

A SPECIAL *Miracles* SUPPLEMENT

*Celebrating the Life of*  
**ORAL ROBERTS**



**A MAN WHO OBEYED GOD**



Oral and his brother, Vaden

**T**here was no way on earth it could be done. There were no blueprints...no plans...no human example to follow. You just can't get from where he started to where he ended his earthly life 91 years later. *Not by any road that man could build.*

But as a young man, Oral Roberts found the One who makes a way where there is no way—Jesus Christ of Nazareth. As he chose to follow Jesus...one day at a time, one step at a time, tiny seeds of faith began to multiply...and impossible dreams turned into miracles.

### **Humble Beginnings**

Born in a two-room house to Ellis Melvin Roberts—an itinerant preacher father—and Claudius Priscilla Roberts—a Cherokee Indian mother who prayed for the sick, Granville Oral Roberts came into this world in tiny Beebe, Oklahoma, on January 24, 1918.

The fifth child of a family who had no worldly goods to offer him, Oral Roberts was born into a *spiritual* heritage more precious than gold. Mama and Papa Roberts loved God with all of their hearts. Oral has often said that, as a boy, he thought Jesus lived in his home. Every morning he heard his parents pouring their hearts out to God in prayer.

Oral was the son of a promise. The night he was born, his Cherokee mother, known as Mama Roberts, was called on to come to a neighbor's home and pray for a sick child. Sensing that the child she was carrying was "a special child that would have God's anointing," she made a promise to God that if He would heal her neighbor's child, she would give

the Lord *her* child—the black-haired, blue-eyed baby boy she had prayed for.

The neighbor's child was healed. And Mama Roberts returned home, knowing her child would someday preach the Gospel. But preaching the Gospel was the last thing Oral Roberts wanted to do, growing up in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma. *Speaking*, alone, was a difficult enough task for many years of his life.

Oral was a stutterer. His name, meaning "spoken word," seemed in itself something of a cruel joke. One day, Mama pulled him on her lap, as she had done many times, and said, "Oral, someday God will heal your tongue and you'll preach the Gospel for Him." Papa prophesied many times, that one day he would hold huge revivals.

### **Leaving Home—Teenage Years**

As Oral grew older, he also developed a passion for sports. There were great dreams of athletic fame, university study, a law degree, and a career in politics. Setting his sights on becoming Governor of Oklahoma, at 15, he was recruited by a former teacher to play basketball in Atoka, Oklahoma, a town 50 miles away. Finally, the chance for a new life had come!

Atoka appeared to be all Oral Roberts had ever dreamed of. Living in a local judge's home, he studied dili-

## “Son, I’m going to heal you. And you are to take My healing power to your generation.”

gently at school while holding down three jobs to support himself. He spent as much time as possible reading law books, but Oral often neglected his physical needs for nourishment and rest.

Gradually he began to weaken, and at 17, while making a driving lay-up to win the last game of his high school district basketball tournament, Oral Roberts collapsed on the basketball court. The coach drove him back home to Ada.

As Oral lay in bed for months—growing weaker and weaker physically, his lungs hemorrhaging his very life’s blood from his body—hope slowly ebbed from his heart. He’d heard the diagnosis “final stages of tuberculosis,” with the prognosis of only 3–4 months to live. For Oral, life appeared over before it had really begun. People prayed and doctors treated. But nothing changed. Surely the God that he had run away from could not care about him, he thought to himself.

But one day, as Papa knelt at the foot of his bed and began to pray, something felt different. Oral felt a warmth come into his body, and looked up into Papa’s face. As he watched the tears flow from his father’s eyes, suddenly a bright light shone. Papa’s face disappeared and in its place, Oral saw the face of Jesus. In a moment’s time, he called on the God he had run from, crying, “Save me, Jesus. Save me!” And a new life was born into the Kingdom of God that day.

Although Oral was saved, he was still dying from tuberculosis. Only now,

when his sister, Jewel, came to him and said, “**Oral, God is going to heal you,**” he was ready to receive her, and with new hope he replied, “Is he, Jewel?” Many times through the years, Oral would tell the world about the seven words that changed his life forever.

