

# Story OF THE Mountain | 1970s

1971

Lynchburg Baptist College is founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell. Enrollment is 154 students when doors open in September. The first section of Liberty Mountain is purchased.

1972

Treasure Island residence halls are built over Christmas vacation.

1973

Lynchburg Baptist Theological Seminary is founded.

Virginia Hotel is purchased to house 400 students; 150 men housed at an abandoned local hospital, The Kennedy House, and an entire floor of the Ramada Inn is rented. Thomas Road Baptist Church members open their homes for student housing as well.

1974

First graduating class participates in Commencement ceremony.



1975

Classes are held in the old Brookville High School (where Dr. Falwell graduated as valedictorian in 1952).

Lynchburg Baptist College becomes Liberty Baptist College. School colors are changed from green and gold to red, white, and blue.

1977

Repair work to the Treasure Island Bridge is completed and students no longer have to disembark from the bus and walk across.

A prayer meeting is held in the snow on Jan. 21, and the student body again meets on the mountain on Sept. 2 to give God the praise for the miracle of Liberty Mountain.

Direct from Liberty Mountain, the Old-Time Gospel Hour Television Network airs a special entitled, "The Miracle of Liberty Mountain." It catches the attention of young people across the nation and requests for enrollment skyrocket.

1978

The first Chapel/Convocation is held on a grassy field overlooking the new campus, as there are no buildings large enough to hold the entire student body, faculty, and staff. Falwell announces a desperate need of \$5 million and he asks the students to pray that this money would come in by Sept. 24, Miracle Day. Offerings on and leading up to Miracle Day total more than \$7 million.

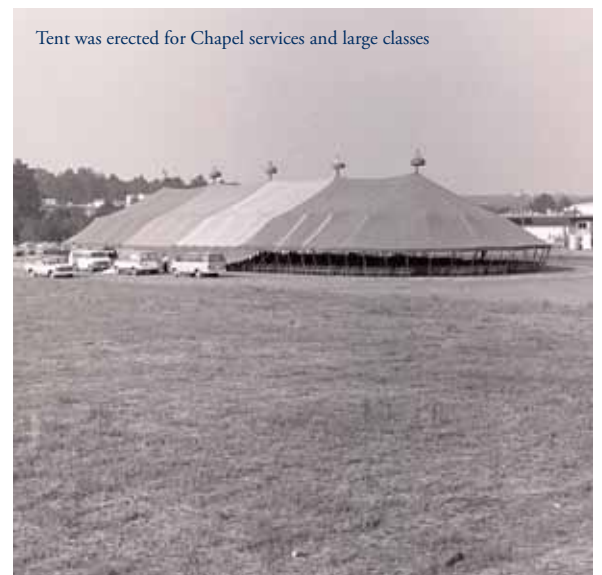
A 3,000-seat tent is erected on the mountain for Chapel services and large classes.

1979

Al Worthington Baseball Complex is completed.



Treasure Island residence halls



Tent was erected for Chapel services and large classes

# Story OF THE Mountain | 1980s

1980

Liberty Baptist College (LBC) receives full accreditation as a liberal arts college from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1981

In January, LBC gains full acceptance into the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Prayer chapel is built.

1982

Soaring eagle carrying a torch becomes the school mascot.

1983

Liberty Flames marching band performs in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® (one of twelve chosen).

At the 10th LBC Commencement ceremony, 574 students graduate.

1985

On May 6, LBC becomes Liberty University.

Five days a week at 7:15 a.m., prayer is held for missionaries around the world, with the purpose of providing students with information on missions.

Distance Learning Program starts as Liberty University School of Life-Long Learning (LUSLLL).

1987

First Ph.D. program is accredited for Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree.

In December, Liberty receives approval for Level-Four candidate status, allowing the university to offer the D.Min. and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) degrees.

Students, Michael Tate, Toby McKeehan, and Kevin Smith – later known as DC Talk – perform their first song “Heavenbound” together in Convocation.

1988

Liberty University becomes the largest private university in Virginia. 11,000 students from 50 states and 30 nations (resident and distance learning combined) enroll for fall semester.

