When Richard Kidd became director of Campus Ministries at Regent University, the Lord gave him a “Barnabas” vision. “Barnabas looked at Saul when nobody wanted to have anything to do with him and said, ‘I see greatness in you.’ Our brand promise is to create Christian leaders to change the world. But before they change the world, they’ve got to be changed themselves,” Kidd shares.

“These students can make a lot of mistakes because they’re in process,” he continues. “So as they are receiving world-class instruction in the classroom, Campus Ministries offers them a laboratory to practice these leadership concepts.”

Students go to work in a teaching environment where they are empowered to do ministry themselves—on the worship and media teams, and as Life Group leaders and coaches. “They’re doing internships and short-term missions, and even being placed in the job field,” Kidd explains.
“We are saying, ‘We see greatness in you.’ A Barnabas encourager says, ‘I’m going to assist you to greatness.’”

Kidd remembers one student who was often depressed and unsure of himself when he first came to Regent from his broken family. “We provided him with support and encouragement,” Kidd shares. “He got healed and delivered, came out of his shell, and faced a lot of the issues. Now he’s on our speaking team and is one of our most effective leaders.”

The student, along with his wife, is a Life Group coach with a long list of students who want to learn from him. They recognize in him a person who’s willing to face his mistakes and be honest about his weaknesses.

Supporting students through their spiritual and emotional growth is critical. “Campus Ministries works closely with the counselors on staff and the Psychological Services Center to help students deal with the issues they bring to the table. Just because they are Christian students doesn’t mean they don’t wrestle with depression, abuse, suicidal thoughts or anxiety,” Kidd explains. “Because of our unique partnership with the School of Psychology & Counseling, we have a robust system—from individual self care all the way to hospitalization—so we can respond to the needs before us.”

The ministry group also provides supportive, Spirit-led environments where students naturally grow in faith. This includes two unique chapel gatherings every week.

University Chapel is a time of worship, prayer and Biblical teaching open to students, staff and faculty. It’s also live-streamed and archived for online students. “We often have what we call the ‘global prayer support’ (GPS),” says Kidd, “where students and guests from places like North Korea, China, Afghanistan, Israel and Nigeria lead us in prayer for their countries.”

The other chapel opportunity is called UnChapel. In his first year as chaplain, Kidd did focus groups with student leaders asking what kind of chapel service would be ideal for them. “We came up with this concept of a fresh, relaxed gathering in the evening—after most students have finished their classes—with contemporary, Spirit-led worship.”

Describing the new chapel service to some students, he said, “It’s like unplugging everything you thought about chapel before—like an ‘unchapel.’” The name stuck.
“UnChapel is unusual, unexpected, sometimes uncomfortable, but it’s always uncommonly good,” Kidd says with a laugh. “We started that with 35 people. This year we’re averaging 300 per week.”

“We recognize that training Christian leaders takes place not only in the classroom, but also in vibrant fellowship,” observes the university’s president, Dr. Carlos Campo. “Regent University’s campus ministry is building faith in the lives of our students by bringing them together in prayer, worship and true Christian community.”

Kidd expresses excitement about how the new chapel building will greatly enhance the opportunities for Regent students, faculty and staff to come together for fellowship. “The new chapel will provide the space we need for these times of worship and prayer. The addition of a new 24-hour prayer chapel will provide the Regent community with a place to gather for intercession at any time, day or night.”

Regent’s founder and chancellor, Dr. M. G. “Pat” Robertson, told Kidd that he wanted the students to be praying with each other and growing in the knowledge of Jesus. Campus Ministries responded with a number of opportunities for prayer. “Students gather to pray before each chapel service,” Kidd explains. “We have regular prayer walks where we pray around campus. “Students, staff and faculty can send an email to prayer@regent.edu, and a confidential intercessory prayer ministry will pray for them—and care for them.”

The other major component of one-on-one prayer is carried out through Regent’s Life Groups under the care of more than 40 leaders.

“The purpose of Campus Ministries is to surround our students with a safe environment of Christian leaders who say, ‘I believe in you,’ even when those students don’t believe in themselves,” Kidd explains. “That is the Barnabas DNA that we want to permeate everybody.”

Learn more about Campus Ministries: regent.edu/campusministries
Get involved with Regent Campus Ministries: regent.edu/chapel
Join one of the Regent University Life Groups: regent.edu/admin/stusrv/campus_ministry/documents/life_groups.pdf
Since joining the Regent University faculty as director for the Center of Christian Thought & Action in 2010, Dr. Bobby Hill has pursued a vision for an annual season of spiritual renewal on the Regent campus. In 2011, when the decision was made to observe the global day of worship, Hill thought it would be good to also have a time of introspection and repentance. Along with the Spiritual Vitality Committee at Regent, he recommended the observance be expanded to a week of worship.

Regent’s president, Dr. Carlos Campo, asked that a season of 40 days precede the Week of Worship as an act of personal and corporate preparation. He directed Hill to oversee the publication of a daily devotional for the students, faculty and staff. In 2012, this devotional came in the form of a daily email to Regent’s community.

As senior editor, Hill assembled a list of topics and authors. Each devotional included a Scripture, a quote, Bible teaching and questions for contemplation.

“I cannot tell you how wonderful the response has been,” Hill reports. Just a week into the e-devotionals, one student sent a return email that said, “I’m so happy I picked this university. It is so fulfilling, both spiritually as well as educationally!”

