

# What's gone wrong with the City of Faith?

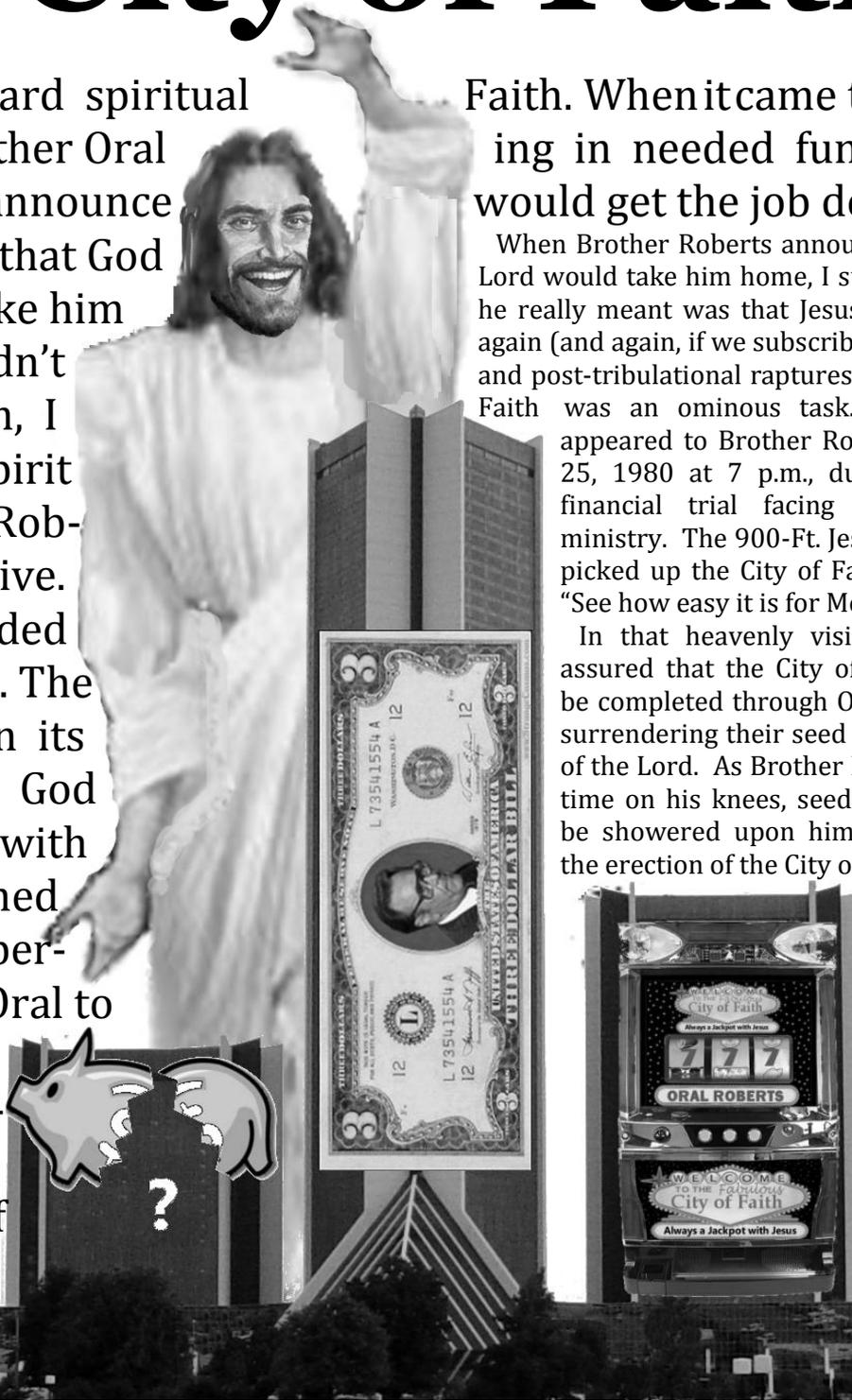
When I heard spiritual  
Wicon Brother Oral  
Roberts announce  
back in 1980 that God  
was gonna take him  
home if he didn't  
get \$8 million, I  
knew in my spirit  
that Brother Rob-  
erts would live.  
The Lord needed  
Oral's service. The  
money was on its  
way. I knew God  
was thrilled with  
Oral and relished  
this slavish per-  
formance of Oral to  
bring in the  
money neces-  
sary for build-  
ing the City of

Faith. When it came to bring-  
ing in needed funds, Oral  
would get the job done.

