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I'll never forget the fall of 1965 — and especially September 7, the grand opening of the world's first "charismatic" university.

As we welcomed our first 303 students, from 43 states and 7 nations, God's calling was thundering in my spirit:

*Build Me a university...*  
*Build it on My authority and on the Holy Spirit.*

From 1947, with His burning call in my spirit to take His healing power to my generation, I had taken the big tent, seating up to 12,000 people, to nearly every state in the nation, across Canada, and even overseas. Like a mighty wave bursting over the walls of narrow denominationalism and stemming the dangerous rise of humanism, the evangelistic crusades were a triumphant cry to millions in all walks of life:

* God is a good God.  
* Jesus still heals today.  
* Turn your faith loose.  
* Expect a miracle.  
* Get a point of contact.  
* God is in the now.  
* God wants to heal you in every area of your life.  
* There is a healing coming to the sick body of Christ.  
* Only believe.

During the first seven years in the big tent cathedral (1947-1954), the crowds often overflowed so that people had to stand five and ten deep around the edge of the tent. Thousands of others heard the services on radio broadcasts which aired on some 800 radio stations.

In 1954, we boldly brought film crews into the crusade tent...
and began television broadcasts to every state of the Union and to every province in Canada, giving a front row seat to millions so they might “see and hear the wonderful works of God” each week. Suddenly, powerfully, a new wave of healing swept over the people as they saw and felt what God was doing.

The news media called me a “prairie tornado” from Oklahoma — a brash, young man with fire in his soul who preached that just as God had healed him, He would heal others. It was a message of rank fanaticism to those who said healing and miracles died out with the 12 apostles in the first century. But to others in every walk of life — to those who were sick, to those who didn’t know Jesus as their personal Savior, and to those who somehow believed God had not forgotten them — the Oral Roberts Crusades were their opportunity to rise up and strike a blow for deliverance as their faith was stirred by the healing miracles they could see with their own eyes, live in the big tent or on their black and white television screens.

Hundreds and thousands of people flocked to the crusades. They came by car, train, bus, plane, and some even hitchhiked, drawn by a seemingly irresistible power and the hope of healing. The hour had come in human history for Jesus to walk the land again by His Holy Spirit working through His believing and daring servants. By their faith, those who came “saw” Jesus, “heard” Him, and “felt” Him as they sat or stood for hours, awaiting their chance to have healing hands laid on them as a point of contact, believing Jesus to heal and deliver as He did 2,000 years ago.

As a result of the crusades, tens of thousands of lives were transformed by the miraculous power of God. Returning to their hometowns, these people often
started new churches or led a move to renew their old ones. Truly, a healing revival was sweeping the land.

And then, in 1961, God said to me:

Now is the time. Build Me a university and build it on My authority and on the Holy Spirit.

I had no land ... no buildings ... no faculty ... and no students. Scarcely anyone among the millions I had helped with the deliverance message of the Gospel either understood or believed that I was called to bring an academic institution into the stream of the healing ministry. When I told them God desired a university in the finest of academic tradition, but with an emphasis on educating the whole man — spirit, mind, and body — only a few thousand people caught the vision.

By invitation, however, these friends and Partners began to come to Tulsa — 500 at a time, then 1,000, and then 1,500 and more. In seminars, they heard my associates and me present the architectural concept, the type of curriculum we were hoping to build, the kind of professors we were recruiting, and the Seed-Faith plan God had given us to finance the building of a university that was to be different than any before it in history. As the seminars continued over the years, our faithful Partners often sat in awe as I shared with them that ... 

- There would be a 200-foot Prayer Tower — with prayer partners available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day — dominating the center of the campus.
- Surrounding the Prayer Tower would be buildings of 21st-century architectural design, housing new and innovative educational technology, such as the world's first dial access information and retrieval system.
- Required chapels would be held twice a week — each an hour long — led by Holy Spirit-filled leaders who would work alongside me and who would be 100 percent committed to my call of evangelism.
- A voluntary, student-led Sunday evening vespers service would be held, led by a full-time charismatic chaplain and his staff who would join the administration and faculty in leading students to get an education in which they would "get their learning, but not lose their burning."
- An aerobics program created by Dr. Kenneth Cooper of the armed services (now with his own aerobics center in Dallas) would be established in a great building on campus that would have an indoor running track, Olympic-size swimming pool, and exercise and sports areas. The development of the students' physical fitness would be placed equally alongside both the academic and spiritual sides of their education. All students and university leaders would be required to develop good health habits in keeping with the message of my healing ministry.
- For the first time in a university setting, spirit, mind, and body would work together and the education of the whole person would be carried out under a mandate of God.

Even as we began to share this vision with the first Partners of the Oral Roberts Ministry who came to the seminars beginning in 1962, we began to establish the organizational structure for the university.

In 1963, two years before the university opened, a Board
of Regents was established. Representing the calling of the Oral Roberts Ministry, many of the Regents chosen for this 41-member Board had met Christ for the first time or had received a healing during the crusades. A chairman and other officers were elected, and they in turn, unanimously elected me, the founder, as president and chief executive officer. With the guidance and approval of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and later, from the leaders of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (which governs colleges and universities in a 10-state area, including Oklahoma), the ownership of the university and the responsibility for implementing its founding purpose and policy was handed over to the Board.

The State of Oklahoma chartered the university on November 9, 1963. As buildings started going up and equipment was purchased, a Holy Spirit-filled faculty -- a majority with earned doctorate degrees -- began to be assembled, and soon, invitations began to go out to those who would become the first students to begin their quest to be whole men and women.

The name of the university was chosen by the Board of Regents in a stormy session with me. They wanted it named Oral Roberts University for two reasons they considered indisputable. First, they believed my name stood for the miraculous power of God and it would be a steadying influence through the years to keep the university on God's track. Second, they believed that only the Partners of Oral Roberts would provide the financial and prayer support to build and maintain the university, and that God had raised me up as the man with whom they would trust their Seed-Faith support.

I, on the other hand, knew the ridicule my name had suffered, the persecution endured by my healing ministry, and the disdain the higher-education critics would have for a
university founded by a man who operated outside their humanistic belief system. I knew they would laugh at the thought that a man without an earned doctorate degree could lead the school academically. I also knew the critics would say I was naming the university to glorify myself. I simply didn't want such criticism added to that which had been my lot from the very first healing crusade I ever conducted — a series of meetings over a nine-week period in Tulsa during the summer of 1947.

The vote, however, was unanimous to name the university Oral Roberts University. While I have not enjoyed the persecution that, indeed, did follow, over the years I've become convinced that God did ordain my name to be on His university. Even with my shortcomings, I have one quality that money can't buy and man can't change and it's this: I am a man who obeys God.

The same can be said of my faithful Partners. They have obeyed God with me, and still do. I've never been more proud of these unique men and women. There is a bond of love and trust between us unparalleled in our time. They embody the Scripture that says,

\[\text{Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,} \\
\text{and to hearken than the fat of rams.} \]

— I Samuel 15:22

During those early months of naming, organizing, planning, and developing Oral Roberts University, I walked alone for hours nearly every day, setting foot on virtually every square foot of the land we were miraculously able to purchase with the smallest down payment possible. I walked seeking God, knowing in myself that I did not know how to build God a university.

With the birds and squirrels and rabbits as my companions, I finally made a breakthrough into a deeper dimension of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead. I experienced a revelation from God that I could pray in tongues with my spirit and then interpret that prayer of the Spirit back to my mind. Out of this new “charismatic” dimension of the Holy Spirit working in me, I could discern that my spirit and mind were being put together by God into a harmonious whole. I began to understand “how” to bring the university into being. I began to understand how God might work through me to build His university.

The flow of ideas from God was exhilarating. To be certain, it took hard work to turn those ideas into reality. Nevertheless, we all could sense that a “know-how” from God was truly at work as we began to develop ORU. A group of people known more for their faith in God than their intellectual background, was forging a new dimension in education — God’s dimension — and God’s plan for wholeness.

In 1965, when the day came for the university to open, it was heady, it was exciting beyond words, and it was challenging.