### Oral’s Healing

Evangelists who prayed for the sick were almost non-existent in 1935. But a man named George Moncey had come to Ada to do just that. Elmer, Oral’s oldest brother, who was not even a Christian, borrowed a car, filled it with 35 cents worth of gas, loaded up his family, and laid his youngest brother on a mattress in the back seat.

It was on the way to be prayed for that Oral Roberts first heard the voice of Jesus. Too weak to even sit up, he heard God say, “**Son, I’m going to heal you. And you are to take My healing power to your generation.**” Pondering what God was telling him, again Oral heard the voice of God, saying, “**You are to build me a university. Build it on my authority and on the Holy Spirit.**”

The dream of true greatness was planted in Oral Roberts’ heart that day. Not the ambitious dreams of fame or fortune that he had once had, but the dream of obeying God and raising up generations to praise the name of the Lord.

It was a dream worth fighting for... worth *living* for.

As Brother Moncey prayed, anointing Oral with oil and laying his hands on him, he spoke directly to the disease, saying, “You foul tormenting disease, I command you in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, come out of this young man. Loose him and let him go!”

Instantly, Oral could breathe...and breathe *deeply* from both lungs! No coughing; no spitting up blood! A roar arose from the crowd, as Oral began shouting praises to God. And, miracle of miracles, the stuttering, stammering tongue that had so long plagued him was set free! It was a glorious time of rejoicing for Oral and the Roberts family. But it was only the beginning of a lifetime of miracles!

### Following God’s Calling... and Finding a Life Partner

Healings were so rare at that time that Oral Roberts was considered a modern-day miracle, and everyone wanted to hear this young man speak. Requests began pouring in for him to tell his healing story. As soon as he was able, Oral began preaching the Gospel with Papa and telling those around him about a healing God. And within 4 or 5 months he embarked on his own ministry.

One summer evening, about a year after he was healed, Oral met school-teacher Evelyn Lutman at a church campmeeting. Impressed with the young preacher, Evelyn wrote in her diary after the service, “Tonight I met my future husband.”

It was almost two years later before Oral would write to see if he could come visit her in Texas. With Mama in tow as a chaperone for the young



Oral and Evelyn on their wedding day

couple, they spent the weekend enjoying one another’s company. Then Oral made his pitch. The young man who once couldn’t even say his own name proposed marriage to the woman God had brought him. But not just any marriage proposal would do for Oral Roberts! With a poetic quality and flair for commanding words, he blurted out the following words to his beloved Evelyn: “*My huge, happy, hilarious heart is throbbing tumultuously, tremendously, triumphantly with a lingering, lasting, long-lived love for you. As I gaze into your bewildering, beauteous, bounteous, beaming eyes, I am literally, lonesomely lost in a dazzling, daring, delightful dream in which your fair, felicitous, fanciful face is ever present like a colossal, comprehensive constellation. Will you be my sweet, smiling, soulful, satisfied spouse?*”

In her normally pragmatic frame of mind—and one that *she* would come to be known for in her lifetime—Evelyn replied, “Listen here, Oral. If you’re



A healing line at one of Oral's tent meetings in Tampa, Florida, 1951

trying to propose to me, you'd better talk to me in the English language."

He did. And she accepted. And **on Christmas Day 1938, the partnership of a lifetime began.**

### The Healing Ministry and Nurturing a Dream

With Evelyn now at his side, for the next 12 years Oral continued on his path of pastoring, studying, and preaching wherever he could—even on street corners. Still, there was the feeling of discontentment inside. Always in his mind were God's words to him, "You are to take My healing power to your generation" and the command to "Build Me a university." But Oral Roberts didn't know how to do either one of those things.

Oral had the habit of reading his Bible every day before leaving home for school. One day, he forgot. Coming back inside the house, he opened his Bible and began to read at random

from 3 John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Though he'd read the Bible at least 100 times before, this was a revelation from God! When he called Evelyn and read the verse to her, she challenged him with, "That isn't in the Bible." "Oh yes, it is, Evelyn. We've just never seen it before. If this verse is right, then I've been preaching wrong. God is a *good* God... and I must preach that to the people."

**God is a good God.** Oral's eyes had been opened to the truth of God's Word, and there was no going back now. About that same time, Oral had an encounter with a farmer in his church. Something in the man's actions reminded him of a principle he had learned as a boy, farming with his father: when a farmer plants a seed in the ground, *he always expects a harvest.* Oral began to realize that the same laws that applied to nature could be applied to the Word of God in the area of sowing and reaping...planting and expecting a harvest. Scriptures to support it were there in God's Word, scriptures Oral had read many times before, but never understood until now.

