ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY ... NOW

Again, the builders

FALL 1970
"I frankly am reaching out..."

from the president's opening address of the current school year

President Oral Roberts addressed the 1970-71 student body for the first time on September 23 in a chapel service. In the following excerpts, he comes quickly to the point of how he views the students and what he hopes to accomplish this year.

...You mean something to me. You and I agree on most things. Some things we might disagree on, but that is in the nature of life. Despite that, I thank God for you. I feel your love, I feel your enthusiasm on the campus and I think that, with some rare exceptions, you are here because you feel that this is a great moment in your life.

...I see great similarities between you today and the student body — just 12 of them — that Jesus tried to teach. Among the 12 disciples, 8 percent completely turned Him off even while they were with Him. In the final analysis, Judas would not be saved by Him, was lost, and went into hell.
The morning He arose from the dead, another 17 percent of them came to the empty tomb.

The other 75 percent were here, there, and everywhere — evidently uncommitted.

By my own estimate on this campus, about 17 percent of the students are absolutely dedicated to God, to getting their education, and to doing what they believe to be totally right. They are going to make it, whether we encourage them or not. Whether it’s hard or easy, they have already settled things in their minds. They are going to be Christians. They are going to heaven. They are going to be witnesses. They are going to work hard. Whether or not they like a professor or whether they like every little rule has nothing to do with it. They have made up their minds.

But on the other extreme, I estimate that about 8 percent of the students on this campus are completely tuning out. They are in rebellion — and often don’t even know what they are rebelling against or why. They are involved with themselves. They have no source for their lives. They want others to do for them. They have no desire to do for anybody else.

And without a major change, they will be lost. Nobody will change them. Sooner or later they will be gone. But wherever they go they will carry their problem with them. Without a miracle, they will go to hell.

I’m very interested in this group, because this was my group as a young person. I understand rebellion because I went through it. I even ran away from home. I said things to my parents I should not have said. I ended up flat on my back with tuberculosis. I pray more for this group than for anyone else. I reach out. I understand.

To this 8 percent, I want to state right here that I set the policy for the campus. Don’t get mad at the faculty or other administrators — they are only doing their job. You’re looking at the man! I’ve tightened up this campus. I’m deadly serious about it. Whether you like it or dislike it, we are going to run ORU as God put it in my heart.

Anybody in his right mind knows I didn’t build this school by myself. There is no man on earth who has the wisdom to get the money and put together a campus like this. No one is that smart. No one can get a faculty like this. No one can attract 1,033 students like this out of his own brilliance and ability. People say that I did it, but I can tell you God did it. I was just an instrument. And therefore, it’s important to me what people do on this campus. Behavior is equal with the pursuit of knowledge ....

Finally, I estimate 75 percent of this student body to be still searching. They will go either way. They will be affected by the 17 percent who are dedicated or they will be affected by the 8 percent who are not going to live by anybody’s rules, who would even like to see this government of ours completely overthrown. Lots of things in America need to be fixed, but I am for this country. I have been all over the world, and there’s no place else where you have freedom like you have right here. I’m for America. I work within the Establishment. I don’t like some things about the Establishment, but I’m not going to tear it down. The alternative is a lot worse. What I’m doing is praying for this country. I’m not trying to destroy it; I’m trying to save it ....

I’m willing to stick my neck out. I’m not as concerned about the 17 percent who are dedicated. They’re going to make it with or without Oral Roberts, with or without ORU. I’m concerned about the 8 percent who are in rebellion against God and against others. I’m also concerned about the 75 percent who are still trying to decide. Where are you going? What are you going to do with your life? What about your studies? Who is your source? I frankly am reaching out to you ....
The pace quickens once again at Oral Roberts University as a new construction project is launched
by Dean Merrill

The ORU junior looked up from the newspaper headlines and smiled. "Well, you have to say one thing about President Roberts. He has guts." The inch-high letters proclaimed for all the world to see: "ORU's Center To Seat 10,252."

The President, of course, had not used the junior's word in the press conference the previous afternoon when he announced the new Special Events Center. But he had clearly shown a strand of courage when he said, "I know that this is the right time to begin this building. It has been a part of the master plan from the first, and even though we only completed the student center a year ago, it is time to start again."