**Now it’s 25 years later.**

The once-empty field is now dotted with more than 20 major buildings. The original student body of 303 students has grown to some 4,000 students a year in both undergraduate and graduate fields of higher education. And still, the original statement declared in bronze medallions at the Avenue of Flags entrance to the campus remains our number one priority:

**Oral Roberts University:**

**Educating the Whole Man**

Our doors are still open. No standards have been lowered. No inner fire has been quenched. No part of the founding purpose has been changed. And I am honored still to be the president and chief executive officer of this university that is nothing short of a miracle!

Through the years I have continued to preach in healing crusades, seminars, and meetings around the world, trusting the day-to-day operation of the university to the capable administrative and academic leaders God has sent us. And yet I have been on the scene in person enough to guide it on the divinely ordained course God had mandated to me. I consider it an equal miracle of God that He has sustained me and the healing ministry, even as He has sustained Oral Roberts University.

Even with our mistakes, our fumbles, and our human
weaknesses, we have pushed forward and upward, knowing that God doesn't have any perfect people. As we have walked this “faith walk” and blazed this “charismatic path” in higher education, we have had as our motto:

\[\text{Without God, I cannot,} \\
\text{Without me, He will not.}\]

We have believed in divine-human reciprocity. And God has been faithful to His Word time and time again.

At times, the enemy’s fiery darts have been hurled and the road has been rocky, but through the years, my faithful Partners, the able Board members, the administrative leaders, faculty, and students have walked together, seeking more and more of God . . . a greater knowledge of His universe . . . a deeper understanding of His ways and how we might serve man at the point of his need . . . always coming closer to making this God’s university, built on His authority and on the Holy Spirit.

That challenge is an ongoing one. We haven’t arrived. But we are much closer than we were 25 years ago, and we are determined to draw ever closer to that goal.

We continue every day to strive to be at the forefront of quality academic offerings, student training, and buildings and materials, and to build an endowment that will keep Oral Roberts University “about the Father’s business” until Jesus returns to rule and reign over this earth.

God said to me in the beginning of ORU:

\[\text{Raise up your students to hear My voice,} \\
\text{to go where My light is seen dim, My voice is heard small, My power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased.}\]

The more than 11,000 graduates of these first 25 years of ORU are now in every state and in nations on every continent of this globe. They occupy places of leadership and service. They are going into every man’s world.

Thousands more have attended ORU a semester or more, and along with the graduates, have found deeper meaning for their lives. Many of them are also spreading God’s Word and contributing to this world at a level and in ways beyond anything we ever dreamed.

On my desk is a plaque that reads:

\[\text{MAKE NO LITTLE PLANS HERE.}\]

To the best of my knowledge, no little plans have been made or are being made at Oral Roberts University. By faith,
I trust God that none will be made in the future.

Our foremost challenge today is to develop the endowment and trust fund at ORU to a strong position so that people everywhere, and especially our dear Partners, will know ORU is financially sound.

We also face the challenge of choosing and developing my successor as president. I have believed from the beginning that "Success without a successor is failure." I believe in the absolute necessity of a strong Board and faithful Partners, but I also believe that God still leads a work such as ORU through a God-anointed servant to whom He gives His vision and authority.

I have wholeheartedly recommended to the Board that my successor be an evangelist with the healing ministry of Jesus Christ of Nazareth burning in him, one tested in the fires of adversity but who refuses to quit, and who has this ministry and the founding purpose of Oral Roberts University as his essential nature. We are trusting God our Source to choose His man for the job.

And now . . .

As you read through the following pages of pictures and text, I hope you will see and feel ORU in a new and deeper way. I pray you will see with eyes of faith the thread of the Holy Spirit that has tied together the lives, events, and accomplishments of this university year after year after year.

I ask you, in Jesus' Name, to dream with us of the next 25 years—indeed, that ORU will have an even greater impact on this world as "God's university."

I pray you will stand strong in your faith and support of Oral Roberts University so that no compromise of its present and ultimate God-ordained purpose will be made.

I ask that you continue your Seed-Faith giving to help ORU endure until Jesus comes again, so that students might continue to be raised up to hear God’s voice and then to go into every man’s world for God and His glory.

I hope, too, that you will keep this 25th Silver Anniversary publication about ORU in a prominent place so that others may see it and understand what you have helped to build, and which we must continue to build, for the sake of our children and our children’s children.

As Jesus said,

A light shining on a hill cannot be hid.

May the lighted torch of Oral Roberts University continue to burn brightly, so it can never be hid!

—September 1990
Partners gather on the grounds under a tent to hear Oral Roberts share his dream for a university that will "educate the whole man and become an instrument for world evangelism." Ground is broken "by faith" on March 2, for the beginning of the "miracle of ORU."

The founding Board of Trustees and Board of Regents meet in Tulsa, November 25-27, for the first business sessions that officially establish Oral Roberts University.

"I charge you with the authority of the Office of the President of this school and by the laying on of hands of the trustees, we vest in you the authority of President of Oral Roberts University, and before God we ordain and anoint you."

—Henry Krause, spokesman for the Board of Regents, November 27, 1962

A School of Evangelism, part of the preliminary establishment of Oral Roberts University, hosts 350 ministers and their spouses for a week-long seminar in January. The participants come from 27 states; they are housed in the first two dormitory buildings constructed on the new 160-acre "campus" (residence halls subsequently named Braxton Hall and Shakarian Hall). Calling themselves the "Bridge Builder's Class," they study, worship, and eat meals together in the administrative building later named Timko-Barton Hall.
In May, 214 Partners come to ORU for the dedication of the dormitory rooms they sponsored the year before. Their generous Seed-Faith giving had made it possible for their vision of world evangelism to be extended through the lives of thousands of ORU students who would live in these dormitories.

This whole physical universe has a spiritual basis. It was created by God out of something that cannot be seen. The strength of this university really consists of something that no one can see. It is like the blowing of that rushing mighty wind that came in the Upper Room on Pentecost morning when the Holy Spirit descended. . . . If we can turn out thousands and thousands of graduates who are filled with and led by the Holy Spirit, we can start a new era. New life can come into the churches. The thinking of thousands of ministers can be changed toward a greater power in the Holy Spirit. . . . We're interested in more than turning out engineers, business administrators, lawyers, school teachers, musicians. We're interested in turning out men and women of God—every one of them a soul winner."

—ORAL ROBERTS, November 26, 1962
In June, 450 young people come to the campus for a four-day Youth Seminar — the first Youth Seminar class of the ORU School of Evangelism. They represent 40 states, 3 foreign nations, and 10 denominations. Among the speakers are several professors and administrators already on staff preparing the curriculum for the opening of a full liberal arts and sciences university scheduled for 1965.

ORU is officially chartered with the State of Oklahoma on November 9, as a private, nonsectarian, coeducational institution to be governed by a 41-member Board of Regents.

In November, an International Seminar is held on the new campus, with 212 delegates coming from 56 nations (and all continents) for 12 days of worship and study.
ORU pioneers development of a Dial Access Information and Retrieval System (DAIRS) as the central audiovisual component of its library and classroom media capabilities.

↑ Seminars for youth, ministers, and laymen continue to be held on the campus. More than 20,000 persons attend seminars in the two years prior to ORU's official opening as a liberal arts and sciences university.

In a letter to President Oral Roberts, the Ford Foundation cites ORU as one of the two most creative educational facilities in the world — the first to combine, under one roof, classrooms, administrative offices, space for a 500,000-volume library, and extensive audiovisual facilities.
ORU opens its doors to 303 students on September 7. (More than 3,900 students inquired or applied for admission to be part of the first class.) The students come from 43 states and 7 nations, and represent 21 different denominations. The faculty has 26 full-time and 11 part-time members.

ORU opens with a physical campus of seven major buildings: 1) The six-story Learning Resources Center (with the library, laboratory and classroom space, and auditoria), 2) the Health Resources Center (including gymnasium, basketball court, swimming pool, and student health services), 3-5) Braxton and Shakarian Halls (housing 160 students each) and a seven-story high-rise dormitory (Claudius Priscilla Roberts Hall — capable of accommodating 600 students), 6) the Power Plant, and 7) Timko-Barton Hall (used for classrooms, offices, dining hall, auditorium, lobby, and the theology library).
The first high-rise dormitory is dedicated in November.