1988

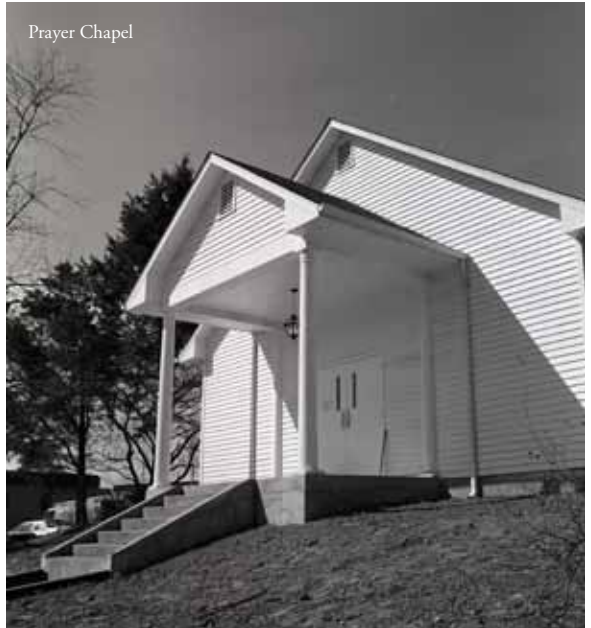
Through Christian service efforts, 1,870 salvation decisions are made.

THROUGH  
1989

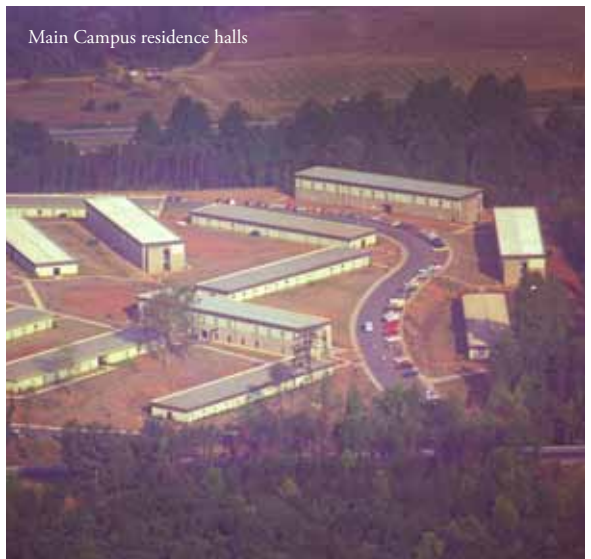
1989

LIGHT Ministries, part of Liberty's global ministry, sends 9,000 Bibles to Communist China.

Prayer Chapel



Main Campus residence halls



# Story OF THE Mountain | 1990s

1990

The Vines Center (seating capacity – 10,000) and Williams Stadium (initial seating – 12,000; current seating – 19,200) are completed.

1991

Liberty joins the NCAA's Big South Conference.

Sixty LIGHT team members share the gospel in Communist China resulting in 6,000 professions of faith.

First class of nursing students graduate.

1992

In January, Dr. Jerry Falwell and the Board of Trustees call all of Liberty's 120 creditors together. Honestly admitting their inability to find financing, they declare their intent to pay all creditors and ask them to consider a voluntary debt restructuring.

In May, the Debt Restructuring Plan becomes a reality. The seven-year plan calls for a total 100 percent repayment of principal indebtedness.

During the spring semester, the entire student body and faculty circle the unfinished Dining Hall, asking God for finances to complete the project. Soon after, prayers are answered. Two local businessmen come forward and declare their intent to finish the construction of the facility. The Reber-Thomas Dining Hall is completed that summer. For the grand opening in fall, on the first day of classes Dr. Falwell leads students and faculty across the campus to the newly-opened cafeteria. Again they circle the dining hall, this time to thank God for His provision.



1993

Spirit Rock, an eight-ton rock brought to the campus by the Spirit and Tradition Committee, is christened with 20 cans of red, white, and blue spray paint.