Not even the $5.5-million price tag seemed to daunt him. "We have seldom had the money in hand before starting construction here at ORU," he admitted, "and we don't have the money this time. But this center will be built just as we have built the other ten major buildings. By faith. With God's help, the help of people across America, and the aid of interested Tulsa citizens and groups, the Special Events Center will be open for the start of the basketball season in November 1972."

Like the student said — "guts."
The plans and sketches prepared by Tulsa Architect Frank W. Wallace are exquisite enough. The 5,200,000-cubic-foot edifice to be built over what used to be nothing but baseball diamonds at 81st Street and Lewis Avenue will contain a sweeping oval arena, the largest indoor collegiate facility in the state. Its 10,252 capacity can be boosted to 12,500 if chairs are placed on the basketball floor. The statistics roll on and on—a thousand tons of air conditioning, parking for 3,000 cars, 170,000 square feet of space (including 3,000 solely for display purposes), 65 feet high, 350 feet across at the widest point—and not a post anywhere, since the saucer-shaped roof needs no interior support.

What Oral Roberts University, only 6 years old, will do with this elaborate center is, of course, another part of the dreams of its courageous president and administration. ORU's basketball Titans have not had a losing season since the college opened, and last year won 27 while dropping only 4. That was good enough to earn them a ranking of 13th among the nation's small colleges.

But because there are major powers in the NCAA to be conquered, the Titans are entirely serious about going after them. Thus, in the July 15 press conference, President Roberts dropped jaws all over the room by declaring, "We will open the 1972 basketball season in the Special Events Center against a major power such as UCLA, Notre Dame, Duke, or Kentucky. We are already negotiating with some of the athletic directors, and we expect to schedule that game within the next few months."

And just in case anyone doubted, he had only to note the bridge suspended from the arena's ceiling, large as the basketball court itself, with high-intensity lighting for color telecasting. The dream even includes an NCAA regional or national playoff to be held there someday. And no seat will be more than 140 feet from the action.

In between the sports spectacles, however, the new building will be used for other events hardly connected to basketball. The center is like a giant amoeba stretching and contracting itself into six different shapes and sizes of auditoriums, depending upon the demand. Besides the two large capacities, the arena can be cut to 4,892 seats by only two men lowering the ceiling and closing off the upper sections.

Or, as if by magic, huge dividers can descend from the ceiling to slice a pie-shaped quadrant from the arena. The basketball court suddenly becomes a full production stage, designed with the help of Dr. George C. Izenour of Yale University. Its curtains hang from the lighting bridge, and a section of the sidelines drops hydraulically to form an orchestra pit. A convocation hall or theater is born, seating 3,000.

With further minor adjustments, a symphony hall for 2,268 is created with perfect acoustical response from the side walls' specially treated fabric with threads of lead, woven in England on a unique loom. If the schedule calls for opera or other dramatic form, the amoeba condenses once again into its smallest shape, an opera house for 1,392. The acoustical consultant is none less than the M.I.T.-connected firm of Bolt, Beranek and Newman, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.

But for the present, the music and drama departments—as well as
the ORU Titans and all of Tulsa, who together will keep the center's lights on 150 nights a year—must wait while bulldozers and pile drivers thunder out their own peculiar concert. In offices a few hundred yards away, the president and his lieutenants pause to listen as they plan and discuss and pray for the ways and means of the center's financing. It is not the conventional way to build a university, but neither is ORU a conventional university. Its momentum, unorthodox but successful, is an infectious sort of thing, and the Special Events Center is yet another exhibit of faith in a God who persists in miracles. As Tulsa World Columnist Troy Gordon wrote on July 17, "When he [Oral Roberts] announced several years ago he was going to build a university, I was dubious. Where would that kind of money come from? I wondered."

"Wednesday he announced plans for a $5-1/2-million Special Events Center...Let me put it this way: I believe that in the not-too-distant future, I will go to ORU's Special Events Center to see ORU play UCLA in basketball.

"And ORU might win."
A lot has happened since 1965; it's now YEAR NO. 6 by Lee Ann Meffert

By the last day of August, the University was once again in full motion. Its pace had slowed considerably since June, although 140 summer-school students and the continual flow of tourists had kept its staff in gear. Then, from 49 states (no Rhode Islanders) and 24 foreign nations, the students came surging back to the campus, and ORU's year No. 6 was off and running.

