In 1930, the United States was in the second year of the Great Depression. Four million of the nation’s 123 million citizens were out of work. Wonder Bread introduced sliced bread. Bobby Jones became the first man to win golf’s Grand Slam. And “Gallant Fox” was the second thoroughbred ever to capture horse racing’s Triple Crown.

Also that year, Mickey Mouse made his first appearance in a comic strip; an astronomer discovered the dwarf planet Pluto; and on March 22, Marion Gordon “Pat” Robertson was born in Lexington, Virginia.

“My older brother, Willis Robertson Jr., when he was about six years old, delighted in patting his little hands on his baby brother’s chubby cheeks, saying ‘pat, pat, pat’ over and over,” Robertson remembers. “My parents must have thought that was cute, so they made ‘Pat’ my nickname.”

Regent’s founder, chancellor and CEO was born with the blood of statesmen and saints coursing through his veins. His parents, Gladys Churchill Robertson and A. Willis Robertson, were fourth cousins who shared ancestral ties with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the Harrisons, an American political “dynasty” that produced a signer of the Declaration of Independence and two U.S. presidents. The family patriarch served 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and 20 years in the U.S. Senate.

“From my father, I learned an incredible work ethic, frugality, integrity and the true
meaning of what it means to be a public servant,” Robertson says. “My father lived humbly and frugally. He never forgot that he was a servant of the people and that his private and public life must be above reproach.”

In addition to having Baptist and Anglican clergymen as fellow members of his “family tree,” one ancestor, John Woodson, joined the historic Jamestown Colony in 1619: “Although I may have flowing in me the blood of statesmen, noblemen and warriors, I have even stronger in me the blood of priests — and men and women of God.”

By the time he was 29, young “Pat” had married Adelia “Dede” Elmer; earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Washington & Lee University, a juris doctor from Yale University and a master’s in divinity from Biblical Seminary; and had served two years of active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. But, he adds, “My real work lay ahead. … The most important preparation was being grown into the presence of God where I learned to rely on His goodness and received His baptism of power.”

Despite his impressive education and family background, when Robertson moved his wife and young children to Portsmouth, Virginia, in November 1959, he says, “I was not equipped for the service the Lord had for me.” Despite having just $70 in his pocket and a limited knowledge of broadcasting, God enabled him to purchase a small, shuttered UHF station, WYAH, which would launch the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) on October 1, 1961.

In the nearly 54 years that have followed, CBN has helped lead hundreds of millions of people around the world to faith in Jesus Christ through television, radio and Web programs that have aired in some 200 countries and in more than 100 languages. During that same time frame, Robertson also founded Regent University (1977), Operation Blessing (1978), and the American Center for Law and Justice (1990), better known as the ACLJ.

“At the center of his many successes [are] his entrepreneurial vision and his dedication to excellence,” says ACLJ chief counsel and fellow Regent board member Dr. Jay Sekulow. “With the creation of the American Center for Law and Justice, Pat transformed ideas into reality, as he did with so many of his ventures. … Today, with CBN truly a global ministry reaching millions of people daily, Pat still exhibits the passion and excitement for sharing the gospel that became the cornerstone of his ministry more than a half-century ago.”

Another fellow Regent board trustee, Phillip Walker, has known Robertson for more than 40 years: “I have witnessed a true pioneer via his significant accomplishments and contributions to society. His visionary leadership and faithfulness to God’s guidance have enabled him to fulfill Christ’s Great Commission to reach the world, while displaying great integrity, high intellect and constant professionalism.”

Walker continues, “I can truly say that Regent’s motto of ‘Christian Leadership to Change the World’ is definitely reflective of Dr. Robertson’s
urgent vision to prepare Christian leaders for the 21st century workplace. He has been able to assemble great faculty members and administrators, while expanding significant programs for our students. By working with other institutions (as seen in our recent articulation agreements), promoting corporate partnerships, and expanding our online programs, he has positioned Regent to make great strides in impacting our world.”

“Education always has been important to Pat,” Sekulow adds. “And his leadership and guidance at Regent University have been incredible. … May the Lord continue to bless him and his family on his special day.”

The celebrations that marked Dr. Robertson’s milestone 85th birthday included a three-day gala event in Washington, D.C., from Friday, March 20 to Sunday, March 22. Those attending the Capitol Hill festivities enjoyed dinner, fellowship and special times of praise, worship, prayer and communion. Guest speakers included Sekulow; former Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann; renowned former pediatric neurosurgeon and possible 2016 Republican presidential candidate Dr. Benjamin Carson; former U.S. Attorney General and Regent Distinguished Professor John Ashcroft; and chairman and editor-in-chief of Forbes Media, Steve Forbes.

