

Fall 1985

ORU Profs Participate in Dialogue with the Vatican

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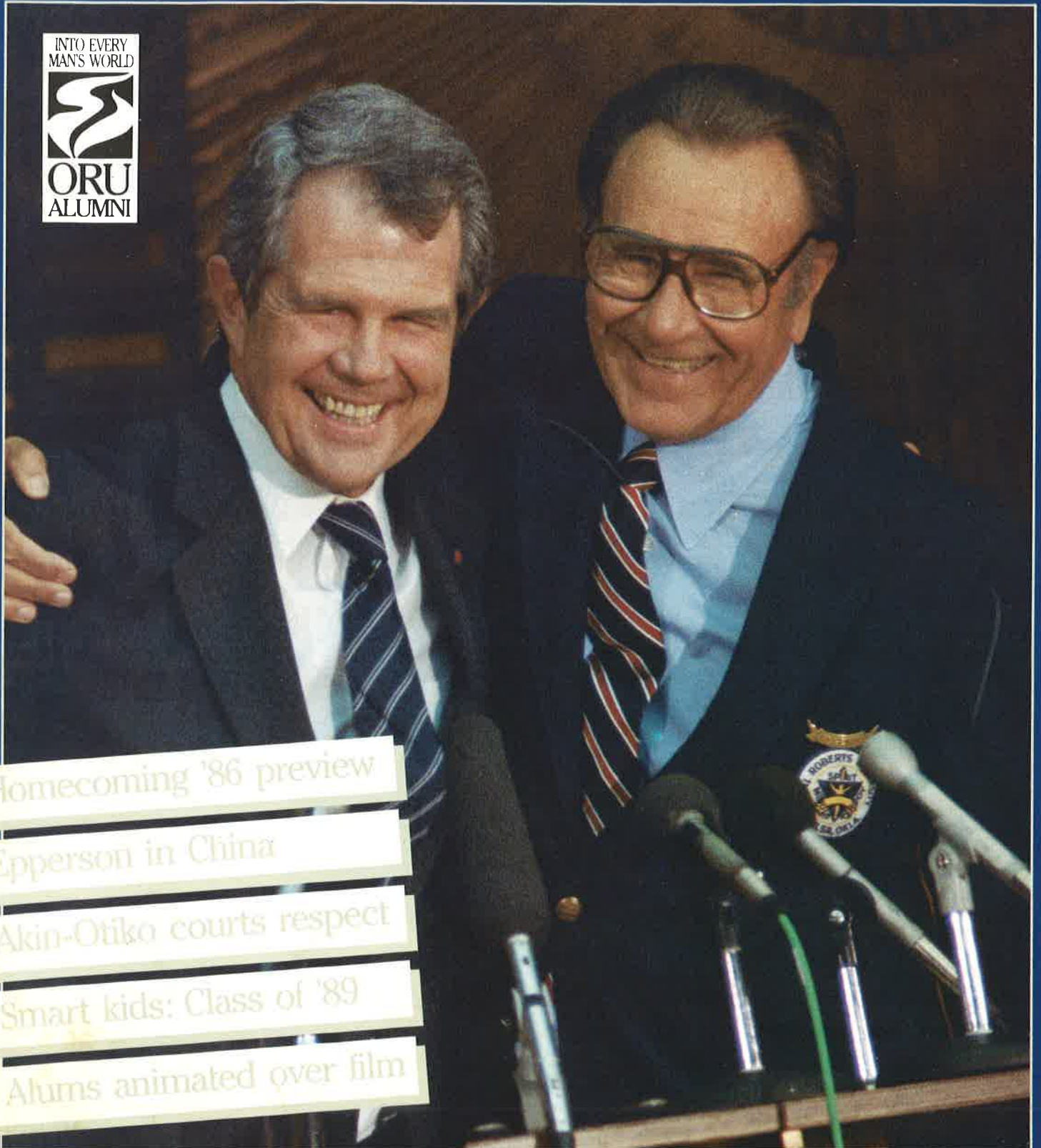
Communiqué

FALL/WINTER 1985

INTO EVERY
MAN'S WORLD



ORU
ALUMNI



Homecoming '86 preview

Epperson in China

Akin-Otiko courts respect

Smart kids: Class of '89

Alums animated over film



On the cover:
 Evangelist Pat Robertson came to campus in November to accept a rather large gift: the O.W. Coburn School of Law. See story on page 15.



