As the Regent University community gathered on March 22 for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Chapel and Divinity Building, Gordon Robertson, CEO of the Christian Broadcasting Network, rose to read the Scripture for the occasion, Psalm 127:1: “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it . . .”

Standing beneath the gold-covered spire, he reminisced on the simple beginnings of what was then CBN University: “When you look back in time to the late ’70s, where Regent University started in a group of trailers, with an intrepid band of 77 students, and you look at what God has done, truly He is watching over us. . . . My father asked for a chapel to be built on this campus for one specific reason: to show forth God’s faithfulness over Regent University.”

With the smile of a proud father, Regent’s founder and chancellor, Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, recalled the way the Spirit of the Lord led him to take steps of faith.

“More than 35 years ago, I sat in a restaurant in Anaheim, Calif., and bowed my head to pray over my meal. As I closed my eyes, the Holy Spirit immediately spoke to my heart and said, ‘I want you to build a school . . .”
for My glory.’ The Lord said He wanted to have an assault on the pillars of secular society: business, government, law, theology, communications, education, psychology and counseling.

“Look what God has done!” Robertson declared, listing the many accomplishments of Regent University alumni and students since that day. “Later, God said, ‘I want you to complete this campus by building a chapel and divinity school building.’”

Robertson recalled visiting London’s famous St. Martin-in-the-Fields church years ago; that would be the inspiration for Regent Chapel. Working with an architect, he and a construction team captured the spirit of this great church, while also reflecting the beautiful Georgian architecture of Regent’s campus. The 1,000-seat sanctuary is in a cruciform shape, a typical Colonial-era architectural style used to symbolize the cross of Jesus.

The steeple cross is covered in 24-karat gold leaf, and the electronic chimes include 12 choices of bell-like sounds. The stained-glass chancel window depicts Jesus’ ascension into heaven 40 days after His resurrection.

The grand-opening weekend included special guests Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle; Ron Luce of Teen Mania; Congressman Randy Forbes and other dignitaries and alumni. International evangelist Reinhard Bonnke gave the inaugural sermon in the new chapel, declaring, “It is my prayer that Regent University would become a womb for Holy Spirit ministries to emanate from and change not only America, but the whole world … This will be Regent Chapel’s distinguishing mark: Let everyone who enters it feel Your presence. I thank you, Lord, that from here, Your presence will be carried out in all directions.”

“A chapel like this has always symbolized a place where anyone could come,” said Regent President Carlos Campo. “Whatever your tribe or your tongue, you were welcome there. I look forward to the commemorations that will occur here; the christenings and weddings; memorable times of silence and other times of worship that will be exuberant.”

The Prayer Room will be open around the clock for individual and small-group Bible studies and devotions. The Prayer Garden includes a soothing fountain, Hadden Stone benches and inspiring Scripture stones, all made possible by Regent friends and family.

Looking ahead, Regent Vice President for Advancement Ann Leblanc, the daughter of Robertson, shared, “Through the generations, this building will stand, and no one will doubt what this university was built to do, and what God has called us to do. It’s another building block in our Regent legacy.”

As the final amen was said and the crowds departed, the words of Pat Robertson echoed in the hearts of the people: “May we see miracles accomplished here in Your name. May the sick be healed. May those who are troubled in mind and spirit find the grace of God. May those who don’t know the Lord come to Jesus and be gloriously born in the Spirit of God. And may the glory of God Almighty radiate throughout this campus.”
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TO CHANGE THE WORLD
“It was the beginning of our faith walk,” Bill Casto remembers with tears in his eyes, as he speaks about the new Regent University Chapel. He and his wife joined their grandson Caleb—a government major in the College of Arts & Sciences—for the March 2013 grand opening of the chapel. For this family, it was an amazing fulfillment of a promise made by God 35 years earlier.

In the 1970s, Bill and Priscilla Casto were school teachers living from paycheck to paycheck when they started watching The 700 Club. After learning the principle of sowing and reaping, they made the commitment to give $10 per month to CBN. “We saw the vision of world outreach,” Bill recalls, “and we wanted to be a part of it.”

At the same time, the couple planned to build a Christian nursing home, but they had no money. “We stood in faith when every door was shut on us,” Priscilla remembers. “We read God’s promises and prayed, ‘You said it, and we know You will fulfill it.’”

After one year, when there was no place else to go, God brought investors to them, and the facility quickly became a reality. As this expansion happened in their business, the Castos received an invitation to a CBN partner event. “It was a marvelous weekend with Pat [Robertson] teaching the Word. They drove us from Norfolk to the CBN land to pray, even though there was nothing here,” says Bill.

“On the final evening, Pat said, ‘If the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you to sow into CBN University, then be obedient.’…

“A number came to me, and I thought, ‘How do I tell my husband?’” Priscilla shares.

Then, Bill turned to Priscilla and asked, “Are you getting anything?” She answered, “Ten thousand dollars.” Bill immediately responded, “Okay. Fill out the card.”