Students take communion with Partners on November 1. Oral Roberts Ministries supporters and students form a vital partnership in reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the history of the human family, there has been only one completely whole man. This was Jesus of Nazareth. Our concept of the whole man is derived from His life and from the example He left us. Combining what we know about Him with the most modern techniques of higher education, we have brought into being this new university and through it, we reach for wholeness."

— ORAL ROBERTS, opening address to students, September 7, 1965
Construction begins on the Prayer Tower and its surrounding sunken gardens at the center of the campus.

ORU's academic program includes words not common on most American college campuses: "syllabus," "grade contract," and "colloquium." The academic performance of the student body is reflected by this outstanding statistic: 52 of the 450 students make the honor roll with a 3.5 grade point average.

On October 31, the ORU campus is suddenly darkened. Trumpets blare, and Oral Roberts leads 300 modern "Gideons" in a march of faith across the campus. Each contributed $10,000 toward construction of the Learning Resources Center. The Gideons have light the Eternal Flame at the entrance to the Learning Resources Center. The Gideons have each contributed $10,000 toward construction of the Learning Resources Center.

"ORU is the only university I know of that comes into being without a bias or prejudice against anything but sin. It does not stand as a monument for any denomination, for any organization, but it does stand as a monument where young men and women, as well as older people such as I, can come and receive blessings from God."

— DR. JOHN D. MESSICK, founding Academic Dean, March 1966

"God revealed to me that we should not divide and separate the spiritual and the secular; they were both His and were for our benefit and growth as His children. We look on a student as a person — as a whole person — and approach his education intellectually, physically, and spiritually. Our standard is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the whole Man, in whose likeness we seek to be made whole men and women. The baptism with the Holy Spirit, with the nine gifts of the Spirit, is the common source of power for the entire offerings of the university. That is to say, our search for truth is in the dimension of Christ Himself who is ultimate Truth. Our pursuit of knowledge — to acquire it, add to it, and pass it on — is combined with the pursuit of wisdom which is in the Person of Christ Himself. Our physical education program is on a par with the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. . . . We will not compromise either academic progress, physical development, spiritual growth, or social maturity."

— ORAL ROBERTS
"We light the flame, and may it burn until Jesus comes, unto the glory of God!"
— ORAL ROBERTS, as he lit the Eternal Flame in front of the Learning Resources Center

"Right in the center of the campus is the magnificent Prayer Tower. It's our greatest building, lifting up from the earth toward heaven, where prayer goes up without ceasing day and night, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's where the cries of the world are heard. Thousands come to see the Prayer Tower. They are amazed that there is a university fully accredited that dares to put at the heart of a place of learning a Prayer Tower. But what are we without prayer? What are we without God as our Source? What are we without places set aside to remind all who come that prayer changes things? What good is all the learning if we don't learn to pray, to trust in God, and to serve Him?"
— Oral Roberts
In May, a group of ORU students travels with Oral Roberts for a great crusade in Brazil as the university's first World Action Team.

ORU holds its first basketball game winning against Okmulgee Tech, 79-65. The ORU spirit song, written by Vep Ellis, is sung for the first time. Oral Roberts becomes the number one fan of the Titans.

The Prayer Tower is completed at the center of the ORU campus. On April 1, the Abundant Life Prayer Group moves into its new headquarters on the observation deck, where it continues to receive thousands of calls for prayer every day, 365 days a year. (More than one million calls for prayer have been received by the Abundant Life Prayer Group since it moved to the Prayer Tower.) Shortly after its opening, KORU — a 500,000-watt FM station staffed, in part, by ORU students — begins broadcasting from the observation-deck level.

ORU receives accreditation by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
During orientation, freshmen don beanies, declaring, "I am a lowly freshman, but I honor ORU."

Oklahoma Natural Gas Company Board Chairman C. C. Ingram terms ORU "Tulsa's good fortune, without much effort on Tulsa's part." Tulsa Chamber of Commerce President N.G. (Bill) Henthorne tells Tulsa Club members that ORU is a "brain gain" for the city during a citywide drive to raise $2.4 million in support of the university.

Shortly after the opening of ORU, I was called to a meeting to discuss the dedication of the university. As I entered the room, I saw a number of administrators already there. Only one seat remained empty. I was told to take that seat, and in so doing, I was told I had just become chairman of the dedication planning committee! I have seen similar incidents happen again and again on this campus. Individuals have been challenged to fill positions they never anticipated, and yet, in so doing, they have not only grown personally, but the university has moved forward with an energy and an enthusiastic drive that few places can rival.

— DR. WILLIAM JERNIGAN, faculty and administrator, 1965-1990

Oh, O-R-U, Oh, O-R-U, Oh, O-R University! Holy Spirit blessed, Seeking out the best Of the human trinity! Oh, O-R-U, Oh, O-R-U, Ordained for holy destiny! May your torch still burn At the Lord's return And count for eternity!
"If this institution ever moves away from faith in the Bible, and faith in God, and putting God first, then let us this day pronounce a curse on it. This institution was built by the prayers and the dedication and the money of men and women who love God, and who believe the Gospel, and who believe the Bible is the Word of God. And its founder and first president was an evangelist first and always of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whom God has used in many parts of the world.

"Thus, today, we come to the proposition of Christian education and to our dedication. I propose that you determine this day to keep a personal relationship between faculty and students. Secondly, I propose that you determine this day to keep the faith of those who founded this institution. Thirdly, I propose that you determine this day to develop strong minds, strong bodies, and high moral standards. Fourthly, I propose that you determine this day to keep an emphasis on evangelism. Fifthly, I propose that you maintain this day and from now on that 'first love' that the church of Ephesus left and was rebuked by our Lord when He said, 'Repent, or I'll take my power from you.' Let this university today — including the regents, the faculty, the students — be sure that they understand the purpose and objectives of the university. May Oral Roberts University produce a holy enthusiasm for the will of God."

— BILLY GRAHAM, April 2, 1967
Billy Graham is the featured speaker for official dedication services held at ORU on April 2, with a reported 20,000 people in attendance. Official greetings received from 35 colleges and universities in the United States and other nations are displayed. The two-hour ceremony also marks the official investiture of Oral Roberts as president of the university.

“Oral Roberts is a ‘can do’ man. . . . He sets his targets apparently far out of gunshot and then blows holes in them. No university in the world has a higher aim than O.R.U. — the training of ‘the whole man,’ the simultaneous dissemination of learning, high performance, and lofty purpose. We hope he gets away with it. Lord, how it is needed!”

— Editorial, April 4, 1967
A second high-rise dormitory (later named Ellis Melvin Roberts Hall in honor of Oral Roberts’ father) is completed for occupancy during the fall semester.

During the summer months, World Action Teams minister in 13 European nations (including Estonia).

Student enrollment reaches 865 (nearly three times the number of students enrolled only three years before). The faculty ranks swell to 60 full-time and 15 part-time members.

A student-led and student-initiated Sunday evening vespers service begins (known as “Abundant Life Chapel”). Chapel services are held on the fifth floor of the Learning Resources Center since the student body has outgrown the seating capacity of Timko-Barton Auditorium.

Eighteen students travel to Kenya for a World Action tour of ministry during the summer months, while 36 students take a World Action missionary trip through the nations of Europe.

WORLD ACTION. Inspired by one who has walked the evangelistic trail, propelled by prayer, empowered by the Spirit, bold to preach and pray, and willing to touch... ORU students go “where God’s light is seen dim, His voice is heard small, His power is not known.”
Coach Bemis Duke’s postcard recruiting technique attracts a top-20-rated tennis team to ORU.

The flags represent the nations from which ORU students had come, as well as the mission of ORU to go into all nations with the message of God’s healing power.