Hundreds more friends gathered with the Robertson family for a campus-wide birthday celebration on March 23. The afternoon event brought Regent, CBN, ACLJ and Operation Blessing employees together with country music legends the Oak Ridge Boys to honor the life, leadership and legacy of a wholly blessed and Spirit-led man of God who’s still going strong.

Reflecting on his 85 years, Robertson fully understands that a man’s days are “determined” by the Lord (Job 14:5). He points to Moses as an example of the fruit that bears through patience and obedience to Him: “God took him to the desert for 40 years before he could lead his people in signs and wonders.”

But looking at Robertson’s long list of personal and professional accomplishments, anyone can clearly see a lifetime of impact for the Father’s glory. Time and again, Regent’s founder, chancellor and CEO has turned life’s deserts into an oasis that ultimately will lead him to the “Promised Land.”

Help us honor Dr. Robertson for his 85th birthday by participating in the “Surprise 85” campaign, which will fund and award 85 scholarships under the university’s World Changer Scholarship program. Everyone who donates $85 or more to the campaign before May 15, 2015 receives a free, premium membership to the Regent Leadership Society. Visit regent.edu/surprise85 to give your best gift today and watch a tribute video celebrating Dr. Robertson’s amazing life and enduring legacy.
Regent University’s Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law equips Christian advocates to seek justice for the world’s downtrodden — the enslaved, the abused and the poor. As part of their ongoing effort to provide strategic resources for law school students and those around the world who seek to combat human rights abuses, this outreach of Regent’s School of Law sponsors academic preparation, internship programs and special events.

In February, the center partnered with Regent’s Journal of Global Justice and Public Policy, Operation Blessing International and the Charlie Lewis Family to host their fourth annual Global Justice Symposium. This year’s topic, Human Rights and the Sexualization of Culture, examined how an alarming global shift toward an increasingly sexualized culture is distorting the rights of all human beings and could cripple how we protect women, children and others.

The center’s administrative director, Ernie Walton, sees the topic as highly relevant to their mission. “When culture becomes hyper-sexualized, and when the law affirmatively recognizes sexual autonomy ‘rights,’ the fact is that the vulnerable suffer,” he says. “When a culture’s sexual ethic becomes ‘It’s all about whatever I desire,’ women and children become objects, mere pieces of property that exist to fulfill another’s unconstrained sexual desires.”

“They impact from this event will come in two ways,” explains Regent Law Dean Jeffrey Brauch. “First, it educated participants and inspired them to take action; and second, it helped clarify the appropriate strategy for attacking human trafficking.”

Panel discussions explored the foundation of human rights, sex as a business and children as property. The three separate 90-minute sessions were followed by an evening banquet, which featured keynote speaker Benjamin Nolot, founder and president of Exodus Cry, one of the center’s key strategic partners.

For information on enrolling at Regent University’s School of Law, visit regent.edu/law or call 877.267.5072. To learn more about the Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law, or to make a donation, call 757.352.4660 or visit regent.edu/globaljustice.
Since then, more than a dozen nights of worship have featured some of the best artists in Christian music, including chart-topping Je’kob Washington, Dove Award-winner Meredith Andrews, and internationally known Desperation Band.

On February 27, Regent held its first-ever “United Night of Worship,” bringing together some 20 local worship leaders and musicians to form one band and one sound for a special experience. “This night also included a church connect at the beginning, allowing people to meet individuals from the different churches represented that night,” Thomas explains. “We had multiple youth groups and so many young people at this event.”

Letha Holland-Deel is the director of worship at Spring Branch Community Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia. A Regent alum who graduated from the School of Communication & the Arts in 1992, she participated in United Night of Worship. “Being a part of the N.O.W. event was an amazing experience,” she says. “The anointing of the Holy Spirit was so powerful, and the sound of the voices and instruments was like a taste of heaven. Meeting different worship leaders from churches around the area and being able to worship and lead with them was truly a highlight to me.”

Holland-Deel also praised the event for enabling Christian artists “to come together with no other agenda” and “to be united in one sound and voice,” as they led others in the worship of God. “As an alum and a Christian artist, I am so excited to have taken part in this United Night of Worship. I look forward to other N.O.W. events in the future.”

Jesus said in John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him” (ESV). At Regent University, that “hour” occurs at least one evening every month during the school year, when the Office of Advancement hosts Night of Worship (N.O.W.) events in the Regent Chapel.

