flurry and Dr. Mazar share a light moment at a luncheon where they discussed the progress and needs of Mazar's excavation work and the foundation chose to increase its support.



Foundation executive director Stephen Flurry attends a press conference with an Israel Defense Forces spokesman.



✎ The world-class Armstrong Auditorium, is the venue for the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation's performing arts series. The building houses some of the crown jewels from Ambassador Auditorium: a Hamburg Steinway concert grand piano and two Baccarat crystal candelabra.

and dozens of bright musical stars at its new home, the \$20 million Armstrong Auditorium.

Herbert W. Armstrong College continues the noble, character-building education once championed by Ambassador College. It is a privately supported coeducational institution offering two- and four-year scholastic curricula in theology, liberal arts and applied arts and sciences.



From performing arts to true education to youth camps to publishing to broadcasting to participation in projects in the Holy Land, the Armstrong foundation and the Philadelphia Church of God continue to raise up the legacy of a remarkable man—an unofficial ambassador for world peace, a great educator, a close acquaintance of world leaders, and a warm friend of Israel.