After they placed their pledge on the platform, the Holy Spirit spoke to Priscilla, “The education of your sons is no longer your concern.” God blessed their nursing home business, which quickly grew to four facilities on nearly 15 acres. When their sons were ready for college, Bill prepared to send the first tuition payment. “Priscilla,” he said laughing, “I’ve never written a check so easily in my life.”

The couple is humbled that the seed they planted in 1978 is still bearing fruit, as their grandson Caleb is a student at Regent. “There’s a point where your walk of faith pays back such rewards that you can have fun,” Priscilla explains. “And He wants us to!”

Give your best gift to Regent University: regent.edu/give
In 2007, when former Regent University trustee Joe Gregory visited the campus for the first time, he asked his driver to take him through campus so he could admire and pray over it.

“After a while, I asked him to take me where the chapel was located, and I obviously struck a nerve,” says Gregory. Regent had no chapel building at the time.

“I am so glad that my driver could fulfill that request today,” he quipped at the chapel ribbon-cutting ceremony held on March 22, 2013. “This has been a long time coming for all of us, but I know that God is never late.”

Gregory says he grew to love Regent’s founder and chancellor, Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, through watching The 700 Club. Through mutual friends, the two were introduced, and Gregory eventually was invited to serve on the board of trustees at Regent, a role he accepted prayerfully and joyfully.

“When I first visited the Regent campus, I drove around praying about what role the Lord was going to have me serve here. There are many things that trustees can do to support the university other than just attend meetings,” Gregory explains.

He soon realized that a key part of his role would be to help fulfill the vision for a chapel on the Regent campus.

“The building of a chapel has been on the heart of Pat Robertson and the trustees for many years,” says Gregory. “At the groundbreaking service, I felt a prompting of the Holy Spirit to make a significant financial gift to that effort.

“I had the feeling that there was such a pent-up demand that when Pat waved the flag and said, ‘We’re moving forward,’ there was such a release.”

Gregory sees the finished product not just as the completion of a chapter, but the beginning of a new one. “This is a new era of spiritual growth for the university. My spirit is soaring,” he says.

Likewise, Regent President Carlos Campo is filled with vision and deep gratitude: “Joe Gregory exceptionally shared his time, treasure and talent as a member of the Regent University Board of Trustees. His role was central in the completion of the Regent Chapel and Divinity Building and in realizing great days ahead for the university.”

“When you walk into the buildings, there is a sense of the greatness of God,” Gregory says with a smile. “The world needs more Christians to display the excellence of Christ. Too often, we are willing to accept second best, not just from others in the Christian community, but from ourselves. But this chapel was built to the glory of God to represent His excellence. That is so needed in our country today.

“It is this sense of expanse that causes us to think big—and to expect great things from God.”
Cheryl Bachelder, CEO of Popeyes®, has enjoyed a 35-year career of building great brands and great leaders for companies such as Domino’s Pizza, Nabisco, Gillette and Procter & Gamble. The 41-year-old Popeyes® brand is experiencing remarkable growth in market share and profitability, and behind this success story is Bachelder’s deep-rooted passion for developing leaders who exhibit competence and character.

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Cheryl Bachelder, CEO, AFC Enterprises Franchisor of Popeyes® Louisiana Kitchen

May 23, 2013

Regent World Changer

Loni Albertson
DreamWorks Animation Coordinator

Loni Albertson ’07 (Communication & the Arts), recently served as the animation coordinator on the DreamWorks Animation hit film *Rise of the Guardians*. Working with a team of 45 artists, she served as a liaison between the film’s production supervisor and production assistant.

After earning her MFA in Directing from Regent, Albertson was hired by DreamWorks in 2009. Though she had never considered a career in animation, Albertson discovered a passion for animation and creating beautiful work. She explains, “It is more of an amazing example of what God has for us when we allow Him to take the reins and trust that what He has in store is far better than what we can imagine for ourselves.”

Please join the Regent community in praying for Loni Albertson, April’s alumni world changer.
Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to tell you that your Regent University Chapel and Divinity Building are now complete, and we have celebrated a glorious time dedicating these facilities for the purposes of our Lord.

The symbol at the top of the spire of any Christian chapel is the cross of Jesus Christ. For centuries, this has been a symbol of hope, as travelers followed the cross to a sanctuary where they could find nourishment and shelter.

It is my prayer that Regent Chapel will always be a haven—where anyone from any background is warmly welcomed into the presence of God. For it is Jesus, the bearer of our cross and the lifter of our heads, who said, “Let all who are burdened and who labor come to me and find rest, because my yoke is easy and my burden is light,” (Matt. 11:30).

It is also my prayer that the Regent Chapel and Divinity Building will serve as a continual reminder of the faithfulness of God to accomplish the impossible and of the profound call of Regent to prepare Christian leaders to make a positive and lasting difference.

Thank you to the many of you who have prayed and given financially to bring these buildings to completion. Thank you to the faculty, staff and students who will fill our chapel as a place of worship and transformation. And thank you, Jehovah Jireh—our great Provider—for the thousands of students yet to come.

Grace and peace,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
President

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD LIKE A CITY ON A HILLTOP THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN.”
MATTHEW 5:14