Soon after registration, the official census showed a student population of 1,033, or more than triple the enrollment with which ORU began in 1965. "A student body of 1,000 was our goal for this year," said Dr. William C. McQueen, Registrar, "and I'm glad that we exceeded it. It represents the attainment of one of the plateaus in our growth plan." The 17.5 percent increase over last year was largely due to a freshman class of 364 and 104 transfer students.

It proved to be a cosmopolitan student body. No one religious denomination came even close to a majority. The largest group, from the Assemblies of God (21.3 percent), was followed by Baptists (14 percent), Methodists (10 percent), Presbyterians (4 percent), and a cluster in the 2 percent range from Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Pentecostal Holiness, Church of God, Open Bible, Foursquare, and Episcopalian persuasions. Other students claimed Jewish, Nazarene, Mormon, Mennonite, Unity, or one of a dozen other affiliations.

But perhaps the most significant count of all, at least from the student view: 521 men, 512 women.

The administration was glad to see one index hold steady—the 12-to-1 student-professor ratio. Joined with the computerized learning methods of DAIRS (Dial Access and Information Retrieval System), Oral Roberts University's personalized teaching approach is a carefully guarded asset. Ten new faculty members were added to keep pace with the growing enrollment, one each in education, sociology, psychology, and chemistry, and two each in modern languages, business, and English. Among them was Sherry Corbett, 23, ORU's first official student in 1965 and magna cum laude member of its first graduating class. Having since received her M.A. in sociology from the University of Tulsa with a 4.0 grade-point average, she was welcomed back as the first alumna to join the ORU faculty. Her doctoral work begins soon at Oklahoma State University.

There were other signs of progress and expansion, such as the purchase of 80 more acres to run the total to 500. A new major for teachers was made available in physical science, leading to the B.S. degree, and the list of preprofessional programs was doubled (medical technology, pharmacy, physical therapy, veterinary medicine, and optometry in addition to engineering, law, medicine, dentistry, and nursing).

But most significant was news that the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools had accepted the University's "Report of Self-Study," a monumental document prepared by Dean of Academic Affairs Carl H. Hamilton and seven faculty committees during the 1969-70 school year. The purpose of the self-study was to explore ORU's (1) philosophy, (2) resources (faculty, library, physical plant), (3) organization, (4) programs of instruction, (5) policies and faculty morale, and (6) student life and student achievement. Students had joined in describing the latter area.

The next milestone on the road to full accreditation will be a visit by an evaluation team this winter. Year No. 6 is turning out to be a big one.
Jean Smith, wife of Vice-President for Development Ronald Smith, was named Mrs. U.S. Savings Bond in national competition at Lehigh Acres, Fla., on August 21. She was sworn in by Tulsa Mayor Robert LaFortune (right) and the U.S. Treasury's Lennie V. Agee prior to beginning her year of travel which will take her not only across America but also to the Far East.

Robert M. Voight, formerly an ORU English professor, was named Dean of Student Affairs on June 1 and thereby joined the University's seven-member Advisory Administration Committee.
Three professors selected to appear in the 1970 edition of Outstanding Educators of America are (l. to r.)

Dr. Harold G. Paul, Chairman, Department of Social Sciences;
Dr. W. G. Morgan, Associate Professor of History;
Dr. Howard M. Ervin, Chairman, Department of Theology.

Betsy Mayo, 17, high-school senior from nearby Jenks, Okla., won $22,000 (half for herself, half for her school) in Pepsi-Cola's "Why You've Got a Lot to Live" National Write-In. Her 500-word essay was judged best over 200,000 other entries. Betsy plans to enroll at ORU next September. (Above) Pepsi-Cola President Philip N. Hughes presents her medallion.

1970-71 researchers being subsidized by the University are (right) Asst. Prof. William R. Walker (poetry publication), (bottom) Assoc. Prof. Steve Durasoff (Charismatic influences in Eastern European Orthodox churches), and (bottom left) Asst. Prof. Edward Nelson (enzyme systems of a parasite in freshwater clams).
ORU-style education not only survived last May but also extended into learning experiences in Jerusalem and Moscow.
The campus ferment which crested in the spring of 1970 swept away the pursuit of education, at least as traditionally defined. American students, angry about the Cambodian invasion and the killings at Kent State, were in no frame of mind to listen to lectures. Many institutions closed their doors before the end of the semester to prevent further violence. At other colleges, professors managed to complete the term, then wearily sighed in relief. Never had the summer break been so welcome.