Years later, Oral would put a name to his discovery of the Bible way God meets people's needs—"***the principles of Seed-Faith.***" Luke 6:38 would become a foundation stone in his ministry as he shared the 3 "keys" to Seed-Faith living: look to God as your Source, plant a seed out of your need, and expect a miracle...***a concept that would revolutionize millions of lives.***

Not long after, Oral Roberts began to get his first glimmer of a God who

wanted to bless and prosper His people. He shut himself away with God for 30 days—reading and studying His Gospels and Acts—and by the end of 30 days, Jesus had become so real to Oral that he *knew that he knew that he knew* how to obey God! He saw that his ministry and the ministry of Jesus were to be one and the same. "My ministry was to come against the same four things that Jesus was against—sin, demons, disease, and fear—emphasizing the same power that Jesus did—the miracle-working power of God."

Shortly thereafter, Oral Roberts rented a building in Enid, Oklahoma, where he now lived, and invited the people to come and witness the healing power of God. He put three "fleeces" (*prayer requests that he had to see fulfilled*) before God so that he would be certain this was truly the direction God wanted him to go. #1—For there to be at least 1,000 people in attendance. #2—For there to be enough money to pay the rent. And #3—For at least one person to be healed in a way that *he* would know and *the people* would know it was God's healing power at work.

*Twelve hundred* people attended the service. When the offering was taken up and counted, there was enough money to pay the rent—with \$3.03 left

May 1951, St. Petersburg



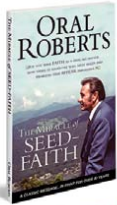
An altar call in Stockton, California

over! After Oral Roberts preached his first healing sermon ever—*If You Need Healing, Do These Things* (see page 8 to order)—people flooded to the front for prayer, many testifying on the spot that they'd been healed. One person in particular proved beyond a shadow of a doubt to Oral and to those in attendance that she had indeed been healed. An elderly woman, whose arm had been crippled for nearly 40 years, began waving it about with joy, shouting with happiness, "God has healed me!"

Oral began holding healing meetings every Sunday afternoon. "How do you heal people, Oral?" people have often asked him. "I can't heal anyone," he replied. "Only God can heal. I'm just

*(continued on page 9)*

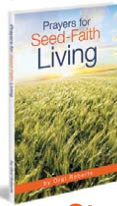
# Abundant Life Bookstore



## The Miracle of Seed-Faith

by Oral Roberts

In this best-selling book, Oral shares a life-transforming biblical message that has touched the lives of millions. You, too, can make your life a continuous cycle of giving and receiving, and begin expecting miracles in your life. **Book \$7** LC105



## Prayers for Seed-Faith Living

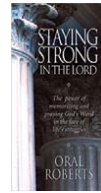
by Oral Roberts

Born out of Oral's life experiences, the prayers in this book can help you express your heart to God and open the door to God's abundant answers for your every need. **Book \$4** LC193

## Staying Strong in the Lord

by Oral Roberts

Oral shares the importance of allowing God's Word to grow in our hearts, so that it can give us strength when we face the storms of life. **Book \$4** LC26



## Best-Loved Tent Sermons

by Oral Roberts

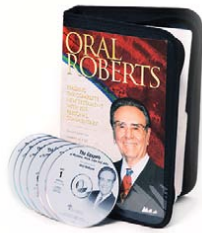
This collection of six classic sermons from the days of Oral's tent crusades includes such favorites as "The Fourth Man," "Samson and Delilah," and "If You Need Healing, Do These Things." **Book \$7** LC291



## The Complete New Testament on CD

with personal commentary by Oral Roberts

In this digitally remastered CD set, Oral shares his personal commentary on every book of the New Testament. Included: The Gospels (24 CDs), The Acts of the Apostles (8 CDs), The Epistles to the Church of Jesus Christ (35 CDs), and The Revelation of Jesus Christ (7 CDs). **74-CD set \$125** LC1850



## If You Need Healing, Do These Things

by Oral Roberts

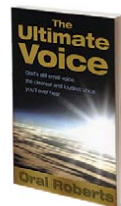
Written in 1947, from the first healing sermon Oral preached, this timely message remains a powerful tool to help you learn how to release your faith for healing! **Book \$7** LC120



## The Ultimate Voice

by Oral Roberts

Oral draws from his lifelong relationship with the Lord to share powerful principles for learning to hear and follow the still, small voice of God speaking to our spirit. **Hardback Book \$25** LC2382



To order, go online at [www.oralroberts.com/bookstore](http://www.oralroberts.com/bookstore), or call 918-495-7777

an instrument that He uses to help people release their faith for a miracle."