Likewise, a faculty member shared, “I am a new adjunct professor at Regent. I have been so blessed by the 40 Days of Preparation devotionals.” Another student said, “Wow, was this for me! Thank you, Lord, for meeting me at the point of my need.”

To show his support for this annual season of spiritual renewal, President Campo released a proclamation: Whereas, Regent University desires to announce to the world that it is a place that values and practices worship and, as a result, experiences all of the attendant blessings that come with worship, the university will plan a week for this purpose to be held on campus annually; … Regent University seeks to prepare the university community for this Global Week of Worship through a special “40 Days of Preparation” that invites each of us to examine our heart in personal reflection and allow the Holy Spirit to identify how we can improve.

Each day of the culminating Week of Worship had a special focus, with Monday a day of repentance; Tuesday a day of global outreach; Wednesday a day of consecration; and Thursday a day of prayer. The 40 days concluded on Friday with a special evening of worship.

“The week of worship was all about glorifying God,” Hill says. “It was a time to refocus on Jesus and to become renewed as a community as we reflected on the goodness of God.”

Read the “40 Days of Preparation” Devotional Guide and Global Week of Worship Proclamation: regent.edu/wow

Learn more about the Center of Christian Thought & Action: regent.edu/ccta
When Hurricane Sandy plowed into the northeastern United States, it was one of the largest storms to ever make landfall, killing 55 Americans and causing nearly $60 billion in damages.

Within hours, the Regent University Trauma Team was contacted by the Green Cross Academy of Traumatology (GCAT) to aid in working with victims of the hurricane. Dr. Benjamin Keyes, director of the team, was asked to serve as the Incident Site Commander.

Two teams from the School of Psychology & Counseling were deployed to assist the Toms River New Jersey Fire Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a period of two weeks.

Some of these residents had up to six feet of water in their homes and were forced to wait out the storm in their attics. Everyone awoke to devastation after the hurricane, with boats and debris in their yards. Many faced weeks without power in freezing temperatures.

The Regent teams went door-to-door giving wellness checks and asking what the victims needed. On the barrier islands, many people lost everything. One woman who received help from the trauma team could not even retrieve any possessions before her home was demolished because it was so dangerous.

They also helped FEMA Disaster Response Centers by providing crisis counseling to victims to de-escalate the anger that had built up. At the same time, they counseled the workers to help them cope with the stress of the situation.

“One woman wanted to take her life,” explains Dr. Sherry Todd, one of the team leaders. “But the care that our student counselor provided was so helpful that afterwards she was no longer suicidal.

“There were people who were angry with God,” Todd remembers. “We were able to help them process that emotion, explaining that it is God who will help them recover.”

The Regent team made such an impression on the emergency workers that one FEMA official invited them to work with them again.

“We all witnessed such devastation and loss.” Keyes explains. “It challenged us to reevaluate what is important—the relationships with the people who are close to us.”

Learn how you can support the Regent Center for Trauma Studies and their Trauma Team: regent.edu/trauma_studies

Learn more about the School of Psychology & Counseling: regent.edu/counseling
In 1989, Ann Buwalda ’90 (Law) launched the U.S. branch of the Jubilee Campaign, which promotes human rights and religious liberties in countries that imprison, terrorize, or otherwise oppress minorities. In 1996, she opened Just Law International, an immigration law firm based in the Washington, D.C., area. Through asylum cases alone, her staff has represented clients from more than 32 countries. In 2004, she labored with other advocates before Congress to successfully pass the North Korea Freedom Act. In 2005, she testified before the Subcommittee on International Relations concerning North Korean refugees in China. Her work in organizing speakers for a congressional hearing to free “Kids Behind Bars” in the Philippines led to a change of law to release Filipino children from adult prisons and transfer them to rehabilitation.

Please join the Regent University community in praying for the work of Ann Buwalda, January’s alumni world changer.
Religion and politics are uncomfortable subjects for many, and like oil and water, they do not mix in the minds of others.

Join Regent University as we address this intense divide during the eighth annual Ronald Reagan Symposium: “God and Man in the Oval Office: Religion and Presidential Rhetoric.”

You’ll hear a panel of distinguished political experts discuss how both religion and politics indelibly mark the political landscape. And you’ll also learn how the concerns of groups on both sides pose perplexing problems for presidential leadership.

The journey up is one of worship and prayer, and so we provide a robust spiritual environment to facilitate intercession. We strive to be an authentic community of Christ through corporate prayer and chapel services.

The journey out happens through opportunities to carry the gospel message beyond our community through short-term missions, service internships and ministry job placement.

The journey together happens through fellowship and one-on-one prayer, both of which are encouraged through Life Groups that meet across campus. Today, we have more than 40 trained Life Group leaders and coaches who minister to hundreds of Regent students.

Our dedicated Campus Ministries team, led by Dr. Richard Kidd, is creating a culture that welcomes God’s Spirit to animate our lives and campus. Your prayers and generous giving enable us to minister to the entire Regent community on this spiritual journey to Jesus. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Grace and peace,

Carlos Campo, Ph.D.
President

“YOU MUST GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. ALL GLORY TO HIM, BOTH NOW AND FOREVER! AMEN.”

2 PETER 3:18