Against this scenario, it may be hard to believe that three professors volunteered to spend last summer directing student tours. And not to peaceful resorts, either, but to tension-filled nations overseas. Dr. Howard Ervin and Dr. Roy Hayden, two ORU theology professors, accompanied a group of nine for a 10-week study trip to the Middle East group enrolled in courses at the nondenominational institute which operates in a 55-room building on Mt. Zion. The American students were allowed to enroll in a maximum of nine credit hours which included archaeology, historical geography, and the religious significance of the modern State of Israel. Dr. Hayden, a frequent contributor to Bible encyclopedias who spent 8 weeks in Jerusalem in 1967, concentrated in archaeological research along with some language studies in modern Hebrew.

The students got their fingers into the dirt as well. As a part of the archaeology course, they helped in the diggings of newly discovered ruins in the older part of Jerusalem, including a wall dating from the reign of King Uzziah, 700 B.C.

But it was the Israeli people themselves that made the biggest impact on the young Americans. Sarah Martin, for instance, found them “a very reserved people, at times hard to reach.” In many respects, she felt the youth were much like some in America—using drugs, holding different ideals from the older generation, having their own style of music. But David Mills came away with the impression that “a real respect exists between the youth and the older people.”

The fervent nationalism of the people also impressed the Americans, and the fact that women as well as men serve in the armed forces, remaining in the reserves until they are 35. “Many of them even want to volunteer for Vietnam,” David observed.

Carol Norton, however, was unwilling to approve of everything Israeli. “I went to Jerusalem quite pro-Jewish and anti-Arab,” she said. “But the longer I talked with the people there, from both sides, the more I became convinced that the Arabs have some valid objections to raise, too. I came home determined to be more neutral.”

Dr. Durasoff had prepared his group for the excursion in a spring-semester course on “Conversation and Culture in the U.S.S.R.” Soviet culture, economy, and philosophy as well as basic Russian conversation were incorporated into the once-a-week class meeting.

Having scratched together $700 apiece, the group left New York on June 3, and stopped first in Warsaw. The students were impressed by the reconstruction of the Polish capital which had been practically leveled by Hitler’s legions. Dr. Durasoff preached in three services held in the United Evangelical Churches, a coalition of Protestants.

From Warsaw the group flew to Leningrad, second-largest city in Russia. Intourist, the state-operated tourist agency, furnished bilingual guides who showed the collegians the “Aurora,” the cruiser that started the 1917 Revolution; St. Isaac’s Cathedral, now a museum which holds valuable paintings, sculptures, and mosaics; Kazan Cathedral, now the Museum of the History of Religion and Atheism; and the Palace Square with the Hermitage, once the Winter Palace of the Czars, and now a state museum which displays an extensive collection of Western European and Russian art in its more than 300 exhibition halls.

But this group of young persons had not traveled several thousand miles merely to sightsee. They had gone to study, to observe, to try to understand a culture vastly different from that they had known all their lives.

The highlight of their Leningrad visit occurred one Tuesday night. They attended services in the city’s only Protestant church, which was housed in a building formerly used by a Russian Orthodox parish, located on the city’s outskirts. It was said to have a 3,000-member congregation. Dr. Durasoff and his students traveled by trolley from their hotel in the Chicago-sized metropolis to the closest stop, a half mile from the church. From there, they walked as did others seeking Christian communion.

Inside, the group sat on a plat-
form behind the pulpit. Spokane Sophomore Ken R. Smith recalls, "It was really fantastic. That was the first time I'd ever seen people standing in the aisles—it was just really crowded. People were even looking through the windows from outside, and they all kept standing for 2 hours straight, just to hear the Word of God. It really touched me."

The pastor invited Dr. Durasoff to speak to the congregation. In their native Russian, he wished them well from their American brothers. He then narrated the story of his father's participation in mutiny aboard the czarist ship "Potemkin" in 1905. The audience sat entranced as this second-generation American described how the ship was turned about in midcourse and steered to Rumania. He accentuated the fear these sailors-turned-revolutionists felt, knowing they could never again return to their Russian homeland. From Rumania, Dr. Durasoff's father came to the United States and settled in New York.

Following a reading from the Scriptures and prayer, the students sang two hymns in Russian. A time of fellowship followed the formal service, and the students talked freely with young Russians in the churchyard.

A few days later, during their visit to the Museum of the History of Religion and Atheism, Bill Blanton, a Port Arthur, Tex., sophomore, tossed a controversial question at the lecturer. "Why," he asked, "does the Soviet Government sponsor antireligious propaganda if there is a true separation of church and state?"