In 1969, when four of his tennis players were “recalled” to Czechoslovakia in the aftermath of the Prague invasion, Coach Bemis Duke (faculty 1965-1990) took a photo of one of the Czech players raising his country’s flag at the entrance to the ORU campus. “We’re a little Czechoslovakian outpost in the middle of America,” he wrote to the officials, “flying your flag on our campus. Couldn’t you let these students stay until school is over? We’re giving you great publicity and they’re representing your country well.” He got a letter back from the government extending the students’ stay, with a note reading, “Comrade Duke, we are puzzled but nonetheless pleased that you are a Czechoslovakian outpost.”
WORLD ACTION. Penetrating the Iron Curtain. Preaching under brush arbors. Choosing to make a difference.

ORU's first long-term missions outreach is established in Kenya. Thomas Wilson Jacob, Jiwan Hunter, Millard Parrish, and Bill Hull are commissioned for ministry, primarily to African high school students.

The Student Activities Center, with dining commons and student union, opens. ORU now has 10 buildings on a 450-acre campus, and students from 49 states, 17 nations, and 33 denominations.
"Could students emerge from this university among the world's most-wanted graduates? Why not? When a graduate has a healthy body and knows how to care for it, a trained and disciplined mind that never settles for less than excellence, an invincible spirit of integrity inspired by a personal relationship with the living God, and driven by an irresistible desire to be a whole man to help make a troubled world whole again, then there will be a place where he can make his contribution."

— ORAL ROBERTS

"I challenge you to charge into the battle and make your voices, your personalities known, wherever you are. . . . The young person who surrenders his life to Christ is just entering the abundant life that will make his activities contributory to the most minute or to the most gigantic possibilities, regardless of profession or vocation. So carry Jesus Christ in your heart and let Him be reflected through your countenance, because your face may be found as the map of your heart, the table of contents of your mind, the battleground of your passions, the playground of your emotions, and the landscape of your soul."

— DR. JOHN D. MESSICK, during the pioneer students' baccalaureate service, 1969
It is the purpose of Oral Roberts University, in its commitment to the historic Christian faith, to assist the student in his quest for knowledge of his relationship to God, man, and the universe. Dedicated to the realization of Truth and the achievement of one's potential life capacity, the university seeks to graduate an integrated person—spiritually alive, intellectually alert, and physically disciplined.

To accomplish this purpose, Oral Roberts University seeks a synthesis of the best traditions of a liberal arts education with a charismatic concern...healing for the totality of human need.

"Our founding purpose is not debatable. It cannot be changed; it can only be reaffirmed. We've always been open to change of methods and procedures, but not our principles. Our principles are based upon the Word of God, upon Jesus Christ Himself, and these principles are eternal and unchanging.

"This is God's NOW. That means you can start anew and you can start planting some new Seed-Faith. Everything you do is a seed you plant, whether it's a bad thing or a good thing. It's a seed and it will be multiplied back to you. It will come back for good or for bad."

—Oral Roberts, in chapel, April 30, 1970

Out of its self-study process toward application for full academic accreditation, a formal statement of purpose is adopted.

More than 60 percent of general education courses are now using DAIRS for the dissemination of lectures.

ORU's first Fulbright Scholarship recipient is named—Julie Hurlbut—who subsequently pursues Slavic Studies in Kraków, Poland.

ORU is named Tulsa's number one tourist attraction with more than 100,000 visitors a year.

The Spiritual Life Department begins a daily communion service.
Fans pack out the gymnasium in the Health Resources Center to watch Titan basketball action.

During ORU’s first five years of operation, World Action Teams accompanied President Roberts or were sent by him to Brazil, Indonesia, Chile, 13 nations in Europe (including Estonia), Israel, Africa, Jamaica, Haiti, and Trinidad. Other student ministry groups went on their own initiative to the Soviet Union. In all, more than 100 students participated—nearly one in ten students.
ORU student body enrollment tops 1,000 for the first time. (Actual enrollment is 1,006 students!)

On March 31, President Roberts can't hold back the tears as he announces to students and faculty in chapel the news that he has just received: full academic accreditation has been granted on an "unconditional, ten-year basis" from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

A survey of alumni reveals that 27 percent of ORU's graduates are pursuing graduate studies, with another 22 percent planning additional academic training. Some 45 percent are involved in teaching, preaching, counseling, church-related work, and other service professions.

ORU offers B.A., B.S., and B.M.E. degrees in 18 fields on the undergraduate level.

"ORU is something that 'couldn't happen,' but did... The world needs ORU - it is filling a place and meets a need that no other college or university does in the same way, according to my knowledge. I believe God has chosen President Roberts and the regents, faculty, and students for 'such a time as now'."

— Lee Braxton, founding Chairman of the ORU Board of Regents
"So the Mabee Center is not just another big building – it is God's miracle to us to help us continue in our goal to reach out into every man's world as a witness to the great power of God."

— ORAL ROBERTS, February 1973

Construction begins on the southwest corner of the campus for a Special Events Center (later named Mabee Center), a 10,575-seat arena for athletic and special events.

Since ORU opened its doors, an estimated 50,000 students have participated in the life and ministry of the campus — as full-time, part-time, continuing education, correspondence, or seminar students. Most have experienced a common ritual as resident students...
Noted for his 20-foot-range jump shot, before the three-point-play era, Richard Fuqua set ORU's one-game scoring record of 66 points and had a career high of 8,022 points. His #24 jersey has been retired.

"Magnificent Mabee Center" is completed. A prime-time television special is taped there October 17. The program features a number of guests, including Billy Graham (who speaks at the first public meeting in the building). This 230,000-square-foot, elliptically-shaped facility houses a performing arts quadrant and Oklahoma's largest indoor sports arena.

The Titan basketball team sets an NCAA scoring record of 105.1 points per game, leads the nation in rebounding, and receives its first bid to a post-season tournament (the National Invitation Tournament in Madison Square Garden, New York City).

ORU is dubbed "Miracle U" by NEWSWEEK magazine.

Dr. Lavoy Hatchett, faculty 1965-1990 (and longtime Titan timekeeper)
"I first became aware of singing in the Holy Spirit as a group phenomenon during one of the Contact television programs taped at Mabee Center. Students were present. The guest star—one of the most famous performers in America—was sitting at the front, his back to the students, awaiting his turn to sing. During a break in the taping, a group of students far away from the guest began singing softly in the Spirit and this praise singing moved through the audience just as a breeze might rustle the leaves of a tree on a still summer evening. The guest rose to his feet, turned halfway around, and shielded his eyes from the hot spotlights as if to look for the Source of the sound. I hope he found Him! For it is that moving of the Spirit that has been so central to ORU, and to life."

—DR. VERBAL SNOOK, faculty 1965-1990

A telecommunications major is added to the degrees offered; equipment is added to the campus to make possible network-quality broadcast production.

With the completion of Mabee Center, Oral Roberts brings his national television ministry "home" to the campus. Students and faculty participate regularly as performers (most notably, the World Action Singers), audience members, stagehands, and camera crew members.
The twin-tower residence halls, housing 500 students, are constructed on the campus. They are later named Susie Vinson Hall and Wesley Luehring Hall.

More than 40 denominations have regularly been represented by the ORU student body. This is the present denominational breakdown of the university:

- Pentecostal denominations: 35.5%
- Independent Charismatic fellowships: 9.3%
- Independent or interdenominational fellowships: 40.5%
- Mainline denominations (e.g., United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian): 7.8%
- Evangelical denominations (e.g., Baptist): 5.2%
- Other: 1.7%

Over a two-year period (1972-74), the university increases its enrollment 93 percent (to just under 2,000 students) and increases its financial value by 90 percent (to $95 million).
"The Honor Code does not deal so much with rules and regulations. It deals with your attitude and your spirit. It tells us much about you as a person and how you think toward yourself, what you think about God and other people, and about society at large. . . . It tells us if you want to gain wisdom along with the knowledge you are studying. . . . The Honor Code tells us if you honestly seek the approval of God upon your study and personal life.

"The Honor Code is different from the attitude and behavior of society which is rejecting God and degenerating into moral and spiritual suicide. It tells whether you want to help build a better society, a better world, or to tear it down."