When Brother Roberts announced that the Lord would take him home, I surmised what he really meant was that Jesus was coming again (and again, if we subscribe to both pre- and post-tribulational raptures). The City of Faith was an ominous task. Jesus had appeared to Brother Roberts on May 25, 1980 at 7 p.m., during another financial trial facing the Roberts ministry. The 900-Ft. Jesus bent over, picked up the City of Faith, and said, "See how easy it is for Me to lift it!"

In that heavenly vision, the Lord assured that the City of Faith would be completed through Oral's partners surrendering their seed in the service of the Lord. As Brother Roberts spent time on his knees, seed continued to be showered upon him, maintaining the erection of the City of Faith.

Then, in September, Oral told the world that the City of Faith was closing due to a lack of funds. Is the City of Faith now the City of Fate? Or the



City of Fail? Or perhaps it's the City of Fake... What has happened? What's gone wrong?

Myself a seed-faith partner of the Roberts ministry, I have delivered several substantial deposits of seed at the Lord's bidding through Brother Roberts' newsletters. I've closely followed the fund-raising and building of God's City, the City of Faith, for more than ten years. I've stuck with Oral through all the vigorous blows of the Enemy, through the ups and downs, the ins and outs, the twists and turns, the slipping and sliding stress and strain, ferment and flutter, release and relief. I was under the impression that God was sowing His own seed at Oral Roberts University. He promised to head up a cure for cancer at the City of Faith Medical and Research Center. But now Brother Roberts has announced that the City of Faith is hopeless.

Brother Robert's son, Richard has been being groomed to take over the ministry fully when the Lord calls for Oral to come over Jordan. When the COF's head administrators resigned in 1987, Dick rose to the occasion, becoming the C.E.O. of C.O.F. In the meantime, the Roberts kept calling for more seed, but there was never enough.

As the Lord had promised Oral, the City of Faith was to be built debt-free. Yes, Jesus could now boast a 600-Ft. erect tower between two raised structures at its base, but now it was all going

limp. The smaller structures now lay empty as the occupancy of the main structure was dribbling to a standstill. Oral and Dick's partners had run out of seed. COF's last discharge was on October 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. Oral and Dick are now in arrears \$25 million.

What is the meaning of all this? I believe that the answer is only one of three possible conclusions: 1) Oral is a liar, 2) Oral is a lunatic, or 3) At 7 p.m. on May 25, 1980, Oral saw a Nine-Hundred-Foot Jesus pick up the projected 777-bed City of Faith located at 777 South Lewis and all God's promises to Oral are true and something else is going on that needs to be explained.

I have prayed long and hard on this and I believe God has given me an answer to this question. When I received Oral in my home five years ago, I sensed a depth of spirituality and genuine knowledge of God that few possess. Brother Roberts is no liar and, though he might be accused of being crazy for Christ, he is certainly no lunatic either. Brother Roberts is a sincere, sane man of God with a mighty mantle of anointing upon his shoulders. He is a man of tremendous faith and power. When he laid hands on me, I went down and then, to my much surprise, he went down. As we both lay there on my living room floor, I was relieved of a burden I'd been carrying for months. So I know first-hand that Oral is the real deal.

So if Brother Roberts did see Jesus and hear his message, why has the City of Faith closed? We know that it is impossible for God to fail, so the responsibility cannot lie with God. That puts the blame either upon the

shoulders of Oral, or of Dick, or else of one or more of their seed-faith partners. Or it could be a combination of all of these.

Oral claims that the City of Faith served its purpose of merging prayer and medicine, but that doesn't match with the promises Jesus gave to Brother Roberts concerning finding a cure for cancer and building the City of Faith debt-free. There's got to be more to the story.

Who is to blame? I believe the reason why the City of Faith reached its climax is due to the administrative change which occurred in 1987 when Dick got the head job at the City of Faith. With Dick as head, the inflow of partners' seed ebbed to a tragic trickle. Was Dick head instigator of the ensuing flaccidity?

I'm sure Dick wanted relief from such a heavy load of debt, but something about him getting the head job at the City of Faith thwarted the divine promises for Oral. Therefore, these promises must have been conditional and one of the conditions must have been the precondition of not delivering the ministry of Oral to Dick. The more Dick received, the less seed was delivered from the partners.

Why? What is it about Dick that spoiled the accomplishment of Oral? Is Dick hiding a secret? Is Dick a liar? A lunatic? Or simply a loser? Or will the City of Faith rise again to deliver a gushing stream of healing during the Millennial Reign of Christ?

Somewhere out there, at some distance of light-years which has the number Seven as one of its multiplicands, there is a Nine-Hundred-Foot Jesus with plans for a 600-foot high-rise with 60 floors and 777 beds who knows the answer to that question.

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