“N.O.W. gives our students and those in the surrounding community a place to gather and worship without denominational or church barriers,” says Regent’s Vice President for Advancement Ann LeBlanc. “The goal is to see them come together, seek God’s face and praise Him.”

“This is something we offer that no one else does,” explains Laura Thomas, who – as a director of event programming at Regent – plays a crucial role in N.O.W.’s success. “We have hosted some of the most amazing worship leaders in the country here. These artists continually comment that their experience at Regent is like nothing they have experienced before. Multiple times, I have heard them refer to our campus as holy ground and comment that they can feel the presence and the joy of the Holy Spirit as soon as they arrive.”

Night of Worship events feature well-known and respected Christian music artists who are passionate to “worship the Father in spirit and in truth.” Thomas adds that N.O.W. invites and encourages musicians, singers and worship leaders to pour into Regent and the surrounding community. As a result, they feel as though the students have poured into them.

“Each artist that comes in meets with our Campus Ministries worship team,” she says. “I have seen these artists take the time to sit down and talk with our students, pray with them and encourage them.”

N.O.W. premiered in September 2013, less than six months after the new Regent Chapel opened its doors for the first time.

For more information about upcoming Night of Worship events, contact Regent’s Office of Advancement at 800.335.4409 or visit regent.edu/now.
During halftime of a Boston Celtics game in November, the NBA franchise honored Geralde Gabeau for dedication to her community. The beloved Regent doctoral student in the School of Business & Leadership received the “Hero Among Us” award for her service as deputy director of Youth & Family Enrichment Services in Boston. “I told them that the only reason why I would receive [the award] is if they put the focus on the children,” Gabeau explains. “The real heroes are the children and families we serve.”

Since 1997, the Boston Celtics have presented the “Hero Among Us” award to outstanding individuals who have made an overwhelming impact on the lives of others. “I don’t see my life any other way,” Gabeau says. “If we are called to transform the world, we have to be busy at spreading the love of Christ.”

Please join the entire Regent University community in praying for this month’s Regent World Changer, Geralde Gabeau.

Make your best gift today at regent.edu/surprise85.

You can help fund 85 scholarships under our World Changer Scholarship program.

Donate $85 or more to the “Surprise85” campaign by May 15, 2015, and receive a free premium membership to the Regent Leadership Society.

Centered on Giving

Each issue of Impact has, at its center, a postage-paid envelope that you can use to help Regent equip Christian leaders to change the world. Simply turn back a few pages to find a simple way to support the university by check or credit/debit card. You can also donate online at regent.edu/give, or call 800.335.4409 to make your best tax-deductible gift today!

Plan Your Legacy

Have you ever thought about what you will leave behind when you’re gone? Regent’s planned-giving options can help you plan your legacy, while also lowering your tax burden and maximizing your income. For information about annuities, trusts, bequests and the many other ways you can bless current and future Regent students, visit regent.edu/plannedgiving or call 800.335.4409.
A Message From the Chancellor

Dear Friend,

As you read in the cover story (“A Lifetime of Leadership”) of this month’s Impact newsletter, there’s been quite a bit of fuss made about me turning 85 years old. To be completely honest, as a young man, I didn’t have the slightest idea of what the Lord had for me. It was only through the unfolding years that I have learned of God’s plan for broadcasting, later for education, and then for all the other activities I have been involved in. Finding the Lord’s plan for my life has been like pulling back the petals of a rose. It has been a lifetime endeavor.

I live by a very simple principle: Give God the credit for all the good things and personally take the blame for all the mistakes. When we exalt, praise and honor Him in that way, He brings miracles to pass. Back in 1975, over a lunch of cantaloupe and cottage cheese at a California hotel, God told me to build a school for His glory. Three years later, CBN University (as Regent was known then) welcomed 77 students and seven faculty members in the School of Communication & the Arts. Forty years and 19,000 alumni later, Regent has become – through the Lord’s generous provision and His abiding grace – one of the world’s preeminent Christian universities.

But the truth is, Regent and I still have a lot more to do! And we need your help to do it! Your faithful prayers and financial gifts will help the university accomplish its mission to serve as a center of Christian thought and action by providing an excellent, Christ-first education through a biblical perspective and global context. This month, please consider how you can help us equip even more Christian leaders to change the world.

Thank you for your friendship and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson
Founder, Chancellor & CEO
Regent University

BUT AS IT IS WRITTEN: “EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

1 COR. 2:9 (NKJV)