— ORAL ROBERTS

Qualifications of incoming students continue to be excellent — 40 percent of incoming freshmen rank in the top 10 percent of their high school classes.
Howard Auditorium, which seats 1,000 for music, drama, and public-speaking events, opens on the campus.

"I never cease to be amazed at the talented and dedicated faculty and students that God sends to ORU. What a blessing — far beyond my grandest expectation — to help train and prepare for ministry over 5,000 music students during the last 25 years. Wherever they may be today . . . I believe in my heart they have a lasting Song of songs in their souls."

— GENE ELAND, faculty 1965-1990
The arts have found multiple, varied, frequent, and well-noted acceptance since the earliest days at ORU. From children’s theater to opera... from classical melodies to pep band rhythm to Souls A’Fire “gospel”... in groups or alone at keyboards and easels... ORU students have learned and practiced their crafts even as they have explored the use of their talents in ministry.

Anthony Roberts gains All-American status in leading ORU to its first NCAA tournament action. His #15 jersey has been retired.
The ORU campus has been built by the faithful Seed-Faith gifts of the Partners of the Oral and Richard Roberts Ministries. There is perhaps no greater testimony in the world to what God’s people can do, over time — uniting together in their gifts of $10, $20, $50, $100, month in and month out — with God’s blessing. Oral Roberts University continues to be good soil, for good seeds planted in faith!
"I have walked and prayed over virtually every foot of these 500 acres. I pray this ground shall be like that of which Jesus spoke when He said that some seed would fall on fertile soil and bring forth an hundredfold. I pray these buildings and our university community shall be like the wise man who, Jesus said, 'built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.'"

— Oral Roberts

"ORU has exceeded the dreams of its founders. Thousands of ORU graduates are now making a major contribution to society in America and around the world. Only the future will record the impact of this university on the economic, political, and social structures of the world. The excellent record of ORU in the academic world speaks for itself. The major impact of ORU, however, has been on the Body of Christ — the Church. Today, thousands of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are serving churches with the spiritual riches they received in this great institution. Through ORU, its founder Oral Roberts, and the excellent faculty that has graced the classrooms of this university, the entire Body of Christ has been blessed with a fresh awareness of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit."

— Vinson Synan, noted church historian and ORU Regent
"You hear a lot about accountability and credibility in ministries in America today. You are sitting in the middle of credibility and accountability as you sit in this chapel building. If you could see this building filled with students and hear them sing in the Spirit and pray in the Spirit and hear the Word of God preached from the chaplain of ORU — who is a graduate of ORU and of our Signs and Wonders Seminary — you could feel the power of God on this campus. Look around and see the buildings surrounding this chapel. This is a university where Jesus Christ is at the center of the lifestyle. This is a university where you get your learning but keep your burning. This is a university built on the power of God. Talk about credibility and accountability. You can see it every place you turn on this campus."

— RICHARD ROBERTS, May 1987
Noted physical fitness leader Kenneth Cooper is present for the opening of the Aerobics Center that bears his name. This $2-million facility houses physical education classrooms, four hardwood basketball courts, gymnastic and weight-training areas, an indoor track, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and the Human Performance Laboratory. Earning “aerobics points” becomes a part of life for every ORU student.

The university opens its Department of Nursing . . . begins majors in aerobics, chemistry, special education/learning disabilities, and computer science . . . and offers a baccalaureate degree in music, with concentrations in performance, sacred music, and composition.

A residence hall for 80 athletes is constructed.

The former Health Resources Center is remodeled to become the Classroom Center.
“Wholeness will be a way of life here. Here you can reach for excellence and find it. If your muscles are flabby, you will have to toughen them. If you have been sheltered, you will have to make adjustments to the outside world. Competition is furious out there. To make the grade you will have to call forth every resource of your inner and outer man—in short, you will have to stand up on the inside and be able to take the offensive.... I am asking you to get the vision of wholeness...and to help start a unique trend toward sanity and achievement in this exploding civilization.”

—ORAL ROBERTS, opening night banquet, September 1965

ORU graduates 324 students — more than the total enrollment when the university opened a decade before.

Physical fitness at Oral Roberts University has a variety of facets:

- a physical education class required of each student, each semester;
- individual aerobic activity—such as running, cycling, swimming;
- intramural team sports—from tag football to ping pong;
- and even a competitive marathon now and then.
ORU chapel services — the spiritual heartbeat of the campus for students and faculty.

"This chapel will be a hallowed place where weary students can come in from their studies several times each week, coming with their needs and problems, with their hopes and faith, and with their Bibles in hand to hear the Word of God preached; where they can sing and pray and testify and worship together, drawing strength and courage from the presence of the Holy Spirit and from each other."

— ORAL ROBERTS

Construction is completed for the $4-million, 4,000-seat Worship Center — later named Christ's Chapel — which also houses the Spiritual Life Department and the Counseling Center. Oral Roberts Ministry Partners share in the spiritual harvest of people reached for Jesus Christ by ORU students and graduates.

Plans are announced for the expansion of the university into graduate and professional education — theology, business, education, law, and health sciences.

"When I first learned about ORU, I was thrilled. The idea of a university that would train young people in their spirits, minds, and bodies, and send them out to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ wherever they went, was most exciting. It has been a joy to watch the development of the university and of the students and to have had a small part in it."

— ELEANOR FOSTER, ORU Regent

The first Summer Music Ministry Teams leave the campus for ministry across the nation. These teams are student-led and student-sponsored, and coordinated through the Spiritual Life Department.
"From the moment I met Oral in the 1940s, I knew he was truly a man of God. It was evident that he was one of God's choicest vessels and he was obedient to the voice of God. When he expressed his vision for ORU, I had no doubt this was a mandate from God. Becoming involved with the mission of the university was an easy decision. To send forth God's messengers where His voice is not heard and where His light is dim, was something with which I immediately identified."

— Michael Cardone, Sr., founding member, ORU Board of Regents

The faculty increases by 20 percent to bring the total to 300 full-time and part-time members as the university gears up for graduate degree programs.

"As a student entering ORU in 1966, I had no idea the great impact ORU was going to have on my life. The first day when President Roberts told us God's calling and God's purpose for the university, a new sense of destiny for my life began to stir. Throughout my four years at ORU, I learned much about Christian living, about my walk with the Lord, and my personal dedication to His service. I can say that I would not be serving God as effectively as I am as a businessman, if it were not for the training that I received while I was at ORU. God is using our business as a lighthouse to our particular industry."

— Michael Cardone, Jr., ORU Regent

(ORU alumnus Michael Cardone, Jr., is president of Cardone Industries, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.)
J.L. Johnson Stadium — a 2,200-seat, $750,000 baseball facility — is constructed on the campus. President Oral Roberts is present to throw out the first ball before a capacity crowd.

ORU breaks ground on President Roberts' birthday, January 24, for a massive Graduate Center that will house the graduate and professional schools, and more than double the size of the Learning Resources Center at the heart of the campus. Again, Partners faithfully support this growth in the university outreach. ORU would not exist apart from the generous Seed-Faith giving of the Partners of the Oral Roberts Ministry.

School status is granted to the Department of Nursing and it is officially named the ORU Anna Vaughn School of Nursing.

"The overall purpose of this university is far beyond its academic purpose, and that is to take God's saving and healing power to this generation."

— ORAL ROBERTS
Ground is broken for 240 apartment units for graduate and married students in an area west of the campus.

Summer Missions Teams leave the campus for the first time for ministry overseas. These teams are student-initiated and student-sponsored, and trained through the Spiritual Life Department. Since 1976, ORU has sent out 1,686 students as part of Summer Missions Teams. They have gone to more than 30 nations around the world and have led more than 50,000 people to acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.
The first students are admitted to a Master of Biomedical Science degree program.

ORU officially opens its School of Dentistry (following notice of accreditation) and accepts 25 students for its initial class.

Oral Roberts announces plans for a major endowment project of the university — the development of the City of Faith Health-Care Center — which provides a clinical training site for ORU’s health sciences schools. Partners of the Oral Roberts Ministries rally in support of the new facility to ensure the ongoing purpose of the university: to take God’s healing power to the nations.