The young woman paused to consider her reply. "It is part of the
Communist world outlook" was all she could come up with. It was apparent that she was not accustomed to such questioning from tourists.

In Kiev, sightseeing continued and so did the probing. Capital of the Ukraine, Kiev is the third-largest city in the Soviet Union. Chris Rice, a Tulsa sophomore, felt the shortage of consumer goods directly when a young Russian approached him on the street and offered to buy the shirt he was wearing for 50 rubles ($55). Why so much? Button-down collars are unavailable in Russian stores. "I could have used the money," said Chris, "but I had to turn him down. Dr. Durasoff had already warned us about the strict Russian regulations on currency."

Kiev is also a stronghold of Orthodoxy and evangelism. The collegians located two of the city's four evangelical churches and on a Sunday, attended a service of the largest congregation. Here, more than 600 eager listeners packed the church, its hallway, and porch, to hear the ORU students sing hymns in Russian and English and quote Scripture passages. Afterwards, the Kiev Youth Choir and the 15 Americans met together and sang for each other, including "How Great Thou Art."

From Kiev, the Americans went to Moscow. In the Polytechnical Institute, three experts—a health-department doctor, a civil engineer, and a science academy representative—composed a panel discussing Russia's social and governmental problems. Some 75 persons from foreign countries were present to hear the speakers and ask questions. Dr. Durasoff took notes at the session and boiled them down into the following generalizations:

1. Approximately 70 percent of Russian students attempt to pursue education on the university level. Those who do not pass the entrance exams apply to trade and technical schools or wait 1 year to reapply to the universities. The Soviet Government sponsors all collegians. Cost per student per year to the government averages $1,175.

2. While America frets about a future overpopulation problem, the Soviet Union is concerned about underpopulation. With an area occupying one-sixth of the earth's land surface, the Soviets want to populate more of their country and make up for their high war losses—20 million persons in World War II.

3. Alcoholism, which is a growing problem in the U.S.S.R., is approached initially through education. The Russians inform their populace about the dangers of alcoholism. Third-time offenders who show no desire to be helped are forced to undergo treatment. The female health-department speaker admitted that the ultimate success of obligatory treatment depends on the patient's attitude.

4. Abortion has been legal in Russia since 1958. Odd as it may seem, Soviet officials have found a reverse trend among women—many do not choose to abort their pregnancies although they have professional services available. Nonetheless, the Soviets believe that women who desire to abort should have the best facilities and physicians available rather than seeking underground charlatans.

5. Venereal disease, according to the health spokeswoman, is not a serious problem in comparison to other nations. Yet, in the past 5 or 6 years it has been on the increase. She suggested that this is due to an increase in tourism throughout Russia.

6. A prime dilemma to American society, drug abuse exists also in the Soviet Union, but in no way approaches that in the United States. The Russian doctor felt the problem to be aggravated by Western visitors. Despite the Russians' frank admission of problems, however, the Americans never felt entirely free of the KGB, the Soviet secret police. Don Goff, a freshman from Albia, Iowa, became especially suspicious when he counted seven electrical outlets in his hotel room—but only one which would activate the radio! From the other six, "I'd just get zzzzz! I wished for a screwdriver to investigate behind those 'electrical outlets.'"

Julie Hurlbut, a Hemet, Calif., senior, told an ORU chapel audience after her return, "You can't imagine what it's like to be in a totally atheistic country, where people live, die, marry, have children, love—all without a thought of God." However, she remembers the intourist guide remarking in an after-dinner chat, "I'm not as strong an atheist as some... there's something there."

Thus, far from their Tulsa classrooms and dormitories, a unique and effective kind of education flourished. And the ORU professors, far from being disgruntled at having to spend the summer with students, are planning return trips to the Soviet Union and Israel for 1971.
ORAL ROBERTS' THANKSGIVING SPECIAL

CONTACT A PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION IN COLOR

GUEST STARS

JERRY LEWIS ♠ KAY STARR
ROBERT I. CLARKE ♠ JAY SILVERHEELS

WITH REGULARS

RICHARD AND PATTI ROBERTS...

THE WORLD ACTION SINGERS
AND THE RALPH CARMICHAEL ORCHESTRA

SEE YOUR LOCAL LISTING FOR TIME AND CHANNEL