With many churches unable to contain the size of Oral's crowds, he began traveling the roads of America with a canvas tent. As word of the healing miracles spread and the size of the crowds grew into the thousands, ever newer and bigger tents had to be purchased. Finally, Oral purchased what became known as the "tent cathedral"—an enormous canvas tent large enough to seat 12,500 people inside, while thousands more could gather around the outside and watch the service.

In 1949, evangelist Rex Humbard encouraged Oral to film the crusade meetings for all America to see. Television was new in those days, and Oral's televised healing services caused a sensation! *Never before* had people been able to see a healing service right before their eyes in their own living rooms.

Soon, thousands of letters began pouring in from the United States and Canada to Oral's offices in Tulsa, and by 1957, he was receiving some 1,000 pieces of mail a day. Through the letters that came in, Oral Roberts knew he was feeling the pulse of America. Then in 1958 he established the Abundant Life Prayer Group to accept calls for prayer 7 days a week, 24 hours a day—a ministry that has never been interrupted to this day.

## The Time Has Come

For years, as Oral carried with him God's command to build Him a university, he would often stop his car in front of a farm at 81<sup>st</sup> and Lewis in south Tulsa. He and Evelyn, and what

was by now a family of four children, would all join hands and pray that God would hold onto that piece of property until Oral could find the way to build God a university.

Operating in faith, he spent hours visiting with university leaders, professors, and students, and speaking with architects who had built such schools, immersing himself in the history and operation of many colleges and universities.

But with all of the knowledge he gained, still he did not know how to build God a university. How would he finance it? Where would he find the faculty and staff to help him build it? And who would want to attend a university run by Oral Roberts?

## ORU—The Birth of a Dream

Two pastors in Denver voluntarily gave Oral \$1,000 each to help begin. Oral deposited the money and waited on God. God spoke to him again, and what He said to Oral Roberts that day is planted deep in the heart of every student, staff and faculty member. **"Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is dim, where My**

Oral's television healing services caused a sensation.



voice is heard small, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased.”

Oral knew that God’s university was to be—*what else?*—**different** from any other. First, it was to be built on God’s authority and on the Holy Spirit. Second, it was to provide young people with a threefold, *whole person* education—body, mind, and spirit—an **entirely new concept in education**. The **mind** was to be educated to the fullest degree possible. The **body** was to be trained physically in a way that would promote health and soundness. And third, the **spirit** was to be emphasized above both the mind and the body.

Despite the opposition on so many fronts, Oral simply continued to do what he believed God had told him to do, in the spirit Mama Roberts im-

planted in him so many years before: “Oral, obey God and stay little in your own eyes,” she said, “and God will bless the world through you.”

One day as Oral was walking and praying, literally groaning and crying out, “Oh God, help me,” as he prayed in the Spirit—the heavenly language that he has taught millions to understand—words...concepts... began coming to him that he had never thought of before. Before long, God had given Oral Roberts revelational knowledge of how to build Him a university! Not every exact point, but a great overall breakthrough into the knowledge and ability he needed to do what God called him to do.

Opened in 1965, Oral Roberts University stands as a testament to one man’s reliance on the revelation knowledge of the Holy Spirit and the certainty that God still speaks.

