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Worldwide Church of God Sells Portion of Ambassador Campus to Maranatha High School and Harvest Rock Church

World-renowned Ambassador Auditorium to Remain

Pasadena, CA – Today, the Worldwide Church of God announced the sale of approximately 13 acres of its 31-acre west campus to Ambassador Acquisition Partners, LLC, comprised of Harvest Rock Church and Maranatha High School.

The sale includes what was once part of the main campus of Ambassador College. The transaction includes the college's Hall of Administration, Physical Education Complex, Student Center, Ambassador Auditorium and Men's Dormitory Building.

"We are thrilled with this sale. The Campus will continue to be a site for Christian education and worship," stated Bernie Schnippert, director of Finance and Planning for the Worldwide Church of God.

"We are especially pleased to announce that the Ambassador Auditorium will continue to be used for worship, private performing and theatre arts education, and potentially, public performing arts events. The Ambassador Auditorium has always been an important part of the Worldwide Church of God's ministry. We are pleased that this religious and cultural jewel will continue to be used for the glory of God."

Harvest Rock will be the new owners of the Ambassador Auditorium. The Ambassador Auditorium has historically been used primarily as a worship center and, secondarily, as a world-renowned concert hall. Maranatha High School will also have use of the Ambassador Auditorium for performing and theatre arts productions pursuant to an agreement with Harvest Rock Church.

The transaction includes a 45,000 square foot building which will be renovated by Maranatha High School for classroom use and a 38,000 square foot student center and cafeteria. These existing facilities will also house library, science and computer labs. Existing athletic facilities include a sports field (football, soccer and track and field), a softball field and Ambassador College's former sports complex which includes a collegiate-size gymnasium, locker rooms, weight room and an indoor six-lane swimming pool. A subterranean three hundred space parking structure is also on site.

"Harvest Rock Church celebrated its 10th Anniversary on April 4th. We could not think of a better anniversary gift than that of a new church home. We are grateful to all of those who have been involved with this transaction," stated Senior Pastor Che Ahn, of Harvest Rock Church. "I want to thank the Lord and our church congregation for its sacrificial giving to make this purchase possible."

"We are pleased to ensure that the irreplaceable Ambassador Auditorium remains a vibrant part of Pasadena. We are also committed to serving our community and are open to the use of the Ambassador Auditorium for performing arts events, in conjunction with our schedule of Church services," Pastor Ahn added. "I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know the Ambassador Hall Board for the Performing Arts and learn more about their vision and goals."

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Maranatha Board President David Poole stated, "After facing some significant challenges in the last few years in securing a permanent campus, we are so excited for our students and their families, our faculty and administration, that we have been able to acquire such a remarkable property which is already so well suited for our needs."

"That we have been blessed with this opportunity is the result of circumstances which we believe could have only been orchestrated by God, to whom we are so very grateful," Poole added. "This acquisition is the also the result of the generosity and hard work by some key friends of the school, as well as the Board and Maranatha's Head of School, Chet Crane, and his administrative team. Additionally, we are pleased that in meeting Maranatha's needs we are also playing a part in preserving these wonderful academic and athletic buildings and the beautiful campus environment. We look forward to working with the City and our new neighbors to insure that Maranatha fits in well with the neighborhood."

"It was our hope that we could find a financial solution to reopen the Ambassador Auditorium. We could not be more pleased that we have achieved our goal without the use of public money," stated Bernie Schnippert. "We reached our other goal of preserving a significant amount of the identity of the Ambassador Campus while also achieving our fiduciary obligations to our congregations."

The Worldwide Church of God plans to retain its headquarters offices in Pasadena for now by utilizing the remaining 17 acres of the campus and leasing back space from Maranatha as needed while exploring options for the future. Due to both the previous sale of the Ambassador College's East Campus on the other side of the 710 Freeway, and the sale announced today, the Church will withdraw its application for the Ambassador Campus Development Plan from the City of Pasadena.

Harvest Rock Church, a non-denominational church, began in the Pasadena home of Senior Pastor Che Ahn in April of 1994. Currently, the membership is over 1,000 with weekly attendance at over 800, with most of its parishioners coming from Pasadena and its surrounding communities. Harvest Rock Church is part of Harvest International Ministries, which has a membership of over 1200 different autonomous churches in 27 nations around the world.

Maranatha High School, a non-denominational Christian high school, was founded in 1965 and was previously located in Arcadia and Sierra Madre until its move two years ago to the campus of William Carey International University in Pasadena. Maranatha is a college preparatory high school for grades nine through twelve with a student enrollment for 2004-2005 of approximately five hundred students.

The Worldwide Church of God has owned the Ambassador Campus since 1947. It operated Ambassador College from 1947 to 1990. The Worldwide Church of God currently has 58,000 members in over 100 countries with more than 800 individual congregations internationally. The Worldwide Church of God built the Ambassador Auditorium in 1974, and operated it as both a worship center and concert hall for 20 internationally acclaimed performance seasons. The Ambassador Auditorium - hailed as "the Carnegie Hall of the West" - is recognized internationally for its acoustic perfection and high quality of craftsmanship.

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