ORU sends its first korfball team to international competition in Europe. (Korfball, a co-ed team sport popular in western European nations, is offered by ORU’s Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, and becomes yet another avenue for ministry!) In all, 133 students traveled in the summer missions program to share their faith in 45 cities across the United States and in 7 other nations.
The $4-million Mabee Center Television Production Studio (now commonly referred to as “Baby Mabee”) is completed and provides for production of the ministry’s network television programs and expanded educational programming for the university.

The ORU campus seems to have been a magnet for nationally and internationally recognized preachers, politicians, and entertainers. Some have spoken in chapel, some have performed at Mabee Center, some have participated in the Oral and Richard Roberts television ministries, and others have taught classes — giving students a from-the-inside-out look at “every man’s world.” These are but a few who have made their way to ORU...

“As a large agribusiness employer, father of a 1977 ORU graduate, and 15 years a Regent...I like what I see at Oral Roberts University. ‘Educating the whole person’ gives the student a major advantage in dealing with life’s problems and relations in the business world. Not only is ORU a world-class learning facility — it is also developing the spiritual and physical well-being of its students. To parents and students I say: ‘Look us over! I believe you, too, will like what you see!’

— FRANK HOLDER, ORU Regent
“You have to reject the mediocre. . . Look at the great earth God created. Behold the wonders of this creation. How can we build less than the best if we really have faith in God.”

— ORAL ROBERTS

Work is completed on the $20-million, 458,000-square-foot Graduate Center adjoining the Learning Resources Center. The new facility houses the professional and graduate schools, including classrooms, offices, lecture halls, laboratories, conference rooms, and an additional 60,000 square feet of library space. Throughout, classrooms and lecture halls are outfitted with innovative media capabilities.

Some 190 apartments are added to the graduate housing complex, as well as a community center and day-care facilities. Student vesper services provide a “gathering point” for graduate students.

Enrollment jumps more than 16 percent in one year and tops 4,000 full-time and part-time students for the first time. The faculty also experiences a 16-percent growth and numbers 350 full-time and part-time members.
This concept of wholeness is now being elevated one step higher into the Healing Team concept. We will now be able to take what was essentially a personal emphasis on individual wholeness in mind, body, and spirit, and move that into the arenas, into the crossroads that all individuals must pass in their lifetimes — medicine, theology, business, law, education.

— DR. CARL HAMILTON, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, October 27, 1978
Twenty-two graduates of ORU form a Healing Team in Jerusalem on the principle of merging prayer and medicine, and assist in a clinic that serves 16,000 children and their mothers each year.

"As a young minister, I heard the Lord say to me, 'Go into all the WORLD and preach the Gospel.' . . . The Lord brought to my mind the 60 million men and women in America who turn first to the sports pages of their newspapers . . . people for whom the sports page almost seems to be their bible. And the Lord impressed me, 'Go into every man's world — even into the world of sports.' I got excited when I began to see the possibility of a great witness for Christ through a winning athletic program. I saw in my mind stories of our teams and their Christian witness on the sports pages of America . . . I saw millions reading this witness . . . millions who might not be reached in any other way."

— ORAL ROBERTS

The first class of 54 students enrolls in the O.W. Coburn School of Law; the Honorable Byron R. White, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, speaks at the school's dedication.

Two 12-story residence halls are opened providing housing for an additional 750 students. These halls are later named Michael Cardone Hall and Frances Cardone Hall.

For the fall semester, 24.4 percent of the student body earns a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.
The Lady Titan gymnastics team finishes 12th in a national poll. Both the Lady Titan basketball and volleyball teams win state championships.

Titan fans have a lot to cheer about as the basketball, golf, tennis, and cross-country teams all win Midwestern City Conference championships. The “Titan Train” develops as an all-student-body cheer.

ORU hosts the international United Methodist Congress on Evangelism. ORU also sponsors its first Conference on the Holy Spirit, attracting 1,400 participants from across the nation.

The ORU golf team is ranked third in the nation.

The baseball team is ranked 8th in the nation in fielding; 10th in pitching.

Mike Moore, number one draft pick, who went on to a World Series championship with the Oakland A's (pitching two of the four winning games).

. . . . but certainly none has been more beloved than Bob DeWeese, longtime associate evangelist of Oral Roberts and former Chairman of the ORU Board of Regents.
The School of Business establishes its first endowed chair — in free enterprise.

The School of Education begins a Master of Arts program (with an emphasis on adult literacy).

New undergraduate majors are added in engineering science, engineering management, biomedical engineering, physics, physics with a premed emphasis, pastoral ministry, and evangelistic ministry.

ORU receives accreditation to the Ph.D. level in record time — only ten years after its first full undergraduate accreditation.

"I'll tell you what there is to fear: Compromise. Letting down God's spiritual and moral standards. Trying to receive first, rather than giving first. Looking to man instead of to God. Becoming discouraged instead of expecting miracles from the seed you plant. Settling for second best rather than God's best."

— ORAL ROBERTS
"In the last 25 years, ORU athletic teams and individuals have captured the attention and respect of an increasingly sports-attentive national and international public. In intercollegiate championships, Olympic competitions, and in the professional arena, current ORU students and graduates are presenting athletic accomplishments as a testimony to the excellence of Jesus Christ."
—KEN TRICKEY, Athletic Director

ORU's athletic program is ranked 26th among the 266 NCAA Division I schools for the 1980-81 season; the ranking is based on the performance of schools in the NCAA's leading sports. The Titan golf team finishes second in the NCAA championships.

ORU PLAYERS WHO HAVE ENTERED PROFESSIONAL RANKS

**Basketball**
- Jeff Acres
- Mark Acres
- Calvin Garrett
- Anthony Roberts
- Alvin Scott
- Clarence Thompson
- Haywoode Workman

**Women's Basketball**
- Vivian Herron
- Rhonda Penquite
  (All-American)

**Baseball**
- George Bjorkman
- Todd Burns
- Jeff Heathcock
- Steve Hecht
- Ray Krawczyk
- Keith Lockhart
- Dave Marcon
- Mike Mason
- Tim McCoy
- Ron Meridith
- Keith Miller
- Mike Moore
- Tom Nieto
- Bill Springman
- Kelvin Torve
- Bob Volk
- Bob Zupcic

**Tennis**
- Pekka Saila (Davis Cup Coach—Finland)

**Golf**
- Dave Barr
- Bill Glasson
Joni Treffert is named a Fulbright Scholarship recipient for study in Germany.

ORU awards degrees to graduates from all of its schools for the first time: Arts and Sciences, Business, Theology, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Law, and Education.

The ORU School of Arts and Sciences now offers 64 majors or areas of academic concentration.

John Persons, an '82 business graduate, receives the top score in the nation on the paper he writes for the certified public accountant exam. He also receives the gold medal for the State of Oklahoma and the Elijah Watt Sells Award from the American Institute of CPAs.

Nine Summer Music Ministry Teams travel to churches and prisons across the United States during the summer months.
Since the university was founded, ORU students have given away nearly half a million man-hours in Christian Service Council ministry to more than 70 ministries and social service agencies in the greater Tulsa area, including outreaches to the handicapped, elderly, orphaned, juvenile delinquent, imprisoned, infirm, poor, youth, and hungry.

Sam Hunter is awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study in Finland.

Some 1,500 students (40 percent of the ORU student body) participate regularly in the 70 student-led ministry outreaches coordinated by the Christian Service Council.

The engineering program receives a major gift making possible its computer-assisted design system.

In April, ORU begins the Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF) — a fellowship linking Charismatic, Full Gospel, and Pentecostal schools serving Christian elementary and secondary students.

"This university is rising at a critical hour to call the world’s attention to the fact that there is a God — that mankind can rise to new heights, his soul can take wings, and his mind can dream dreams. He can go into a troubled world and make people whole again."

— ORAL ROBERTS, October 1982
ORU's Lady Titan basketball team is nationally ranked in the top 20 for the first time, earning a perfect 26-0 record for its season and finishing third in the National Women's Invitational Tournament.