#### Oral Roberts University



1. Oral and Richard Roberts with Elvis 2. Oral and Evelyn Roberts with Johnny and June Carter Cash. 3. Richard Roberts performing on a Prime-time Contact special 4. Oral and Richard Roberts with Gladys Knight 5. Oral Roberts and Jerry Lewis 6. Richard Roberts with Roy and Dale Evans and Louise Mandrell

#### Prime-time Contact Specials with Celebrity Guest Stars

Oral was a pioneer in religious television, being the first to film live healing services in his crusades, and for many years producing a 30-minute Sunday morning television program. But in 1968, God began stirring Oral in the area of reaching people in a way different from any before. After much prayer and consultation, Oral announced his plan that, in addition to the regular Sunday morning program that would continue to air, he was going to begin airing quarterly Prime-Time Contact Specials. They would include an element of entertainment geared at reaching a new generation of people with the Gospel. Programs were often filmed on location in places like Hawaii, London, Alaska.

Oral’s son, Richard, joined his dad on the programs as a featured singer.

As other Specials followed, they included such well-known celebrity guests as Pat Boone, Dale Evans, Anita Bryant, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lewis, Lou Rawls, the Lennon Sisters, Burl Ives, Shari Lewis, and Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Ratings showed that nearly 10 million people viewed the first Contact Special. With ratings steadily rising thereafter, they reached an all-time high of almost 40 million viewers in 1973. The Contact Special in 1971, celebrating Valentine’s Day, was nominated for several Emmy awards.

#### Merging Medicine and Prayer

Even as a young man suffering from tuberculosis, Oral Roberts never separated the importance of medicine from prayer. He knew that medicine, by itself—limited in its scope—could never bring healing into people’s lives



Oral and Richard Roberts along with Dr. Jim Winslow at the City of Faith construction site.

in the way God wanted it without combining it with prayer.

In 1977, God began speaking to Oral Roberts that he was to merge together God's healing streams of medicine and prayer...and he was to build God a new kind of medical center, calling it the City of Faith.

Years later, an official from the American Medical Association told Oral, "You've affected the AMA forever. There was no talking about merging medicine and prayer until you came along...and you were right."



The City of Faith

## Later Years

In 2005, Oral's beloved Evelyn died after an unexpected fall. They had been a "healing team for God" for more than 66 years of their lives. But rather than grieve himself to death, or just sit down in his rocking chair, Oral made this promise at his darling wife's memorial service. He said, "I'm going to make a new commitment of my life. I'm not going home to sit in a chair and wither away the rest of my life. I'm going to do God's work 'til the day I die!"

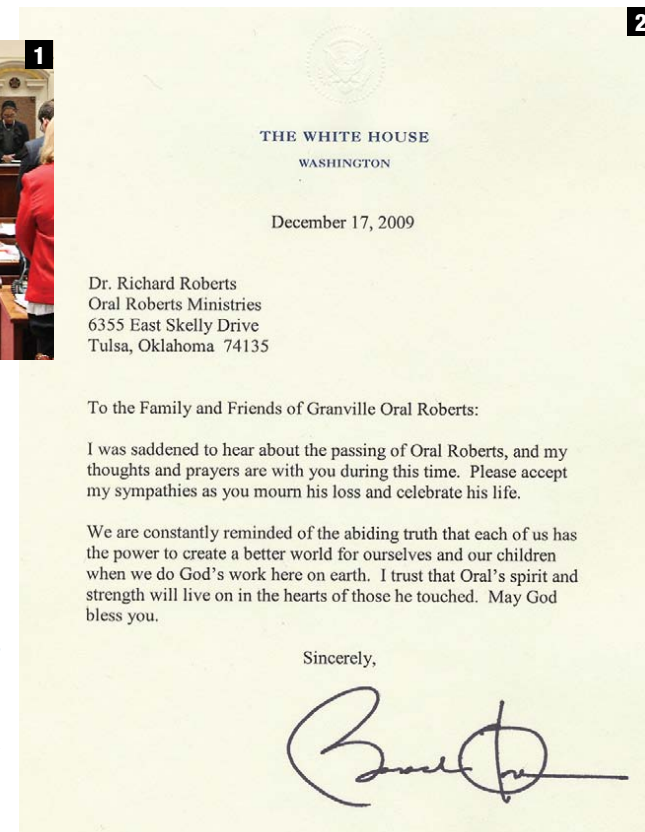
And that's exactly what he did until the day came when, with his son and daughter by his side, he went home to be with the Lord—December 15, 2009.