1994

On Feb. 26, Liberty sets the Big South attendance record with a Vines Center crowd of 8,014 watching the Flames Men's Basketball team beat Radford. On March 7, Flames Men's Basketball win the Big South Conference Tournament and receive their first NCAA Tournament berth. In only their third year of eligibility, they go on to play North Carolina, the No. 1 team in the country at the time.

1995

Two major benefactors purchase \$30 and \$40 million of Liberty's debts and then contribute it all to Liberty in early 1995.

1998

A six-story residence hall, housing 425 female students is completed and the Hangar Food Court is constructed.

1999

An anonymous \$9 million gift is donated to the university to be used in the construction of three additional stories to the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center.

Fifteen hundred Liberty students join in "Israel '99" during Christmas break. They received college credit while seeing and learning firsthand in the nation of Israel.

On Nov. 15, the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) vote unanimously to recognize Liberty University as a fully-cooperating institution affiliated with the SBCV.



# Story OF THE Mountain | 2000s

2000

On Jan. 7, the Executive Committee of Liberty University's Board of Trustees vote to begin immediate construction on the upper three floors of the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center.

2001

Drs. Tim and Beverly LaHaye pledge \$4.5 million to Liberty during commencement exercises to complete the LaHaye Student Center.

2002

In October, the Board of Trustees approve the Liberty University School of Law to open its doors in the fall of 2004.

2003

In October, Jerry Falwell Jr. is named Vice Chancellor.

Campus East dorms are under construction.

The exterior of the second, third and fourth floors of the Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center are completed, and the Visitors Center opens. The interior of the first two floors are completed.

The Jerry Falwell Museum is given to Dr. Falwell on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

2004  
THROUGH  
2006

On March 1, Liberty University and Dr. Jerry Falwell launch a new and exciting daily television program "Live from Liberty."

The deed to the 113-acre, 888,000-square-foot facility formerly known as Ericsson complex is presented to Dr. Falwell.

For the first time, both Liberty University men's and women's basketball teams win Big South Conference Tournament Championships in the same year. This is the Lady Flames' eighth year to win the championship.

2007

The LU Monogram is constructed on Liberty Mountain and is visible to much of the Lynchburg area.

Chancellor and founder Dr. Jerry Falwell Sr. dies and is succeeded by his son, Jerry Falwell Jr., who had previously been serving as Vice Chancellor.

2008

Doc's Diner opens.

Towns Alumni Center opens.

2009

The new Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Liberty Mountain Snowflex Centre and the Thomas Indoor Soccer Center are completed and the DeMoss Fountain is installed.

2010

The new and improved Williams Stadium Press Tower is built. Twelve outdoor tennis courts are constructed.

Liberty's strong financial footing in recent years contributes to its high bond rating. Net assets for the university increase from \$100 million in 2007 to \$530 million. Projections show the university's net assets will exceed \$1 billion by 2014.

2012

Hancock Welcome Center, a three-story, 32,000-square foot building, is constructed.



Arthur S. DeMoss Learning Center

On May 10, Liberty celebrates its 30th annual Commencement as 1,628 graduates (from 50 states and 74 nations) are honored with more than 11,000 people present.

The women's basketball team wins an astonishing seventh straight Big South Conference tournament and ranks 25th in the nation.

The 888,000-square-foot Ericsson building is donated, including an additional 113 acres adjacent to Liberty's Main Campus.

Close to 7,000 undergraduate students attend classes; 4,000 live on campus.

Pedestrian Tunnel connecting Main and East campus is completed and opens in the fall.

LaHaye Student Center and Campus North officially open in November.

The LaHaye Ice Center officially opens on Jan. 1, 2006 and the Arthur L. Williams Football Operations Center is completed in the spring.



2012: Hancock Welcome Center and Williams Stadium Press Tower

Liberty University reaches the late Dr. Falwell's goal of 50,000 enrolled students (resident and online enrollments combined).

Groundbreaking begins for the new Jerry Falwell Library. Enrollment reaches new record high of 70,000 online and 12,500 resident students.