All-American Mark Acres leads the Titan basketball team to its second NCAA tournament appearance.

ORU's first Ph.D. program (biomedical science with a concentration in physiology) receives approval from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ORU is recognized by the Newcomen Society of the United States for exemplifying the spirit of free enterprise.

The O.W. Coburn School of Law hosts its fourth annual Christianity and Law Seminar entitled "Bioethics and Law."

A live daily television program begins broadcasting from Mabee Center television studios. Hosted by Richard Roberts, the program gives students telecommunication experience, both in front of the cameras and behind them! ORU also begins a major in broadcast design — a blend of art and telecommunication.

ORU is recognized by the Newcomen Society of the United States for exemplifying the spirit of free enterprise.

The ORU Anna Vaughn School of Nursing receives initial accreditation from the National League for Nursing for its Master of Science program.
Six ORU students travel up the Amazon River to minister in areas previously unreached with the Gospel and to plant churches in various parts of Brazil. They are among 300 students who participate in the summer missions program in nations around the world.

The Early Learning Center, under the leadership of the School of Education, opens south of the campus, extending whole-person concepts to children from ages 6 weeks to 12 years. The center now has more than 300 students enrolled in full-time and part-time programs.

"As a sophomore at a state college, I realized my need for a Spirit-led, Bible-centered education. It became clear to me that the approach of educating the mind while ignoring the spirit of man had created many of the world's problems. God led me to ORU to pursue academic excellence from a biblical perspective. It was at ORU that I learned that Jesus is to be the focus of everything. HE IS THE KING!"

— BILLY JOE DAUGHERTY, ORU Regent

(ORU alumnus Billy Joe Daugherty is pastor of Victory Christian Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma.)

Students Receiving Degrees from ORU in Various Academic Disciplines (undergraduate and graduate)

- Theology & Missions: 18%
- Arts & Sciences: 43%
- Health Sciences: 7%
- Education: 7%
- Business: 25%

Accreditation
Oklahoma State Regents
North Central Association
Oklahoma Department of Education (Education)
Council on Social Work Education (Social Work)
National Association of Schools of Music (Music)
National League for Nursing (Nursing)

Graduate Level
Association of Theological Schools (Theology)
Surveys reveal that over 85 percent of ORU students who apply to graduate schools are accepted. Those applying to medical schools are accepted at a 75-percent rate and to dental schools at a 90-percent rate.

People. It's the one word to which students, faculty, and administrators alike come back when describing the best part of their ORU experience. People caring, communicating, and challenging other people. They are what make ORU a fulfilling place to live, work, and grow.

Fall enrollment tops 4,700 students.

The O.W. Coburn School of Law is transferred to CBN University (now Regent University) in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

During the summer, students travel to 25 nations through ORU's summer missions program. They are involved in crusade preaching, teaching, church planting, street evangelism, English instruction, and praise ministry. One team ministers to Christian believers in Eastern Europe.

"We're going to be very busy here at ORU, but we're never going to be too busy to let anything supersede our love, one for another, on this campus, or for those who come to this campus from time to time."

—TOMMY TYSON, founding Director, Spiritual Life Department, to students during orientation session for the first class, 1965
The Spiritual Life Department sponsors its first “We Love You, Tulsa” day, in which more than 800 students volunteer time and talent to 23 city organizations.

For the seventh straight year, Mu Kappa, ORU’s student chapter of the Tri-Beta biology honor society, is named one of the top six chapters in the nation.

ORU’s School of Education begins a Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) program, primarily to help train students and faculty for work, study, and outreach to China.

The Visitors Center at ORU expands its operation to include phase I of “The Journey Through the Bible” on June 1.

The last class of the ORU School of Dentistry graduates. ORU graduated more than 120 dentists during the nine years the school was in operation.

“Pitching coach Jim Brewer (1977-86) whose #29 jersey has been retired.

“How proud I am of dedicated, Spirit-filled, hardworking, loving, and giving faculty members at ORU. You just can’t put a price on this kind of person who seeks to put God first and to give and give and give. . . . I believe that every ORU student, every faculty member, and every staff person is called to be here. Long before ORU was built I began to pray, ‘God, send who You want to ORU. Don’t let any student come here whom You don’t want here, but please enable everyone You want here to come. And the same goes for the faculty and staff.’ I believe God has answered my prayer.”

—ORAL ROBERTS
U.S. News and World Report rates ORU as one of the twelve best colleges in the southern and border states, according to college presidents surveyed in those regions.

ORU students win the Oklahoma Academy of Science Award for the 7th time in the past 11 years.

ORU’s chapter of the American Chemical Society is ranked among the top four percent in the nation.

More than 1,000 students begin meeting at 6:30 a.m. every Wednesday for a voluntary time of prayer and worship.

Education majors score the highest average passing rate on the state teaching exam administered by the State of Oklahoma.

The Titans defeat crosstown rival Tulsa University to bring the Mayor’s Cup home to Mabee Center.

From the Record Books

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*NAIA teams are currently fielded in these sports
†Includes tournament play

Post-Season Accomplishments

Men’s Basketball
2 NCAA Tournaments (1974, 1984)
1 NAIA Tournament (1990)
2 Midwestern Collegiate Conference Championships
8 All-American Players

Women’s Basketball
1 NIT Tournament

Men’s Baseball
8 NCAA Tournaments (1978, 1980-83, 1985-87)
1 College World Series (1978)

Men’s Golf
2 NCAA Tournaments
Our purpose is to take our Lord at His Word and be filled with the Spirit and, frankly, to be charismatic—or to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring forth the knowledge, wisdom, faith, love, and power of God's Holy Son in every aspect of our lives. Whether in class, dormitory room, chapel, laboratory, gym, athletic activity, on campus, or off campus, we would be His witnesses. We would strive to join the secular and spiritual in a harmonious whole, with our goal always being to be more like our Savior, the Whole Man. We have discovered this is easier to say than do...we see the goal might never be fully realized on this earth. But reaching toward this goal is to be a consuming passion, a never-ending quest.

—ORAL ROBERTS

At ORU, we study study study study study study study study study study...to show ourselves approved, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

The library now has 600,000 volumes and 300,000 microforms, making it one of the most substantive libraries in the Southwest.
"All the toil and sweat and tears we endured by our faith will become our great joy—if the university can be a vehicle to produce the leaders of the future, especially in the signs and wonders ministry. Without this kind of new leadership in the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, this great flow of the Holy Spirit and signs and wonders will subside."

— Oral Roberts

On May 7, ORU graduates its 10,000th student—Benny Claude Bridges, Jr.—an undergraduate business student from Hobbs, New Mexico. As ORU students go into “every man’s world” with the healing and saving power of Jesus, they are raised up as the successor to Oral Roberts and his Partners.

ORU graduates lead the cast and crew of Toymaker’s Dream—a dramatic production that travels to the Soviet Union to share the Gospel message.

That joy-filled time on Sunday evenings which gives a center for the soul. Breaking bread together... singing His praises... worshipping with abandon... and hearing His voice. Vespers.
“What made the fire fall on ORU? Because President Roberts heard the voice of God. That’s what made the difference. That fire will keep burning as we all hear His voice. There are over 900 flames here this afternoon and they’re all going to take this fire and go all over the world with the Gospel. They’re going to hear the voice of God because hearing the voice of God makes the difference!”

— MARILYN HICKEY, Chairman, ORU Board of Regents, during Commencement 1989

Foreign nations currently represented in the Oral Roberts University student body:

Australia
Bahamas
Bahrain
Belize
Bolivia
Botswana
Canada
China
Colombia
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Germany
Ghana
Guatemala
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Jamaica
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Liberia

Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
Netherlands
Antilles
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Saudi Arabia
Sikkim
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
United Kingdom
Venezuela
West Indies
Zimbabwe
Physician-led Healing Teams have begun clinical work in Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya, and are preparing to enter Nigeria.

The Center for Lifelong Education is established to meet the needs of older students who cannot come to the campus to pursue full-time studies.