6
 Friendly, generous, eager to learn
 ORU's Dr. William Epperson was pleasantly surprised by what he found in "New China" last May.



16
 By leaps and bounds
 Nigeria's Akin Akin-Otiko brings more than basketball talent to the ORU Titans.



20
 Smart kids
 When the Class of '89 arrived in August, they brought suitcases, boxes . . . and higher SAT scores and GPAs.

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Communique

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Drs. Jerry Sandidge and Howard Ervin took part in Vatican dialogues last spring.

ORU profs participate in Vatican Dialogue

A third series of theological dialogues was begun last May between the Secretariat for Promoting Christian

Unity of the Roman Catholic Church and Pentecostal churches throughout the world.

An Ecumenical Center located a few miles from Rome was the site of the week-long meetings. It was the eleventh session since the first dialogue was held in 1972, and the first in a new 5-year series, called a Quinquennium. The dialogue was initiated 11 years ago by David DuPlessis to enable Catholics and Pentecostals to better understand one another.

Two ORU graduate theology professors were participants in the May dialogue. Dr. Jerry L. Sandidge, new professor of Church History, serves as the secretary for the Pentecostal representatives. Dr. Howard Ervin, senior professor of Old Testament, has been a participant since 1979 and has presented two major theological papers including one on the "Biblical Hermeneutics of Pentecostals." This year's dialogue focused on the topic, "Communion of Saints."

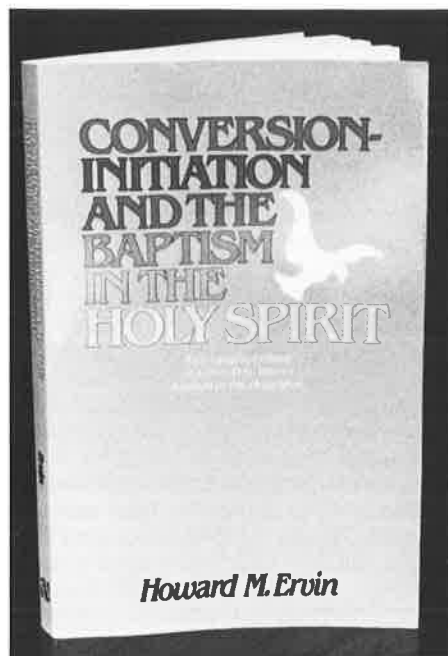
The high point of the dialogue was the visit of John Cardinal Willebrands, President of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome. During his visit he gave an address in which he stressed the importance of this dialogue to the whole ecumenical movement and the invaluable contribution it could make to the unity among all Christians. He emphasized that the Holy Spirit is the primary source of all Christian unity.

Ervin publishes new book

One of the most important works in the area of Pentecostal/Charismatic theology, written by ORU's Dr. Howard Ervin, has recently been published.

In *Conversion-Initiation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984), Dr. Ervin provides a penetrating critique of James D.G. Dunn's widely influential volume, *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, which rejects any distinctive Pentecostal understanding of Spirit baptism as an empowering work of the Holy Spirit for the church or mission. Ervin presents a strong biblical and theological basis for this significant charismatic dimension of the Holy Spirit's work.

In response to a multitude of requests, Ervin is currently rewriting his volume *These Are Not Drunken As Ye Suppose*, which should be published in 1986.



Dr. Ervin's newest book.

School sees record enrollment

Registration in the School of Christian Theology and Ministry for the fall semester 1985 has surpassed all previous fall enrollments with 281 students. This record-breaking enrollment includes students from 46 states and from 12 countries on 4 continents. It also includes the largest enrollment of women — 43 — in the history of the school.

The denominational diversity of the seminary remains strong with 31 denominations being represented by the student body and 9 by the faculty. The four largest religious communities represented are the United Methodist, the Charismatic Independent churches, the Assemblies of God, and the Baptists.

The seminary student body continues to have the highest percentage of Charismatic Independents of any accredited seminary in the nation and the second largest number of United Methodist students at a non-United Methodist seminary. ☛