Oral and Evelyn



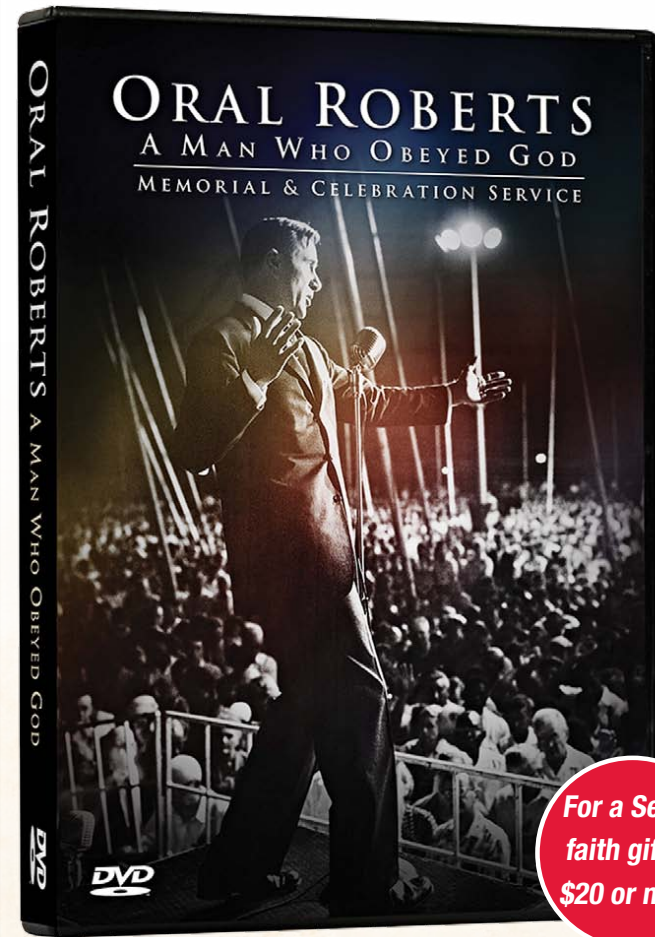
**1.** In May of 2009, the Oklahoma Governor and both branches of the state legislature wanted to honor Oral for all he had done through the years for his home state of Oklahoma. Oral addressed the assembly and received their honor gracefully and humbly.  
**2.** Letter of condolence from President Barack Obama



Because of Oral and Evelyn Roberts' commitment to God and to each other, the world will never be the same. We—who love them and have been so affected by their ministry—will forever honor their lives lived in the joy of taking God's healing power to the world.



**1.** As Oral prophetically spoke—from the time Richard was a teenager, right up to the day before his home-going—the double portion anointing would be on his son. Richard Roberts preaching in Nicaragua. **2.** Lindsay and Richard ministering on *The Place for Miracles*. **3.** Jordan Roberts delivering food to hungry children in Nicaragua.



For a Seed-faith gift of \$20 or more

## Celebrating the life and ministry of Oral Roberts



In this inspiring DVD honoring and celebrating the life of Oral Roberts, you will see his daughter, Roberta, and his son, Richard, talking about Oral's miraculous healing from tuberculosis, his dedication to bringing Jesus Christ to others, the special times they had with their dad, and the powerful lessons they learned from him.

Also included: a moving video chronicle of Oral's life and ministry, and words of inspiration from Marilyn Hickey, Creflo Dollar and others.

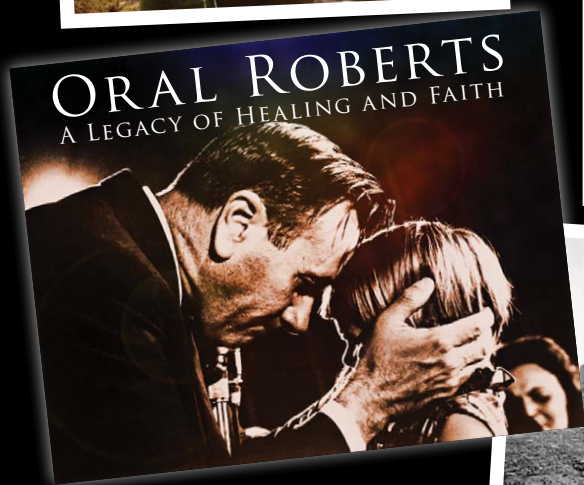
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# COMING SOON!

## ORAL ROBERTS

A LEGACY OF HEALING AND FAITH

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