Flanked by a preacher and a physician — both trained at Oral Roberts University — Oral Roberts ministers to the sick in Kakamega, Kenya.
ORU closes its School of Medicine, having graduated 333 physicians trained to merge prayer and medicine.

Richard Roberts leads a team of ORU students into the Baltic states of the U.S.S.R. for concerts that became healing services — in obeying God's call on his life to take the Gospel to 40 nations.

During the summer, 185 students travel to 30 nations as part of the summer missions program — the highest number of nations reached since the program began in 1976.

The ORU student body includes 16 National Merit Scholars. (ORU has had 74 National Merit Scholars in its student body in the past 16 years.)

In March, 700 ORU students reach out to Tulsa for a concentrated day of ministry in the city's toughest neighborhoods.

Forty-five percent of graduates go on to some type of graduate education or professional training.

“I dream that once again Jesus of Nazareth, who walked the sandy shores of Galilee, who went up and down the land of Israel healing the sick, casting out devils, supplying people's needs, forgiving their sin, changing their nature, making them whole — I dream that He'll walk our earth again through us. I dream that people who believe in prayer and healing, will also believe that they need a physician. I dream that those who believe in medicine will understand they need the power of prayer. I dream of medicine and of prayer becoming the same delivery system of God to bring His full healing power. . . . I dream that preachers and doctors will sit down together and work under Christ to heal people. . . . I believe in a breakthrough against disease, against demon power, against mental illness, against sin.”

— ORAL ROBERTS
The Future of ORU

BY RICHARD ROBERTS

Many people ask me, “What is the future for ORU?” I believe with all my heart that the future for ORU is very bright indeed.

I know beyond any doubt that God raised up this university as a beacon of light to young people all over the world who want a strong academic education and to learn how to hear God’s voice.

As a young person I always wanted to hear from God. Then to my amazement, He spoke to me by His Holy Spirit while I was attending another university and He told me I belonged at ORU. I decided to obey His voice.

At ORU I got my “learning” and kept my “burning!” My life was totally turned toward God. I not only got a quality education but I found myself and my purpose in life. And this has happened to thousands of young
people who have passed through Oral Roberts University.

Wherever my travels take me, people ask me about ORU. And wherever I go I meet the alumni who are involved in so many fields: education, science, computers, medicine, law, business, ministry, missions, and other areas, too. They always have a good word to say about God and ORU. Many say to me, “Don’t change a thing about ORU! Don’t change the Honor Code.” They also tell me how they are praying for ORU and sowing seeds of faith into THEIR university to ensure its spiritual, academic, and financial future.

Raising up students to hear God’s voice and to go where His light is seen dim, His voice is heard small, His power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth, knowing their work will exceed that of Oral Roberts — this has been the call of Oral Roberts University. And this will remain the call.

We must continue our quest for excellence in spirit, mind, and body. We will continue in our journey to “build God a university, to build it on His authority, and on the Holy Spirit.”

This is our charge from God and my pledge is that we’ll keep pursuing it!
"The Holy Spirit has made you overseers of the university. Now the Board of Trustees gives you the authority and the power to carry on this university for the winning of souls, for the training of spiritual leaders, for the lifting of high standards in Christian education ... and to launch this tremendous ministry of training to last until the coming of the Lord. Whether His coming be in one day, one year, a hundred or a thousand years, you will see to it by God's anointing and guidance that this university will stand until the Lord comes. God give you help and strength. God give you a binding love for this institution that will grow deeper than it now is, that the depth of it will be beyond all telling."

— ORAL ROBERTS, to the founding Board of Regents, November 27, 1962

Those Who Have Served as Members of ORU's Board of Regents

Ike Akamine*
Nona Askew
John Avanzini
Tommy Barnett
Charles Blake
James Blanchett
Walter Block, Sr.*
Robert G. Bohler*
Pat Boone
Guy Braselton
S. Lee Braxton** (1963-78)
Al Bush
Harold Calhoon
Gerald Canning
Michael Cardone, Jr.
Michael Cardone, Sr.*
Nicholas Cardone*
Marajen Chinigo
Kenneth Copeland
Charles Creighton
Jan Crouch
W.M. Dary*
Billy Joe Daugherty
Robert F. DeWeese** (1984-87)
Neal Dorsch
Ray Dotson*
Leo Draughon
Luther Duda
Vep Ellis*
Terry Fisher
Frank Foglio*
Don Ford
James Ford, M.D.
Eleanor Foster
George Gardner
Velmer Gardner*
John Gimenez
Clarence Glasgow
Robert Gorham, Jr.
Isabelle Graham
Joe Graham, D.D.S.
Charles Green
Rosey Grier
Herman Gunster
John Hagee
Robert Hamilton, M.D., Ph.D.
Don Hampton
John Harris
J.B. Hawthorne
Jack Hayford
Fannie Lou Hayward, M.D.
C.F. Hewitt
Marilyn Hickey** (1988-current)
Benny Hinn
Byron Hirst
Frank Holder
Eugene Holley
Darrell Hon*
William Howard
Benson Idaho
Dr. R.E. Ingold
Thomas Irvin*
E.W. Jackson*
James A. Johnson, M.D.
Lamar Johnston*
Byron A. Jones*
Harold Kobayashi*
Charles Kothe
Henry Krause*
Gary LaGere
Kay Lambeth
Terry Law
Larry Lea
Morris Liechty
Jack Linn*
Don Locke*
Bruce Lockhart
B.P. Loughridge, M.D.
Dan Malachuk
Maudie McConnell
George McGlennen
William McKinney, Jr.
John H. McKnight** (1981-83)
Harry McNevin
Don Meares
John Meares
Jere Melilli, M.D.
Lowell Merrell
Dale Mitchell
Douglas Moberly
Homer Moxley*
Don Moyers** (1979-80)
Marshall Nash
William Nash
John Osteen
Robert Patterson
James Pattison
Earl Paulk
James Paxton
Carlton Pearson
Richard Pearson
Dr. Howard Peto
Roberta Potts
Robert Powell*
Ralph Quest*
Bill Ramsey
Harold Ray
Donald Reece
Thomas Reid
Maxine Reiff
William Reiff, M.D.
Cy Rich, Jr.
C.V. Richardson
Lola Richardson
Claudius Priscilla Roberts
Rev. E.M. Roberts
E.V. Roberts, D.D.S.
Evelyn Roberts
G. Oral Roberts*
Richard Roberts
Virgie Roberts
James A. Robinson
Sam Rudd
Gail Runnels
Jerry Savelle
Albert Seitz*
Jack Shaw
W. Erby Shaw*
Ed Simpkins
Ernest Simpson*
William Skrinde
Deward Smith*
Forrest E. Smith, M.D.
Ronald R. Smith
Lawrence Snelgrove*
Karl Strader
Ronny Svenhard
Bill Swad, Sr.
Clifton Taulbert
Richard Thomas
Eldon Thorman
Nick Timko
Charles Trebilcock
Shannon Vandruff*
Fred Vanstone
Norman Wagner
Charles Watson
Fred Waugh, Sr.*
John Wellons*
Al Welton
John Whitsitt
D.B. Wilkerson, Jr.
Carl Williams*
Carl H. Wilson*
James E. Winslow, Jr., M.D.
J. Otis Winters
Martin S. Wirkkala
Earl Wise
Wendell Witten, O.D.
Bob Wright
F. Ogburn Yates
Robert Zoppelt

(*Founding Regent, **Chairman)
"It's difficult for the sun to set anywhere in any nation without finding some ORU student there witnessing for Christ, going into every man's world.

"I believe that as you look at their lives and their work, you will be inspired to be more and do more than you ever dreamed possible.

"I believe that when you look upon the buildings at ORU, you are inspired to believe God to meet any need you have.

"I believe that as you see the students as they live a whole-person lifestyle on this campus, you will be inspired to believe God still has a people in this world.

"I believe that as you catch the spirit of Oral Roberts University, you will have greater faith for your walk with Christ, for trusting Him as your Source, for planting your seeds of faith, and for expecting your miracle.

"May this university be a blessing to the world until Jesus returns."

—ORAL ROBERTS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY